NIGHT DRIVING

Statistics show more serious, including fatal accidents, occur at night. Many trips in Scouting and Exploring start with driving in the evening and at night. There are several factors to consider when NIGHT DRIVING. When driving at night, the driver can only rely on the headlights for lighting the roadway. Eyes are unable to process the conditions effectively in dark conditions. This creates eye strain and can impair vision.

A pre-trip inspection of the vehicle is smart and can eliminate possible problems on the trip. Before leaving, check for the following:

- Windshields and other windows are clean inside and out to improve visibility.
- Headlight covers are not “foggy.” Inexpensive cleaners are available at most stores.
- Headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and other lights are working properly and not burned out.
- The tires have proper pressure and there is significant tread.

Road conditions and road surfaces can be hidden due to the darkness. Safe driving practices should be used, such as increased braking distances, and viewing other vehicles’ headlights and taillights. Good driving techniques to practice while NIGHT DRIVING:

- Do not overdrive the headlights.
- Reduce speed at night.
- Lower high beams when approaching oncoming vehicles.
- Drive with the conditions (weather and road).
- Tapping on the brake lights to alert vehicles in the rear.
- Take curves carefully and plan for blind spots.
- Signal intentions early with turn signals and brake lights.

BE PREPARED. It is more difficult to judge distances and driving conditions at night. Eyesight is reduced and can be affected with fatigue. Always pay attention to the road and the conditions that exist.