The Deschutes County Skidcar Training Program is an all-weather driver enhancement program, taught with the aid of the Skidcar Training Platform: a wheeled frame and hydraulic dolly system that attaches to the frame of a regular passenger car with the ability to reduce or increase the amount of traction the vehicle has.

The Deschutes County Skidcar Training Program is a four hour class—with one hour in the classroom and three hours driving in the car. During the training, techniques discussed and practiced include: proper eye placement, proper acceleration, proper braking, proper steering techniques, weight and energy management, and proper tire decisions and maintenance. You will learn to properly use antilock braking systems, and understand the differences between rear wheel drive/front wheel drive/four wheel drive systems. You will learn about Electronic Stability Control and Electronic Traction Control in modern vehicles. We will also discuss and practice skid/slide prevention, control, and recovery.

The class is taught by retired Deschutes County Sheriff’s Lieutenant Michael Johnston, who has over thirty years of law enforcement experience. Michael was the lead developer and instructor for the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office Emergency Vehicle Operations Training Program. He continues to teach police officers in the State of Oregon training programs at the Oregon Department of Public Safety and Standards and Training, where he serves as a Senior Instructor.

This class is available through Deschutes County Risk Management and sponsored by the Deschutes County Commissioners. The class is free to all Deschutes County employees and volunteers. The class is also available to the public for a fee of $90.00. The class is offered seven days a week, either 8:00AM-12:00PM or 1:00PM-5:00PM. Three participants per class.

To schedule a class or purchase a gift certificate, please contact Laurie Smith at (541) 385-1749 Laurie.Smith@deschutes.org or (541) 330-4631

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