

Planning to party this Fourth of July? You have a free ride home in the DC area!

Emily Venezky | emily.venezky@wtop.com

Everyone in the D.C. area has access to a designated driver this Fourth of July, thanks to the Washington Regional Alcohol Program's SoberRide program.

The nonprofit is paying up to \$15 on the Lyft app for residents celebrating with alcohol on July Fourth to get home safely. The program will begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday and will run until 4 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5.

Kurt Erickson, president of WRAP, said the \$15 should cover the estimated cost of most rides around the region.

"But let's say your fare is \$20, we're still going to pay for the first \$15 and the passenger will simply be on the hook for the remaining \$5," Erickson explained.

The program is meant to keep roads safe from impaired drivers that account for 39% of U.S. traffic deaths during the Fourth of July holiday, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's estimates from 2021.

The charity offered its SoberRide program last Independence Day as well as on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and throughout the winter holidays, a news release said.

"We had 435 people utilize this program last July Fourth," Erickson said. "I would expect even greater ridership than that, just for the fact that in our most recent campaign we've averaged nearly 1,000 rides per night."

D.C. area residents will have access to the 2023 Independence Day SoberRide promo code at 3 p.m. on Tuesday at the non-profit's website. The rides coverage area includes all of D.C., Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties in Virginia.

Erickson urges would-be drunk drivers to take advantage of the program and keep roadways safe during the holiday.

He added that "the program is only as good as the number of persons that use it, that we get out of cars, that otherwise may have driven home after drinking."

WTOP's Juan Herrera contributed to this report.

WASHINGTONIAN

How to Get a Free Designated Driver on July 4th

SoberRide's Lyft coupon code can help you get home safely.

WRITTEN BY MALCOLM FERGUSON



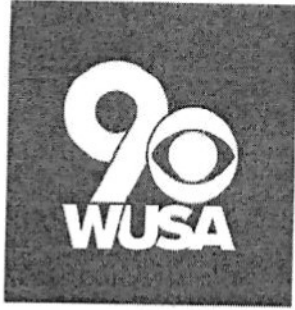
Photograph by jetcityimage via iStock.

If you have a little too much fun on your Fourth of July bar crawl and are in need of a ride home, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program's (WRAP) SoberRide initiative is here to help this Independence Day weekend.

WRAP has once again released a promo code for a free Lyft ride, in anticipation of the holiday's boozy festivities. Once you're ready, enter the code in Lyft's payment tab under the "Add Lyft Pass" option. The promo code will be released on SoberRide.com at 3 PM on July 4 and will work until 4 AM on July 5. It will cover up to \$15, and trips must be within Lyft's local service area, which includes Alexandria, Arlington, Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park, Tysons Corner, and the District.

Learn more [here](#).

Washingtonian (magazine)
June 29, 2023



How to get a free Lyft ride on Fourth of July

A nonprofit organization is providing free Lyft rides for would-be impaired drivers this Independence Day.

WASHINGTON — This Independence Day, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is offering free Lyft rides home to would-be impaired drivers.

WRAP is a nonprofit organization that launched SoberRide, a free safe ride program, purposed to ensure safer ways to get home in the Washington, D.C. area. The program provides its services on various holidays which are typically at high-risk for traffic fatalities caused by drunk driving.

WRAP will post its 2023 Independence Day code at 3 p.m. Tuesday and the code will be valid until 4 a.m. Wednesday. Drivers can enter the code in the app's payment tab under the "Add Lyft Pass" option for \$15 off one ride in the Washington, D.C.-covered area, while supplies last. Rides cannot be reserved or scheduled in advance.

The quantities will be limited to the first 1,500 passengers to input the code, and all drivers must be 21 years or older to access the Lyft code. Subject to Lyft's Terms of Service, any Lyft user, new or existing, can access and use the code for \$15 off a safe trip home.

WRAP started the SoberRide program in 1991, and since then has offered 80,047 safe and free rides home for otherwise impaired drivers. The program also provides its free ride services during the December and January holiday seasons, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, and Halloween.

