

Student Responsibilities

We expect that you will always be on time for permit classes and driving lessons. You will need to call and let us know if you are unable to attend a permit class. You must tell Stevens Driving School if you are not able to keep an appointment for your driving lessons or you will be charged a fee. Contact them to reschedule. We hope everyone will earn their driver's license and **be safe, courteous, and good drivers.**

We want to hear from you. Please let us know how your classes and lessons are going. Let us know when you have your driver's license, so that we can celebrate with you!

We invite **RIDE** participants to help others study for their permit test, help them practice driving, help with English skills, and in other ways that are needed.

RIDE History & Background

Augustana Lutheran Church has been helping refugees learn to drive since 2007. **RIDE** is the only driving program of its kind in Western New York.

Since 2007, **RIDE** has helped more than 100 participants from 30 countries earn their learner permits and driver's licenses.

How Is The Program Run?

Professional driving lessons are provided by **Stevens Driving School, LLC**
(716) 884-3103

All others who make **RIDE** possible are volunteers. Most are members of Augustana Lutheran Church.

Program graduates also help current **RIDE** program participants.

All program costs (lesson materials, permit test fees and professional driving lessons) are paid for by donations from individuals, congregational partners, and Lutheran Charities of Western New York.

How You Can Help

We welcome new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.

Augustana Lutheran Church
is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Donations may be made payable
and sent to:

Augustana Lutheran Church
3143 Eggert Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

For more information, please contact the church at 716-832-5720 or email us at RIDEaugustana@gmail.com.

RIDE

Refugee Immigrant Driver Education



Drive to Thrive



A ministry of Augustana Lutheran Church

3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150
RIDEaugustana@gmail.com
(716) 832-5720

Serve one another humbly in faith.
Galatians 5:13

RIDE Purpose

The mission of **RIDE** is to aid refugees and immigrants in learning the information and skills necessary for them to legally drive in New York State.

In Western New York, public transportation has limitations in routes and schedules. By earning a driver's license, refugees and immigrants have more access to jobs, schools and neighborhoods. They are more easily able to attend to the needs of their families and themselves for healthcare, food, clothing, and so much more.

Who May Apply?

ALL who are 18 years or older who would like to get their learner permit, take driving lessons, or both.

Only one person per family can participate so that we can assist as many families as possible.

The ability to speak and understand English is very important. This is especially important before taking driving lessons.

How To Apply

4 ways to get an application:

- 1) **Email RIDE:** rideaugustana@gmail.com
- 2) **Call Augustana:** 716-832-5720
- 3) **Ask Journey's End:** 716-783-1245
2495 Main Street, Buffalo
- 4) **Ask Jewish Family Services:** 716-783-1245
3195 Main, Street, Buffalo

How To Submit The Completed Application

2 ways to submit the application:

By email: RIDEaugustana@gmail.com

By US mail: Augustana Lutheran Church
3143 Eggert Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

What Happens Next

We will review your application as soon as possible and contact you about learner permit classes and/or driving lessons.

For Those Who Are Accepted, RIDE pays for:

Learner permit classes
Learner permit fee
10 professional driving lessons
(10th lesson is the driving / road test)

Steps To Getting Your Driver's License

The first step is to teach you the information need in order to **earn your learner permit. You earn the learner permit by taking the permit test.**

After you pass the learner permit test, the second step is to provide you with professional driving lessons so you can take the driving (road) test and **earn your driver's license.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Does RIDE provide interpreters? An interpreter can only help you at the Department of Motor Vehicles to explain anything **before** you take the learner's permit test. We may be able to supply an interpreter during learning permit classes. Interpreters are **not** allowed at driving lessons or during the permit test or during the driving (road) test.

What if I already have my learner's permit? We can enroll people directly into professional driving lessons when the applicant's English skills can be understood by the instructor and the the student can understand the driving instructor and the person who gives the driving test.

Where and when are permit classes taught? Permit classes are held at Journey's End, 2395 Main Street, Buffalo NY (near the University at Buffalo Main Street campus). You will need to attend classes weekly for about 6 weeks. Classes are usually held in the early evening.

Where and when are driving lessons held? Stevens Driving School provides the lessons. They will pick you up and drop you off at your house. The lessons take place at a time / day that works for you.

What if the student does not pass the Learner Permit test or the driving test? Students may take the learner permit test and driving (road) test again. The student has to pay a fee to retake the road test.