

Cars deemed safe, reliable for student drivers

CHRIS GARFIELD

Page Editor

Owning a reliable, cool and safe, but mostly cool car, is great for the modern high school student. It's a way of getting around and the best way to avoid riding the "loser cruiser." Here are five cars that are the whole package: dependable, secure and slick.

Honda Civic, no doubt, is the most popular car for teenagers. Hatchback or sedan it can be seen everywhere. What makes the Civic so appealing is the price, miles per gallon and the look of the car. The new Honda Civic gets between 30-40 mile per gallon, which is not bad for any car. Some teenagers have to pay their own gas so a non-gas guzzler is required. Be careful, though, Honda Civics are often stolen a lot, so keep your doors locked. The Civic has a reputation for performing well having good gas mileage and for handling smoothly. It also has lots of safety features like anti lock brakes and air bags.

A Toyota Corolla can take you from high school to college and then to your first home. It's a simple, safe car that still looks pretty sweet. If you're technology challenged, this is the car for you as it is equipped with big knobs and labels. You won't get lost trying to find out how to turn on the air conditioning, like some other newer cars. Even with its great miles per gallon, it supports a powerful engine, a plus that you wouldn't expect. The Corolla is

decked out in tons of safety features like a tire pressure monitor, rear head restraints and dual air bags.

The next sweet ride is a

Volvo which comes from a car company known for safety. They make classy cars that run well for a long period of time. Some of the

older cars that Volvo makes are lemons, but overall Volvo has a pretty good rap. The Volvo S60 is a perfect car for a student. It is slick

looking and also very safe. The S60 is offered in all-wheel drive, which is great for driving up Mt. Hood safely. The Volvos are safe and are equipped with side and head air bags, plus it has four wheel anti-locking brake system.

Volkswagen Jetta's are the classic girl car. They have been around since 1980 and will be driving around for awhile. They have a boxy shape which drops their cool status a little but overall it's a quality car. They are known for driving smooth and getting great gas mileage. Safety is also not a problem with the Jetta with air bags every place imaginable. Volkswagens also tend to be easier to work on.

The last car on the list is the Subaru Forrester, an SUV shrunk into a smaller car. It offers the same power and safety as an SUV, plus it's unique looking. The Forrester can get away with the boxy look because it is aimed for a more sporty crowd and made to drive hard. If you're looking for a car to go up the mountain in, this is the one for you. It has a pretty powerful engine and all-wheel drive, all the time, so there is no need to worry about losing control. Also, you don't have to worry about getting hurt in this car since it topped every compact sport crash test according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Looking for a car that is cheap and reliable? You can find these cars and more on craigslist.com, autotrader.com and at used dealers.

Subaru Forrester



- Reliability: 4/5
- Safety: 5/5
- Cool: 4.5/5

"I like my Forrester because it has all-wheel drive."

—Jeff Bandel, senior

Toyota Corolla



- Reliability: 5/5
- Safety: 4/5
- Cool: 4/5

"The best feature of my Corolla is the windshield cleaner. It cleans very well."

—Anneliese Sytsma, junior

Volvo S60



- Reliability: 4/5
- Safety: 4/5
- Cool: 3.5/5

"I got my Volvo about a year ago and I love it. It runs great and I haven't had any problems with it."

—Christopher Thompson, junior

Honda Civic



- Reliability: 5/5
- Safety: 4.5/5
- Cool: 5/5

"I love my Honda Civic, and I don't have to fill my tank twice going up to the mountain."

—Brynn Hayes, junior

Volkswagen Jetta



- Reliability: 3/5
- Safety: 4.5/5
- Cool: 3/5

"I just got my Jetta and it's great. It gets good gas mileage and has lots of features like heated seats and a sun roof."

—Erin McCauley, junior

Photos by Chris Garfield

Spring break brings relief, fun vacations

Spring Break

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"I'm looking forward to the warm weather, meeting cute boys and getting a great tan," Michelle Francis, sophomore, who is going on a week-long cruise to Mexico during the break, said.

Many of the destinations that have for years been popular places are slowly fading, Krislip explained in her article. Lake Havasu, Ariz. and Las Vegas, Nev. are no longer in the top ten, whereas places like Paris, France are quickly gaining speed and moving up in the list as Europe becomes a hot spot for U.S. tourists.

"I'm just really excited to experience a new culture," Ariana Harris, junior, who will be visiting France over the break, said. Recently, the amount of travel-to destinations outside

the United States has increased immensely. Travellers have developed a yearning to visit places where they can find cultural diversity and new, exciting activities.

How do these places become so popular? For some reason they possess some special quality that keeps travelers coming back year after year. Since the break comes right at the beginning of the spring season, many people try to go somewhere sunny and warm to find a reprieve from the cold and a kick-off for the summer. Places like Mexico, the Caribbean and Florida offer heat, sun, beautiful beaches, and lots of tourist-friendly activities.

"From the Northwest, any

place warm is a desired destination," Cindra Gero, travel agent at Sun Connections in West Linn, said. Some people begin planning for their Spring Break vacation far in advance; many for at least a year. There are many ways to plan trips, either by booking each part individually, purchasing a package, or using a travel agent. However, booking sooner usually means better prices.

"If you and your family want to go someplace warm during spring break, starting to plan as early as November or December of the previous year is not unusual," Gero said. If you have not already made plans for spring break, it may not be too late to make accommodations.

"Planning in advance will give you more flexibility of flight schedules and the best available room category at the best rates. But if you need last minute help, we are here to help you," Bates said.

It is important that when making plans for a vacation, especially outside of the United States, you plan far in advance and research where you will be staying and visiting so that you can be prepared. If a passport is needed for where you are going, it is important to apply for one as soon as possible since they can take anywhere between one day and two months to arrive.

For students, there are many safety tips to keep in mind. If going across the border, such as traveling to Mexico, be sure to get the proper immunizations, get to know the language enough so that you can get help if needed, keep any cash in a safe

place, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

"Travel agents can help with all the legalities of teen travel and we also have access to many tour companies," Gayle Cole, travel agent at Sun Connections in West Linn, said. And since most travel agents work with wholesale companies that sell packages at a bulk rate, they can usually plan your trip for a much cheaper price, and are very knowledgeable and helpful.

In future travels, not only spring break, make sure to keep these tips in mind, and consider using a travel agent if you want to get the best deal. But no matter what plans you have for this Spring Break vacation, be sure to get in lots of relaxation and rejuvenation. And most of all, have lots of fun!

