

Corvettes of Fresno - Car Run Info

General information

CoF car runs can be divided into three different types of runs. A Show-and-Go (S&G) type run, a Mystery Dinner run, and an Event/Overnight run. Both the S&G and Mystery Dinner run are typically completed on the same day. An Event run will include at least one overnight stay and a greater distance to travel.

Each type of run has different planning considerations and pre-run preparations that should be made to make your run a success. Here are some basics things to consider for the type of run you are planning. Remember these are just guidelines so there may be some other considerations as well depending on your planned event.

Show-and Go (S&G)

This run or meet-up requires the least amount of planning and can be created within a very short time period. There are no signup sheets, maps or written plans are optional, and planning is kept at a very minimum. This type of run might be for a group of CoF members to meet at a local burger joint to just park their cars and have a burger and a coke and talk about cars to a run from point A to point B for a bite to eat. If the S&G run is announced on the Club website or in the newsletter then a release form from our parent organization will have to be signed by the participants. This form is available on the club website under forms.

Show&Go meet-up. First decide on a date, place, and a time to meet. If time permits send email to the club webmaster so that your event can be listed on the club website. If time is too short for the people to see it on the website you might also consider sending club members email to announce your short notice S&G meet-up event. Of course the old standby of making telephone calls works as well.

It is best to let people know the start/end times of your meet-up, where to meet and if food will be available during the meet-up. It's also a good idea to let people know what you plan to do if the weather turns bad. "Rain cancels" or Come "Rain or Shine."

Show&Go run. Same as the meet-up, pick a date, place, and time to start. Decide what to do if the weather turns bad and where you want to go. It's best to have a planned route that your are familiar with and have verify road conditions a few days in advance of your run if possible as roads can become flooded, road work might cause detours, and other road hazards might cause problems for a large group of cars. A food stop is optional but if the run goes beyond a hour or so

Corvettes of Fresno - Car Run Info

you should plan at least one comfort stop. Fast food restaurants works well for a quick comfort stop as parking is most always adequate and folks that want to grab a quick snack or drink can do so.

The run leader should note how many cars are going on the run and keep track of everyone at re-group points in case someone becomes lost or breaks down. It's also a good idea to have a club directory and a cell phone in case the leader needs to contact someone that is missing.

The important thing on a S&G run is minimum planning on the participants part, folks can just show up to go, no need to cancel if one can't make it, and no problem if bad weather cancels.

Mystery Dinner Run (MDR)

Typically the club has a Mystery Dinner Run once a month. Members sign up for a Mystery Dinner run in advance at a club meeting and the dates are reserved with the CoF Event Coordinator. A signup sheet is circulated to the members to signup and the MDR is published in the club newsletter, calendar, and on the club's website.

The run leaders decide on a starting point, route, and make arrangements with a restaurant for a group meal. The route is kept secret and only the run leader knows where the group is going and the route that will be taken. For the participants the route and destination is a *mystery*!

The MDR leaders should prepare a map/directions of the route, run leaders cell number, and list the address/phone of the restaurant where the group is headed. As in the S&G the MDR leaders should drive the route a few days in advance of the run to verify road conditions and maps/directions. The map/directions should be placed in a sealed envelope and distributed to all the participants before the group departs in case someone get lost. If a club participant gets lost on the run all they have to do is open the envelope to discover the route, phone numbers to call for help, and destination of the run.

The MDR leaders should contact/visit the destination restaurant and make arrangements for the group that has signed up for the run. Typically, MDRs get between 12 to 25 cars so the group size will be from 20-45. The service and accommodations at small restaurants will be greatly enhanced if the restaurant manager/owner knows a large group will be seat together for a meal. Many times they will put on more staff and order additional food for the CoF meal service.

Corvettes of Fresno - Car Run Info

The other issue to arrange or at least plan for is parking for 12-25 *Corvettes*. Parking next to other cars, in dirt parking lots, or where security could be an issue can be a problem. It's best to pick a destination that has good safe Corvette friendly parking. If security might be a problem then many times the restaurant owner might be helpful at resolving the security issue. They may have an employee watch the cars or offer recommendations for parking security of some type. Additionally, there might be one or two run participants that might volunteer to watch the cars or periodically check on them.

Depending on the MDR leaders preference the MDR group can return to Fresno as a group (if out of town) or complete the run after dinner and allow participants to make their own way home from the dinner location.

CoF Event Runs (ER)

Event Runs are much like the Mystery Dinner Runs for planning starting point, routes, and dining location. (See MDR runs). In addition to this planning the ER will need to make arrangements for overnight accommodations. The run leaders should survey the destination for hotels that have suitability priced rooms and Corvette friendly parking. Once a hotel is selected the run leader should talk to the hotel events manager. By reserving a block of rooms in advance many times a special room rate will be offered.

Signups for ER. A signup sheet should be available at the general meetings at least a month or two or longer as appropriate in advance of the ER. This will allow members to clear their calendar for the run and to plan for the expenditure as needed. Pass around at the Club General Meeting a signup sheet and be prepared to give run details to the club members and answer questions at the meeting.

As with the S&G and MDR the return home can be a group event or the run leaders can optionally terminate the ER at the destination point. The ER leaders shall keep track of the club members during the run, provide maps/directions and assist club members that might breakdown or get lost.

General Run Considerations for all types of runs

Maps/Directions - Most of the time it's best to have prepared highlighted maps and directions for the run participants in advance and distribute them at the start of the run. It's hard for a group of cars to stay together in traffic, going through towns, and some might make a wrong loosing the

Corvettes of Fresno - Car Run Info

group. S&G routes are typically discussed at the start, not as long or complex and maps/directions are optional.

Club Directory - All club members should take their club directory with them on all runs. All the club member's phone, cell phone, and other information is listed and could be useful if a members becomes separated from the run group during a run.

CB & FRS Radios - Citizen Band (CB) or Family Radio Service (FRS) radios are often used on runs for car to car communication during the run. Pre-run warnings are often announced along with course deviations due to hazards or traffic problems. Additionally, there is often car to car discourse that can be entertaining as well. Run leaders will announce at the run start the channel for CB and/or FRS radios.

The run leaders should position club members with radios in the middle of the caravan and at the end of the caravan. As the group of cars gets stretched out to a mile or two there still can be radio communication from the leader to the middle car that can relay instructions back to the cars in the back of the caravan.

Laws and regulations - Ride leaders should review the CoF caravanning rules and remind members of those rules as appropriate. Run participants should obey all traffic laws, speed limits, and urge that all club members on the run do the same.

Completing the run - At the completion of the run the run leader shall give the liability sign in sheet to the Events Coordinator and on the ER or MDR (S&G optional) provide a run recap at the next general meeting. The run leaders should do a brief write up of how the run went, where they went, and any notable events that took place on their run. Forward your run write-up to the Newsletter Editor and the Webmaster to be published in our club's newsletter/website. S&G write-ups are optional. If pictures were taken please forward them to the club webmaster so that he may put your pictures on the club website. Additionally, your pictures will become a part of our club's permanent history.