E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER GIFT GUIDE



Not all electric bikes and scooters are created equal. Before giving one as a gift, make sure you understand its speed, safety features, legal requirements and whether it's appropriate for the person who will ride it.

PRODUCT		WHAT TO KNOW	WHY IT MATTERS
E-bike		Has fully operable pedals. Most states use Class 1, 2 and 3 labels. Class 1 and 2 assist up to 20 mph; Class 3 assists up to 28 mph.	Usually regulated more like a bicycle, but age, helmet and riding-location rules vary.
E-scooter		Stand-up design with handlebars and no seat or pedals. Speed and power vary widely.	Rules differ by state and city. Sidewalk, trail and roadway access may be restricted.
E-moto or electric motorcycle		Often has motorcycle-style controls, high power or speeds above e-bike limits.	May require a VIN, title, registration, insurance, motorcycle endorsement and motorcycle-rated protective gear. Some models are off-road only.

BUYER BEWARE: Just because a product is marketed as an "e-bike," "e-moto" or "off-road bike" doesn't mean it's legal for children or public roads. Even devices with pedals may exceed legal e-bike limits. Always verify the vehicle's classification and local requirements before buying.

FOUR CHECKS BEFORE YOU PAY



1. SPEED AND CONTROLS

What is the top-assisted speed? Does it use pedal assist, a throttle or both? Can settings be unlocked or modified?



2. LEGAL CLASS

Is the class printed on the frame? Check minimum age, helmet rules and where it may be ridden in your state and community.



3. BATTERY SYSTEM

Look for third-party certification of the complete electrical system, such as UL 2849 for e-bikes or UL 2272 for e-scooters. Use only the approved battery and charger.



4. BRAKES AND VISIBILITY

Choose brakes appropriate for the speed and weight. Confirm the product has a white front light, red rear light and reflectors for low-light use.

RED FLAGS: THINK TWICE BEFORE BUYING

- The seller will not state the true top speed, motor rating or legal class.
- The product can easily be "unlocked" to exceed advertised limits.
- The battery, charger or complete electrical system lacks credible third-party certification.
- The seller cannot provide a VIN or road-use documentation for a product marketed as street legal.
- Replacement parts, qualified service or warranty support are hard to identify.

MATCH THE RIDER, HELMET AND GEAR TO THE RIDE

As speed increases, so does the need for additional impact protection.



E-bike or e-scooter up to 20 mph

Choose a properly fitted, CPSC-compliant bicycle helmet.



Class 3 e-bike up to 28 mph

Check state requirements and consider a helmet certified to NTA 8776 for higher-speed e-bike use.



E-moto or above e-bike limits

Choose a DOT-compliant motorcycle helmet and check applicable state requirements.

BUY THE GEAR, TOO



HELMET:
Choose a certified helmet matched to the device and speed. It should fit properly, stay securely fastened and be worn on every ride.



VISIBILITY AND EYE GEAR:
Use protective eyewear plus bright or reflective clothing. Confirm the ride has working front and rear lights.



PROTECTIVE GEAR:
Gloves, closed-toed shoes, and appropriate elbow/knee pads



E-MOTO GEAR:
Add a DOT-compliant helmet, motorcycle gloves, over-the-ankle boots, and abrasion-resistant jacket and pants.

SHOPPING TIP: Include the cost of the helmet and protective gear in the purchase decision. If the device performs like a motorcycle, dress for it like a motorcycle.

RIDER READINESS CHECK

- ☑ Can the rider brake, steer and react safely at full speed?
- ☑ Will the rider wear the right helmet and gear every ride?
- ☑ Does the rider understand traffic, pedestrian and trail rules?
- ☑ Can an adult supervise early rides in a low-traffic area?
- ☑ Can the family charge the battery away from exits and heat?
- ☑ Will the rider avoid passengers, distractions and phone use?

Before they ride,

MAKE SURE THEY'RE E-RIDE READY.

Scan the QR code to download AAA's free E-Ride Safety Guide for helmet selection, rider readiness, state laws and safe riding practices.