

AAA Lists Top Domestic Family Vehicles

AAA has released its latest list of top vehicles targeting expanding families needing more room, easy handling and dependability in their next vehicle.

Whether looking for the practicality of a minivan to carry more cargo, or the sportier side of an SUV to take the team to soccer games, AAA's list highlights a variety of vehicles growing families should consider during a new car search.

"There are many options available for families needing extra cargo space or room for additional passengers," says David Bennett, manager, AAA Auto Buying Programs. "A new vehicle is a major financial investment for many families. By taking steps to be an educated and informed buyer, you can avoid having to replace your vehicle sooner than expected."

Here are some of AAA's top domestic vehicles in certain categories.

Crossover or Sport Utility Vehicles:

- **Chevrolet Equinox:** A family crossover that rides nicely, handles well and has a generous rear seat that is perfect for growing teens and young adults. The four-cylinder engine is adequate; the V6 is livelier but is nearly 20 percent less fuel-efficient in AAA testing.

TrueCar reports that the average paid price of the 2013 Chevrolet Equinox is \$27,793, 1.78 percent less than the MSRP.

- **Dodge Durango:** Offered with either a V6 or V8, the Durango has more room than the Jeep Grand Cherokee on which it is based. The stretch in both wheelbase and overall length have not diminished this vehicle's ride, its silence on the highway or towing capacity. Third-row seating has plenty of room. While the price can quickly rise, opting for the lower, yet still well-equipped SXT or Crew trim lines will help keep the price in line.

Task Force Leader To Address WID At Sterling Inn

Rock Marcone, director, Maneuver Collaboration Center - General Dynamics Land Systems, will address the Women in Defense group on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke in Sterling Heights.

The gathering is part of the Women in Defense's networking efforts. The event begins at 5 p.m. with a reception where hors d'oeuvres will be served. There will also be coffee and tea and a cash bar.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and is expected to last about 90 minutes.

Marcone's speech is titled, "Attach and Defend: A Soldier's Story." Marcone was appointed director of General Dynamics Land Systems Maneuver Collaboration Center (mc²) last year.

According to a Women in Defense news release, Marcone is "the key advocate for the mc² community, bringing people together to find innovative solutions for General Dynamics customers through collaboration and innovation."

Before joining General Dynamics, Marcone served as a task force commander for the invasion of Iraq and was known as the "Tip of the Spear" in the 3rd Infantry Division advance to seize both the bridge over the Euphrates and Saddam International Airport.

Cost of the event is \$45 for WID members, \$55 for non-members. Men are encouraged to attend.

To pre-register for the event, visit www.wid-mi.org or call 248-643-6590.

price of the 2013 Dodge Durango is \$36,567, 4.37 percent less than the MSRP.

Sedan:
 • **Ford Taurus:** A smooth and quiet highway ride, roomy passenger cabin and impressive trunk room all suggest the Taurus was designed with family use in mind.

TrueCar reports that the average paid price of the 2013 Ford Taurus is \$33,098, 4.90 percent less than the MSRP.

Minivan:
 • **Chrysler Town & Country:** This minivan offers a quiet and composed ride and a smooth and powerful V6 engine. It stands out for its interior flexibility. The "Stow-n-Go" package allows quick and easy conversion from passenger to cargo hauling duties as both second and third row seats stow easily into wells

located in the floor. When the seats are raised and in use, those wells provide additional storage. Unfortunately, these folding seats fall short on comfort.

Nonetheless, this flexibility and frequent retail discounts make the Town & Country attractive. Adding to its appeal are the many safety features that are available.

TrueCar reports that the average paid price of the 2013 Chrysler Town & Country is \$32,925, 4.11 percent less than the MSRP.

AAA Auto Buying experts test drive and evaluate hundreds of vehicles each year. AAA provides free vehicle reviews, localized pricing information and more online at AAA.com/AutoMaker.

Additional information on AAA Auto Buying is available at AAA.com/AutoBuying.

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