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**BEST CARS FOR NEW DRIVERS; DRIVER'S EDGE  
RECOMMENDS TOP TEN VEHICLES FOR SAFETY AND RELIABILITY**

*Non-profit organization issues 4<sup>th</sup> annual list*

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (August 27, 2009) — It's back to school time again and that often means a young driver is getting a car for the very first time. But with so many new and used makes and models to choose from, it can be a daunting task to find the car that's a good fit for a less experienced driver. To help parents and students choose, Driver's Edge, a non-profit organization and leader in teen driving safety, has issued its fourth annual list of top ten cars for new or young drivers.

"It's always tough to come up with a list of cars that will satisfy both parents and teens," said Steve Tepper, president of Driver's Edge. "Issues of looks, cost, safety and performance don't always line up, but there are some great cars out there that fit the bill safety-wise while still being a cool car to drive."

"Typically, parents' top priorities when looking for a car for their teens are price, reliability and safety, but we can't stress enough that safety has to come first since the leading cause of death for people under the age of 24 is motor vehicle collisions," said Jeff Payne, CEO and founder of Driver's Edge. "A car with more active safety features is always the best way to go, no matter how inexpensive another car might be."

This year's top cars recommended for teens and new drivers that fulfill both the parents' safety and reliability demands and the young drivers' requirements for looks and performance include (in alphabetical order by manufacturer):

- Ford Fusion
- Honda Civic
- Hyundai Sonata
- Mazda 6
- Pontiac Vibe
- Subaru Impreza 2.5i
- Subaru Legacy 2.5i (2010 model year yet to be tested, but passes 2007-2009)
- Toyota Camry
- Toyota Corolla
- Toyota Matrix
- Volkswagen Jetta

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[www.driversedge.org](http://www.driversedge.org)

“The good news is that now, more than ever before, there are more cars to choose from with a variety of active safety features as standard equipment,” said Tepper. “This advancement in standard equipment makes more cars eligible for our annual list – it makes choosing our top ten a bit harder, as you can see by the eleven we’ve chosen, but that’s a good problem to have. In years past, we’ve sometimes had trouble finding ten that could even meet the criteria.”

The cars on the list were chosen specifically with the young novice or inexperienced driver in mind in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Each of the selected models scored at least a four star rating from NHTSA for both frontal and side impact protection in each of the last four years and received no less than an “A” rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety;
2. Each car has a base price of under \$20,000 and offers an array of active safety features as standard equipment (e.g., anti-lock braking systems, airbags, stability control, etc.);
3. Each car has a wheelbase greater than 100 inches;
4. Each car can meet these requirements for a period of four years (2007 to 2010 model years); and
5. Cost, reliability and vehicle styling have been considered, but safety considerations weighed more heavily in determining the cars to recommend.

“Parents should never just give their teens a ‘hand me down’ car that’s lean on safety features in order to save a few bucks,” Payne said. “But at the same time, parents should also keep in mind that there is no five-star rating or safety device that can take the place of a well educated driver. A lousy driver can make even the safest of cars a bad place to be. That’s why we also recommend that all drivers seek out the proper training and learn the skills needed to help them stay safer on the highways, whether it’s attending a Driver’s Edge event or investing in a quality performance driving school.”

To learn more about Driver’s Edge and the 2009 “top eleven” list, please visit Edge online at [www.driversedge.org](http://www.driversedge.org).

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### **About Driver’s Edge:**

*Las Vegas-based Driver’s Edge is an independent Nevada 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and public charity. Driver’s Edge offers a free educational program for young drivers (aged 15-21) teaching real life emergency avoidance and response techniques and overall driver safety. This innovative program is*

*taught on an ongoing basis in Las Vegas, Nev., with annual national tours visiting multiple U.S. cities each year. The program is funded entirely by charitable donations, public grants and corporate sponsorship and the Driver's Edge National Tour is sponsored in the interest of public safety by Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC and Bridgestone Retail Operations, LLC (both subsidiaries of Bridgestone Americas, Inc.) and the IndyCar Series, among other national sponsors and partners. For more information, please visit [www.driversedge.org](http://www.driversedge.org).*

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