For more information and to access the Independence Day code, drivers can visit www.SoberRide.com

WUSA9 (CBS)
July 4, 2023



Free, discounted Lyft rides in DC for July 4

by: Makea Luzader

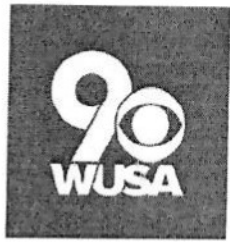
WASHINGTON (DC News Now) — Any adults who may be out in the District this July 4 could qualify for a free ride home.

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) partnered with Lyft to continue their SoberRide program to help get people home safely on Independence Day.

Between 4 p.m. and 4 a.m., WRAP is offering codes for up to \$15 off of a Lyft ride in the D.C. coverage area.

The codes will be posted on its website starting at 3 p.m. on July 4. Once you get yours, you can enter the code in the “Add Lyft Pass” option under the “Payment” tab on Lyft.

WRAP said that there will be a limited amount of these codes. You must be 21 or over to use SoberRide.



Fairfax County PD DWI Enforcement Squad ramping up patrols

Extra officers will be out on patrol in Fairfax County, searching for impaired and reckless drivers this month.

Author: Katie Lusso

FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va. — Police have a message for anyone thinking about getting behind the wheel impaired: Don't do it.

In Fairfax County, you can expect to see more officers out there checking to make sure you're not driving reckless or while under the influence.

"Pulling DUIs off the street is something we can do out here that literally saves lives," says Pfc. Aaron Ciarrocchi.

He's been assigned to the Fairfax County Police DWI Enforcement Squad for four years.

"The highest DUI I ever got was on Braddock at 9 p.m.," he said. He told WUSA9 the woman he arrested had a BAC level of .30%. That's more than three times the legal limit. Drivers with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08% or higher are considered to be driving under the influence.

He's one of 11 officers in the DWI Enforcement Squad, which was started in 2016.

He explained there are a number of signs that a driver is impaired.

"The big one is weaving. Speed discrepancies, so if they can't maintain a constant speed or they keep speeding up and down. Someone who makes wide turns, like go into the outside lane," said Ciarrocchi.

He told WUSA9 that speed can also be a factor.

"A lot of people think drunk drivers go really slow. In my experience most of them are going significantly faster than the speed limit," he said.

A reminder, it's not just alcohol that can leave you impaired and facing a DWI. It includes anything from cough syrup to prescription drugs and even marijuana.

"Anything that you can ingest that impacts your body chemistry you can be arrested for DWI," said Ciarrocchi.

From the start of the year to June 28, Fairfax County Police says 768 people have been arrested for driving under the influence across the county. That's compared to 595 DWI arrests in all of 2022.

For the month of July, the police department is ramping up patrols. They're bringing in eight extra officers to help the DWI squad.

"We're solely focusing on DWIs and traffic enforcement," said Fairfax County Police Lt. Lai.

Ciarrocchi said, "Speed and alcohol are the two biggest factors in fatal accidents. So if we can catch the people that are speeding or are drunk drivers we can make a difference."

According to the National Safety Council, 619 people may die on roads across the U.S. during the Independence Day holiday period. They say the Independence Day holiday period is from 6 p.m. on June 30 to 11:59 p.m. on July 4.

Need a safe way to get home, consider a ride-sharing service. The Fairfax County Police Department recommends checking out Wrap's SoberRide®, who's offering free and discounted rides this year to drivers in the Washington-Metropolitan area during the 4th of July holiday.

In addition, Metro will be offering free service to and from Fourth of July festivities on Tuesday for a stress and fare-free holiday.

Beginning at 5 p.m. until the system closes, Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess will be free to ride, with frequent service to the National Mall and other celebrations across the region. [Click here to learn more.](#)

WUSA9 (CBS)
July 3, 2023

We're Not Working Tomorrow

Tomorrow is the Fourth of July, and DLD is taking an Independence Day break. We'll be back in your inbox on Wednesday, July 5. If you need ideas for how to celebrate, consider heading to the reopening of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site at Cedar Hill, checking out events at the National Archives, and, of course, celebrating with thousands of others on the National Mall. **If you're out late and need a ride home, take advantage of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program's SoberRide deal and get a free (or heavily discounted) Lyft ride after 3 p.m.**

—Caroline Jones (tips? cjones@washingtoncitypaper.com)

Free Lyft rides program returns next week to combat drunk driving

Vernon Miles



A multi-frame exposure of fireworks over Arlington's Westover on July 4th (staff photo by Jay Westcott)

This upcoming Independence Day, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is bringing back the SoberRide program.

