WHO is eligible?
Any Gunnison County teen who holds a valid Colorado Driver’s Learning Permit and is at least 15 years old, or a Colorado Provisional Driving Permit and is no older than age 18, is eligible to apply.

WHAT are defensive driving skills about?
Defensive driving is about learning car control – crash avoidance, skid recovery, crisis braking, complex weight dynamics – and how to handle emergency situations. The Driving Camp provides total immersion in driving through in-car skills using your own vehicle. It’s a high-touch, hands-on process taught by highly educated and trained coaches.

- In a six-hour class, teens learn how to handle crisis situations, how to brake in a crisis without going out of control, how to avoid a crash, how to drive in slick road conditions, and more.
- Most kiddos do not understand anything about the dynamics of a 4,000 pound vehicle in motion. And yet, crashes are caused by the driver losing control of the dynamics of a car. A new driver does not learn about dynamics by lecture or watching a video.
- What do most people do in a crisis? Panic. Slam on the brakes. Lock up and go out of control. Threshold braking is the skill to squeeze the brakes – learning to use the brakes at the maximum level and still have directional control.
- Every driver needs to learn about the limits of traction – especially a new driver. And it’s not just about driving in snow and ice. In a heavy rain storm, the tires can be riding on top of water. We all know what that’s called … hydroplaning. How many units of traction do you have when your tires are hydroplaning? About the same as black ice.
- How does anyone learn these things? You learn them by doing. Repetition. Over and over again. Is it important to learn these skills? You bet – they are skills you will need for the rest of your life.

The course cost is covered by the award, plus an extra allowance for some expenses.

WHEN is this course offered?
The program is available at your convenience with varying dates and times throughout the summer. The Community Foundation can help you make arrangements with MasterDrive for your training. Scholarship application deadline is Friday, April 10, 2020, at 5:00 pm, and your completed application can be mailed to CFGV, PO Box 7057, Gunnison CO 81230, or dropped off at the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley office located at 525 North Main Street.

WHERE do I go for this driving skills course?
MasterDrive Drivers Education in Colorado Springs, Colorado

SCARY statistics
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among 13-19 year-old teens in the United States. Over 5,000 kids die in car crashes in this country every year; 300,000 are seriously injured.

80% of teen drivers will be involved in a crash in their first two years of driving.

Sixteen year-old drivers have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age and are three times more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than the average driver.

WHY would I want to take this course?
The program is a fun and exciting way of gaining vital driving skills that could save your life, or those of your friends.