

Web site offers top new cars for teens

(SPM Wire) Getting parents and teenagers to agree on almost anything can be a challenge sometimes, especially when it's something as major as a new car purchase.

Attempting to bridge this great divide, the Web sites cars.com and DriversEd.com have collaborated on the development of a list of the top new cars for teen drivers. The list highlights this year's hottest new cars recommended for teen drivers, based on a variety of criteria, including safety, price, size and "fun factor."

"We kept in mind that many parents are more concerned about safety,

while their child is looking for style," said cars.com senior editor Joe Wiesenfelder. "This list offers new car choices in various body styles and a wide range of prices likely to meet the needs of parents and teens."

"It's essential for teens to be involved in the car buying decision, so that they both understand the responsibility of the driving privilege and feel comfortable behind-the-wheel of their car," added DriversEd.com founder Gary Tsifrin.

Some of the top new car picks for teens, according to cars.com and DriversEd.com, include:

- Mazda3 (Base MSRP \$13,710) – Sporty and affordable, it has a unique look that won't be confused with anything else on the road. Choose the sedan or four-door hatchback.

- Honda Civic (Base MSRP \$14,560) – The new model is roomier than ever, with a cool, modern dashboard, excellent performance in crash tests and good gas mileage.

Treat it right and you can drive it for 10 years or more.

- Scion tC (Base MSRP \$16,300) – The tC feels rich for the price. The 2.4-liter engine has guts galore, and the backseat has room for your tallest passengers. It's made by Toyota, so it should be reliable and inexpensive to own.

- Mini Cooper (Base MSRP \$17,450) – The Cooper is built by BMW, so it stops, goes and corners like its big brothers, but with a much lower starting price. Even though it's small, it's also full of airbags, and its safety history is strong.

- Subaru Impreza (Base MSRP \$18,295) – The Impreza is a good all-around performer. All-wheel drive means you're prepared for harsh weather. To be ready for anything, try the higher-riding Outback Sport version. This car offers plenty of choices: sedan or sport wagon, manual or automatic, and quick or road-rocket versions.



Mini Cooper

- Mazda MX-5 (Miata) Convertible (Base MSRP \$21,435) – Although cars.com doesn't typically recommend sports cars for teens, if you simply have to have one, this is the way to go. If you don't mind just two seats and a small trunk, the MX-5 isn't a bad deal at just over \$20,000.

- Volvo S40 (Base MSRP \$24,040) – If safety tops your list, check out this car. Volvo's legendary safety has never been so affordable. The S40 looks cool, and it has an all-wheel-drive option.

For more advice about buying cars for teen drivers, including information about used cars, sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks, visit cars.com or DriversEd.com.



Mazda 3

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