The program runs from 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4th, to 4 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5.

"During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home," WRAP said in a release. "WRAP's 2023 Independence Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4th on www.SoberRide.com."

Last year, 435 people used SoberRide on the 4th of July.

"Nearly 40% of U.S. traffic fatalities during the Independence Day holiday involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's president, said in the release. "And July 4th's nighttime hours are of particular concern as 82% of fatal drunk driving crashes in the U.S. during the Independence Day holiday occur at night."

As another quick safety reminder: fireworks are allowed in Fairfax and Arlington but not in Alexandria.

SoberRide offering free rides home for Fourth of July



Fourth of July fireworks over the National Mall. National Park Service

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) in partnership with Lyft will offer free rides home for those who imbibed too much while celebrating the nation's birthday.

The SoberRide initiative will be in effect from 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4 to 4 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5 across the D.C. region.

Last year, more than 400 people used WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired.

"Over one-third – 39 percent – of all U.S. traffic fatalities during July 4th, 2017, involved drunk drivers, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's president, in a news release. "Worse, over three-fourths of alcohol-impaired fatalities during the 2017 July 4th period occurred during nighttime hours."

The SoberRide program also operates on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays. Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 86,358 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the area.

For information, see the website at www.soberride.com.



Free Lyft rides offered July 4

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over a third (39%, 2021) of U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers,* a local nonprofit organization announced that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during the Independence Day holiday.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2023 Independence Day SoberRide program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. on July 4 (Independence Day) and operate until 4 a.m. on July 5 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this 12-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones and then enter the SoberRide code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2023 Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com.

"Nearly 40% of U.S. traffic fatalities during the Independence Day holiday involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's president. "And July 4th's nighttime hours are of particular concern as 82% of fatal drunk driving crashes in the U.S. during the Independence Day holiday occur at night."

During the 2022 Independence Day campaign, over 400 (435) persons in the Washington metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide program rather than possibly driving home impaired.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

Fairfax County Times

June 30, 2023

Morning Notes

SoberRide Active for Holiday — From the Arlington County Police Department: “If your celebration includes alcohol, plan a safe ride home before the festivities begin. This Independence Day, @WRAP_org is offering free Lyft rides to help prevent impaired driving.” [Twitter, SoberRide]



THE MOCO SHOW

Montgomery County Issues Warning Against Impaired Driving Ahead of Independence Day Weekend; Information on Free Sober Rides July 4

Patrick Herron

Per Montgomery County: As Independence Day weekend approaches, the Montgomery County Department of Police and the County's Department of Transportation (MCDOT) are warning motorists: Impaired driving is drunk driving. County Police and allied local and State police departments will be on the road with enhanced patrols and sobriety checkpoints throughout the weekend.

Maryland's recreational cannabis legalization law goes into effect on Saturday, July 1. Under the referendum that voters approved in November, adults 21-and-over can purchase recreational cannabis from licensed dispensaries. Possession of up to 1.5 ounces of cannabis by adults over the age of 21 will be legal. County Police are emphasizing that it is illegal to drive while impaired, including under the influence of cannabis.

"Our officers will be conducting sobriety checkpoints throughout the extended weekend," said Montgomery Police Chief Marcus Jones. "We implore drivers to think of cannabis the same way they think of alcohol. Do not get behind the wheel of a car if you are impaired. Our officers will pull over and arrest anyone they suspect of driving while impaired. Alcohol, marijuana and other drugs can impair the ability to drive because they slow coordination, judgment, and reaction times. Our priority is keeping the roads safe for everyone."

