

Frequently Asked Questions - Pace Car



What is Pace Car?

The Pace Car program helps stop speeding on neighborhood streets. It's simple – drivers in your community sign the Pace Car pledge, and then proudly display the official Pace Car emblems on their cars. By agreeing to drive within the speed limit, cars become “mobile speed bumps”, slowing the traffic behind them. Drivers also agree to be more aware of and courteous to other road users, especially pedestrians and cyclists. Many Pace Cars can effectively calm traffic throughout your neighborhood. The more people who join, the better it works!

Will my car really make a difference?

Yes, we only need a small percentage of vehicles acting as Pace Cars to slow traffic communitywide. This starts a positive cycle. People feel more comfortable walking or cycling, which reduces traffic levels, making streets even safer, meaning even more people can walk or cycle.

Does the Pace Car provoke road rage?

No, many people who sign up to the Pace Car Program were already acting as unofficial Pace Cars. They report that incidents of road rage decrease when they badge their car as a Pace Car. Instead of the driver behind thinking they are stuck behind a “Sunday driver”, the Pace Car sticker lets them know that there is a purpose for why the car is being driven within the speed limit.

What happens if I accidentally speed?

Take a breath and slow down. The Pace Car pledge is a declaration of intent, not a legally binding contract. Kicking the speed habit can be hard work. Allow yourself more time to get places so you won't be so tempted to speed.

How fast or slow should I go?

Your commitment is to obey the speed limit. Driving a Pace Car does not mean that you should drive slowly. Speed limits are set to keep people safe, but also to keep traffic moving. Your pledge is to not go over the limit.

Do I only act as a Pace Car in my neighborhood or on all streets?

The Pace Car is a kind of treaty between neighborhoods: you respect the quality of life in our neighborhood and we will do the same for you. The Pace Car promotes a new civility and mutual respect on our streets.

Where do pedestrians have the right of way?

Part of your pledge is to give pedestrians the right of way. That includes, of course, at marked crosswalks. But did you know that, under Nova Scotia law, every intersection is an “unmarked crosswalk”? They are not always marked by lines. Drivers should yield to pedestrians in all crosswalks, whether marked or unmarked. They should also be cautious whenever walkers are near or on any roadway.

I don't have a car, but I want to get involved too. How can I help?

Be a Pace Car co-Pilot! Get involved by telling friends and family about the Pace Car program and encourage drivers you know to make the Pace Car pledge. Be a good pedestrian/cyclist and obey the rules of the road. Make eye-contact with drivers when you are at a crosswalk, obey the signs, and be courteous to people who stop for you.

Do I really have to put the Pace Car tags on my car?

Part of your pledge is to put the Pace Car tags on your vehicle. In other communities with Pace Car programs drivers report that they didn't really take the pledge seriously until the tags were on their car. Not only does it promote safer driving from those around you, it also reminds you that you've taken the pledge. The tags are a visible reminder, to yourself and everyone around you, that we want our streets to be safer.

We have two cars. Can I get two bumper stickers?

Sure! Is there another driver in your home? Pass the Pace Car Pledge to them so that they are also in the program. We want to make sure that people who have taken the pledge drive cars with Pace Car logos on them.