

Commonly Asked Questions

Somerset WI ATV Club

Q. Are all snowmobile trails open for winter ATV use?

A. No. Only certain counties allow ATVs and/or UTVs to operate on snowmobile trails under certain conditions. Check with the County Snowmobile Coordinator to find out if ATVs/UTVs are allowed.

Q. I can find a helmet small or light enough that my child can wear. Is it okay to place my child in a car seat with a bicycle helmet in a UTV?

A. No. Much of the ATV/UTV safety laws were written to regulate ATV/UTV use on off-road trails. If an appropriate, legal helmet cannot be found for your child, they are most likely too young to safely transport in a UTV.

Q. Is it legal to have a passenger on an ATV not designed for two people?

A. NO! You can no longer ride with 2 people on an ATV.

Q. Can I drive my ATV or UTV on any public road if I display a slow-moving vehicle sign?

A. No. A slow moving vehicle sign may only be used by slow moving vehicles authorized to be on the road in the first place. ATVs and UTVs may not be used on every public road. Slow moving vehicle signs are required for vehicles that usually operate at speeds less than 25 mph, usually farm machinery.

Q. I'm from out of state. Can I still purchase Wisconsin Public Use registration? Do I still need to purchase a non-resident trail pass?

A. Yes, anyone may register their machine for Wisconsin Public Use registration. Machines displaying valid Public Use registration don't have to display a non-resident trail pass.

Q. My machine meets most of the UTV specification, except it doesn't have a roll bar. Can I make my own roll bar so it meets legal UTV specifications?

A. No. Your machine must meet all the legal specifications with original manufacturer equipment.

Q. Do I need to take a safety course?

A. ATV and UTV operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 who are at least 12 years old for ATV (and at least 16 years old for UTV) must complete an ATV and UTV safety certification course to operate on public ATV/UTV trails and areas in Wisconsin.

Q. Is the ATV course reciprocal?

A. All states and provinces that have mandatory education requirements and will accept the Wisconsin Off-road Safety Certificate. Likewise, Wisconsin will accept certifications that are issued by other states and provinces.

Q. My child is 12, can s/he ride the trails with us?

A. Children under the age of 12 may operate a small ATV, under the following conditions:

- o They may ONLY operate a registered four-wheel ATV that is 90cc or less
- o They may ONLY operate on a designated off-road ATV trail (cannot cross a roadway or operate along any roadway, even if it is defined as an ATV route)
- o They may NOT operate on frozen surface waters under ANY circumstances
- o They MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian always (siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents or friends will not meet this requirement). Accompanied means the parent must be in continuous verbal contact.
- o They MUST be wearing a helmet always.

Q. What age do you have to wear a helmet?

A. A helmet is mandatory for all operators and passengers under the age of 18.

Q. Does my ATV/UTV need a license?

A. Yes, All ATVs/UTVs are required to register for Public Use shall have a plate attached to the rear of the vehicle. They can be constructed by the owner with dimensions of 4 inches high and 7 ½ inches long. No one under 18 can register an **ATV** and A driver's **license** is required to operate an **ATV** along or on public road rights-of-way.