Nationally, the holiday weekend, marked by celebrations and increased travel, often comes with a surge in traffic crashes caused by excessive speed, impairment and distracted driving. The National Safety Council estimates 619 people may die on U.S. roads this Independence Day holiday.

MCDOT strongly advises celebrants to make arrangements ahead of time for safe transportation to and from events. The County's Vision Zero effort to prevent death and injury on Montgomery County roadways offers a listing of local safe rides on its website here.

"We are expecting a record number of travelers to be on the road this weekend and into early next week," said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. "With Independence Day falling on a Tuesday this year, we know many people have plans to take an extended weekend for travel. Anytime someone chooses to drive while impaired it creates a serious threat to our community and combined with the sheer number of drivers on the road, this an especially dangerous time. We urge anyone planning to use alcohol or cannabis as part of their celebration to plan a safe ride home before heading out."

To aid this effort, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program's SoberRide®, in partnership with Lyft, will offer a limited number of codes for \$15 off a Lyft from 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 4, until 4 a.m. Wednesday, July 5. The first 1,500 passengers who enter a promo code that will be posted on July 4 at 3 p.m. will receive free rides up to \$15. Users must be 21 or older and are responsible for any costs above \$15. The service is valid in Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area.

To request a SoberRide

Go to SoberRide.com.

During an active campaign time, the website will list the promo code.

Open the Lyft App on your smartphone.

Tap the menu icon in the top left corner.

Tap 'Rewards' in the menu that appears.

Tap 'Enter promo code' to add the SoberRide® code from the website (remember to check spelling).

Tap 'Apply' to finish.

For more information on the new Maryland cannabis law taking effect on July 1, visit the Maryland Cannabis Administration webpage here.

The MoCo Show

July 2, 2023

InFive: Free ride, bee festival and storms possible today

Top news and notes from around Northern Virginia and beyond.

5. Broadband efforts

Former president/CEO of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce Jeff Say visited the White House Monday to speak about Culpeper County's challenges with receiving adequate broadband services.

4. Take a free ride

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program's SoberRide, in partnership with Lyft will offer free rides home for those who imbibed too much while celebrating the nation's birthday.

3. Storms possible today

There's a lingering thunderstorm threat today with a few possibly severe storms along and east of Interstate 95. Highs today will reach 84 degrees. [Click here for your forecast by ZIP code.](#)

2. Wanted for murder

Police are searching for a 33-year-old Stafford County man wanted for murder in a double shooting in Dumfries last week.

1. In photos

The Manassas Bee Festival returned Saturday to the first city in Northern Virginia to receive the Bee City USA designation. The event at the historic Liberia House and Grounds was buzzing, and we've got photos [here](#).

Del Ray **PATCH**

Fourth Of July Travel: Free Metro, Rideshare Offered In DC Region

Those heading to and from DC area Fourth of July fireworks events can get free rideshare or Metro starting in the evening.

Emily Leayman, Patch Staff

WASHINGTON, DC — Free travel to and from fireworks events will be available in the DC region on the evening of July 4.

Metro will offer free evening travel until closing, while the Washington Regional Alcohol Program's SoberRide program will have free Lyft rides up to \$15.

Metro's Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess will be fare-free on Fourth of July from 5 p.m. until closing. Faregates will be open, so riders will not need to use a SmarTrip card. Parking will be free at Metro's parking garages and lots on Fourth of July.

"The Metro Board of Directors is proud to support our region's Independence Day celebrations by providing fare-free service for all customers traveling after 5 p.m. on July 4," said Metro Board Chair Paul Smedberg in a statement. "The best way to beat traffic and get to barbecues, parades, and fireworks is with Metro, America's transit system."

Metro will also provide frequent service on all Metrorail lines to help riders get to the National Mall and other locations for Fourth of July fireworks. Service will increase at 4 p.m. in preparation for Fourth of July festivities.

To avoid crowding on July 4, Metro advises delaying travel immediately after fireworks when possible and consider utilizing stations other than Smithsonian to get to DC's fireworks on the National Mall.

