CHANGING A CAR FUSE

Chances are that by now you are familiar with the circuit breakers in the house and how to reset them. Well, in a car, they don't use circuit breakers, but they use "old school" fuses. A fuse is designed to be the weakest link in your electrical system. So, if you get a short circuit or other electrical issue, the fuse will blow, and not some expensive or hard to replace part. A fuse is protecting your electronics.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE

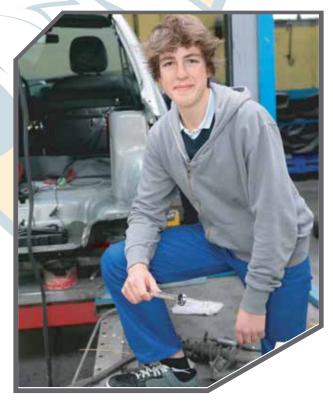## SKILL TREK
FIELD GUIDE FOR LIFE

EARN THIS NUGGET

• To earn your Nugget, locate your fuse box in your car, and familiarize yourself with the fuses.
• Take out a fuse; look for that thin section at the rear so you'll know what to look for if you get electrical issues.
• Return the fuse back to its spot.
• Do you carry spare fuses in your car? if not, get an assortment and keep them in the glovebox; you'll also want a flashlight in there, too.

If you have electronics and they aren't working, such as if a light won't come on in the car, the fuse is the first place to look. Check your owner's manual to locate the fuse box. Sometimes this is inside the car, perhaps underneath the glove box, and sometimes it will be underneath the hood.

When you open the fuse box, you'll see lots of colored chips. These are the fuses, and the color represents the different amps that they can withstand before burning up.

When you look at the fuses, you'll see a thin metal bridge at the top. This thin part will burn away and break if the amps get too high. For the most part it is easy to make a visual inspection to see which fuse has blown. To replace, carefully pull the fuse out and replace with a fuse of the same amperage (same color).