In-Car Activity Under the Hood

While your goal in life may not be to become an auto mechanic, you will spend tens of thousands of dollars over your lifetime in general maintenance and repair for your cars, and *knowledge is power*. Often minor preventative maintenance can avoid costly repairs and as your vehicle may be your most expensive possession (with the exception of your home), you should have some basic understanding of how it works. Use your owner's manual and a knowledgeable adult to become familiar with the following:

- 1. Engine-coolant reservoir (radiator fluid)
- 2. Windshield-washer fluid reservoir
- 3. Power-steering fluid reservoir
- 4. Drive belts (tension and wear)
- 5. Engine-oil filler cap
- 6. Engine-oil dipstick
- 7. Transmission-fluid dipstick
- 8. Brake-fluid reservoir
- 9. Battery (clean and level charge)
- 10. Air-filter assembly

If your parents or a family friend performs routine maintenance on their vehicle, ask if you can watch, or better yet ask them if you can help!

