

3 great places for new drivers to practice

KARINA BLAND Karina Bland, The Republic | azcentral.com 1:49 p.m. MST October 26, 2014



(Photo: Michael Chow)

The best places to start out driving with teenagers are big, empty parking lots – churches during the week, businesses early in the mornings, corporations on weekends – and then your own neighborhood, with its familiar landmarks and streets that aren't too busy.

READ: [Drive on wild side: teenager gets behind the wheel \(/story/karinabland/2014/10/26/karina-bland-my-so-called-midlife-driving-lesson-teenage-drivers/17963091/\)](http://story.karinabland/2014/10/26/karina-bland-my-so-called-midlife-driving-lesson-teenage-drivers/17963091/)

And then, before you let them hit the real open road, try:

1. Sports facilities on days when there aren't games or events scheduled, such as the University of Phoenix Stadium, 1 Cardinals Dr., Glendale. With 14,000 surrounding parking spaces, there's plenty of room to practice basic skills and parking.



Mesa Community College (Photo: Sherrie Buzby)

2. Any community college campus on weekends. Mesa Community College is the largest of the 10 community colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District, 1833 W Southern Ave, Mesa. Maximum speed on campus is 15 miles per hour.



ASU Research Park(Photo: Christine Keith)

3. Industrial parks on weekends, such as the ASU Research Park, the 320 acres is crisscrossed with winding streets, stop signs and cul-de-sacs and spotted with lakes, jogging trails and picnic ramadas, 8750 S. Science Dr., Tempe. Maximum speed is 35 miles per hour.

– Karina Bland

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