Smithsonian station will become an "exit only" station at 5 p.m. and "entry only" after 9 p.m. to accommodate crowds. Metro Transit Police will be present throughout the system and may

temporarily halt entries to stations that become too crowded.

On the Orange Line, the Vienna and Dunn Loring stations remain closed for a rail replacement project. Shuttle buses will serve the closed station, or riders can use the West Falls Church station.

Another option for travelers will be the SoberRide program, which offers free Lyft rides up to \$15 as an alternative for would-be intoxicated drivers. The program will run from 4 p.m. on July 4 to 4 a.m. on July 5.

"Nearly 40-percent of U.S. traffic fatalities during the Independence Day holiday involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, president of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program. "And July 4th's nighttime hours are of particular concern as 82 percent of fatal drunk driving crashes in the U.S. during the Independence Day holiday occur at night."

During the SoberRide program, residents 21 and older can enter the SoberRide code into the Lyft app's payment section to receive the \$15 credit. The code will be posted at 3 p.m. on July 4 on the SoberRide website.

The SoberRide program can be used in Lyft's DC region coverage area. This includes the District of Columbia, Arlington County, Fairfax County, cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park, parts of Prince William and Loudoun counties, Prince George's County, Charles County, St. Mary's County, and parts of Montgomery County.

The SoberRide program has provided 86,358 free safe rides home to would-be intoxicated drivers in the DC region since 1991. It runs on other major holidays for drinking, including St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays through New Year's. In 2022, 435 people used the SoberRide program during the Fourth of July holiday.

Del Ray Patch
July 3, 2023

SoberRide Offers Free Rides Home for Fourth of July Revelers



If you plan to celebrate the Fourth of July with alcohol, don't forget to have a plan to get home safely.

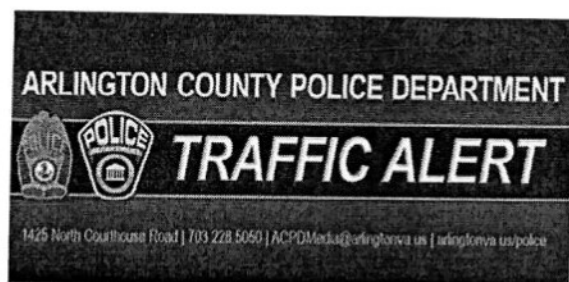
Once again, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is offering people in the D.C. area (including Montgomery County) a free ride home (up to \$15) between 4 p.m. Tuesday and 4 a.m. Wednesday through the ride share app Lyft.

WRAP's SoberRide program has been providing free rides on holidays since 1991, and provided over 86,358 free rides since.

Their goal is to reduce impaired driving on holidays where drinking alcohol is part of the celebration, including Independence Day, Halloween, the December/January holiday season, Cinco de Mayo, and St. Patrick's Day. More than one third of U.S. traffic deaths on Independence day involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

When SoberRide began, the program partnered with taxi cabs in the region and allowed people to call free or reduced rate taxis on a hotline number. Now, you can just use the Lyft app and simply input a promo code before hailing a ride as usual. That code provides the user up to \$15 towards a ride home.

The promo code becomes available at 3 p.m. on Independence Day on the SoberRide website. Anyone 21 and older in the Washington, DC coverage area can take advantage of this opportunity while supplies last. Up to 1500 of the discounts will be available.



Plan for a Sober Ride Home

Each year, Independence Day is celebrated across the Country with family, friends, food, and fireworks. Unfortunately, the festivities turn tragic on the nation's roadways when drunk drivers take to the streets after the parties end. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 538 people died throughout the United States in motor vehicle crashes over the July 4 holiday period in 2021 (6 p.m. July 2 – 5:59 a.m. on July 6, 2021). Of these fatalities, 39% occurred in alcohol-impaired crashes. If you plan to go out and enjoy the evening with alcohol, make sure you plan ahead with a sober ride home.

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) 2023 July 4 SoberRide[®] program, in partnership with Lyft, will be offered from 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4, until 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5. For additional information on WRAP's program to ensure area residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays, visit their website.

Arlington County Police Department
June 27, 2023