

CONNECTICUT RIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM

S/TEP Sidecar Trike Education Program

The 16 hour (2 or 2 1/2 day schedules) Basic S/TEP program is designed to provide the beginning three-wheel rider with the knowledge, confidence and driving skills practiced in a safe controlled environment. Classroom sessions present text and lecture coupled with hands-on activities. Each classroom session is followed by time spent on the riding range practicing the new skills presented in the classroom. Under the direction of skilled instructors, each student is coached through maneuvers until both student and instructor are satisfied with the progress. Students will be trained using CONREP training rigs (sidecars, trikes, Spyder) or students are encouraged to use their own three-wheel motorcycle with proof of insurance. Students will take a written and skills exam during the course, the successful completion of this course enables riders to receive their Connecticut 3-wheel motorcycle endorsement with no further testing at the Connecticut DMV.



The skills needed to operate a two-wheeled motorcycle are very different than those needed to operate a three-wheeled motorcycle. The obvious difference is that two-wheel motorcycles require more balancing than three-wheeled motorcycles; however, depending on the style of the three-wheeled motorcycles, more balance may be needed than initially expected.

A critical difference between the two is the way they are maneuvered through turns and curves. An operator of a two-wheeled motorcycle must use a technique called counter steering. To turn, a motorcycle must lean. To lean, the operator must press forward on the handgrip that is to the inside of the turn. To turn right, the operator must press forward on the right hand grip. The pressure on the handgrip causes the motorcycle to lean in the direction of the turn. The operator should look in the direction he or she wants to go while keeping the shoulders square. In contrast, operators of three-wheeled motorcycles, while still using a handlebar, must steer toward the turn.

Because two-wheeled motorcycles and three-wheeled motorcycles require a vastly different skill set Connecticut has chosen to use the Evergreen Safety Councils S/TEP Sidecar trike training program to train riders in safe three-wheeled operation. Upon completion of this course the operator will be eligible for a restricted motorcycle endorsement to operate three-wheeled motorcycles only. Those who already possess a motorcycle endorsement will continue to be endorsed for two-wheeled and three-wheeled motorcycles.

