

SCOOTER ETIQUETTE

Surprisingly, even with the large number of individuals using scooters today, there isn't much guidance about how to courteously operate the equipment. Here are a few tips and etiquette suggestions from the Special Needs Group for scooter drivers to ensure that their trips are safe and enjoyable for themselves and those around them:

- Operate your mobility scooter or power chair in a careful and considerate manner – it's the same as driving a car; be a defensive driver.
- Use a footpath or sidewalk when one is accessible. In most jurisdictions, you are considered a pedestrian and should avoid driving on the road.
- Move off a shared path if you have stopped so others can pass.
- Travel at a speed that doesn't endanger others or yourself.
- Similar to how you drive a car, keep right, and pass on the left.
- Warn others when you approach them from behind, around a hidden turn or on a covered driveway. If you have a horn, use it. Some scooters are silent and might not be heard by the hearing impaired.
- Always look behind you, including before you overtake someone who is slower than you (you may hit someone on the side.)
- If you get a call on your cell phone, pull over. Your driving ability becomes five times worse when your attention is on a phone call, and when you're using one hand instead of two to steer.
- When you are in a dining room or restaurant, if you are physically able to get out of your scooter, park it to the side in the dining area.
- It is illegal for you to ride, or let any person ride, in a way that may cause you or the other person injury.
- Please do not leave your scooter unattended in the hotel halls; this blocks the flow of traffic (especially when you think it doesn't).
- Using curb cuts is the safest way to leave a curb; otherwise the scooter will tip over.
- Please be careful when carrying extra things on your scooter, it will run the battery down quicker.
- Also be mindful of any items (yours or someone else's) that could get caught in the wheels. This is very dangerous and could cause the scooter to stop suddenly, injuring you and damaging the scooter.
- Enjoy the mobility that the scooter offers you and General Convention.