



PROTOCOLS FOR DRIVING IN A HIGH DESERT CORVETTE CARAVAN

Driving in a group caravan gives our members the opportunity to not only have fun showing off our Corvettes, but also shows the public our commitment to exhibit safe and sane driving behavior. It is of utmost importance to comply with the laws of the road, the speed limits, and display courtesy to other people using the roads.

Traveling in a caravan, or convoy, is often more fun than getting to a destination as a single car. There are many aspects to be thought through in advance and communication before and during the drive are essential for success. Ideally, each car should have a way to communicate with other drivers, either with a two-way radio or cell phones, to alert the leader of any problems. The radio channel will be decided on before starting the day's driving.

The caravan is comprised of three parts: the Leader, the Members, and the Sweeper. Each has specific duties and responsibilities.

1. **LEADER:** Prior to the beginning of the drive, a Leader should be designated. That person becomes responsible for the caravan. He/She will decide speed, movements, stops, etc. The Leader will inform drivers about the final destination, rest stops, food stops, sightseeing, and other incidentals of the trip. If the caravan is separated, the Leader should pull over at the first available safe spot to allow others to catch up. The Leader is not responsible for drivers' actions, so be courteous and respectful.
2. **DRIVERS:** The Drivers should arrive at the designated meeting place in enough time to be ready to leave at the designated time. The cars should be fueled up and in good operating condition. All Drivers should know who the Leader is and direct any questions to that person. Do not pass the Leader. Drive with driving lights ON. Signal all turns well in advance. Maintain a safe distance from the car in front of you. Do not let the car in front of you get out of sight. Do not pass. Do not overtake other Drivers unless there's an emergency, or the driver waives you to pass. Do not allow big gaps in the caravan. Maintain your position in the caravan. If a stop is necessary, radio the Leader and/or turn on your 4-way flasher to signal your intention. Pull completely off the road. The car behind you, and the Sweeper, should pull off to assist in case of an emergency. Allow other traffic to merge, when necessary. Drivers should stay in the right lane unless preparing for a left turn.
3. **SWEeper:** The Sweeper should be an experienced caravan driver. With the use of a radio or a cell phone, the Sweeper keeps in contact with the lead car. The Sweeper's main objective is to ensure no one gets left behind. It is his/her job to watch for Drivers who have mechanical problems, who become behind because of traffic signals, or who pull out of the caravan. In heavy traffic, the Sweeper can change lanes first, controlling traffic to allow cars in front to move into the lane.

The above guidelines are a compilation of numerous suggestions for caravanning by car clubs with many years of fun on the road. Driving in a caravan is an exciting experience. Remember that safety comes first with having fun a close second. Enjoy the drive!