

# MSU - Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
EXTENSION

Road Trip

“Road Trip!” - The words that always ring sweet to my ears. Whether it is for work or pleasure, traveling the highways and byways can be adventurous. But the adventurous part may be good or bad, it all just depends on how you prepare ahead of time for different situations that can come up along the way.

## **Service your vehicle.**

- ✓ Any small mechanical issues that have been put off being repaired, fix before leaving.
- ✓ Check the oil & coolant levels - carry a spare quart of oil if some is needed occasionally between changes.
- ✓ Check air pressure in your tires – don’t forget about the spare too.

## **Hide a key.**

An extra key hidden somewhere on the exterior of your vehicle can save a lot of time and emergency locksmith expense if you accidentally lock yourself out. A magnetic box, strip of duct tape or zip-tie are easy ways to attach a key somewhere on the undercarriage or any area out of sight, but still accessible.

## **Keep an extra phone charger cord in the vehicle.**

Using map apps, listening to music, and signal roaming can diminish your phone battery more quickly than usual. Having a way to charge up always available can prevent a dead battery when the phone is needed most.

## **Take along a paper map.**

- ✓ Electronic maps & directions are convenient, but not always reliable. An atlas is good for a backup plan.
- ✓ If going to a specific address, ask people already there, for directions; a gps is not always right.

## **Carry cash.**

Since not prevalent in Mississippi, toll road fares can be a surprise. Be sure to have a good supply of coins and dollars.

## **Tell someone your plan.**

A friend, family member, or co-worker should be aware of where you plan to be when. Let them know the name of the place you stay each night. Just in case something weird happens, they’ll at least know a general area to start looking for you.

## **Pack a cooler with drinks and snacks.**

Cannot go wrong with this for so many reasons. Pack enough to at least be self-sustainable to get home if necessary.

## **Have a first aid kit and flashlight with extra batteries.**

“Better to have and not need, than need and not have.”

## **No texting & driving.**

Wait until your next rest stop to answer texts, check emails or update your social media status.

## **Never let your fuel tank get less than ¼.**

The next exit may be many miles down the road or some gas stations are just not safe to stop at. What if there is road construction, an accident, or you are stuck in traffic for a long time. On the side of the road out of fuel is bad.

## **Take a break every 2 hours.**

On a long trip getting out of the vehicle to walk around a few minutes while stretching your legs, arms & back. It will make the trip easier on your body and keep you more alert while driving.

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