



*"Creating a Positive Future for Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation"*

## ***Guidelines***

***for***

## ***Off-Highway Vehicle Clubs***

A Resource Guide to Assist in the Formation, Development and Management of OHV Recreation Enthusiast Clubs

National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, Inc.  
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First Edition

# NOHVCC

## Guidelines for Off-Highway Vehicle Clubs

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# **NOHVCC**

## **Guidelines for Off-Highway Vehicle Clubs**

### **Why Start an Off-Highway Vehicle Club?**

Do you want to share your interest in off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation with others in your community? Have you recently lost an OHV recreation area, or had a favorite trail closed to motorized vehicles? Would you like new friends to ride or drive with? If so, you may want to consider forming an OHV club.

A club can accomplish things that are difficult for one or just a few individuals to accomplish.

A club can speak with one voice for a larger group, increasing their effectiveness when working with elected officials and land managers. Local presence and knowledge of specific areas and situations allow for credible and constructive comments on land management issues and legislation.

Elected officials and local units of government listen to their constituents. The more constituents an organization represents the closer elected officials listen.

Clubs also serve as a contact point for land managers, elected officials, the media, other organizations and OHV-oriented businesses needing local information or having important information to share.

A clubs standing in the community is vitally important and depends largely upon the conduct of its members and club activities.

A club can promote responsible outdoor ethics and safety to improve both opportunity and the image of OHV activity. The better educated the OHV public

is about rules, regulation, natural and cultural resources, land ethics, and safe operation of their vehicles the better we will be perceived.

Peer pressure within and outside of the club can be a powerful influence on the conduct of other OHV enthusiasts.

The image of OHV recreation is further enhanced by community service and charity efforts. A club can sponsor volunteer activities that benefit good causes and provide desirable services to the community. Respect within the community and personal satisfaction are natural returns from coordinating or participating in:

- Trail maintenance,
- Clean-up days,
- Safety training,
- Search and Rescue programs,
- Volunteer trail patrol and trail host programs,
- Youth and at-risk youth diversion programs, and
- Charity fund raising activities.

Group discounts at local dealerships, accessory shops, other businesses and attractions are often available to club members. The same business interests may also be willing to support the club or club activities by purchasing ads in newsletters, paying for their name to be included on activity flyers and event t-shirts, providing discount coupons for event participants, providing in-kind donations such as printing, equipment or food items, and offering prizes.

And, best of all, a club provides camaraderie and fun through excursions, family events, and other activities.

## NOHVCC “TOOLS” TO ASSIST YOU

The National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council is an educational nonprofit organization with a unique countrywide network of volunteers assisted by a professional staff. NOHVCC is not a membership-based organization (in other words, you can't “join” NOHVCC.)

The purpose of NOHVCC is to create a positive future for off-highway vehicle recreation by providing to those seeking assistance a wide range of resources to enhance communication forums, responsible riding and driving opportunities, the positive image of OHV recreation, environmental stewardship, and safety education.

NOHVCC encourages enthusiasts to organize into clubs and work with their state organizations. Where no state OHV organization exists clubs are further encouraged to form state associations promoting the NOHVCC mission of *“creating a positive future for off-highway vehicle recreation.”* In return NOHVCC provides information and materials, or “tools”, to assist club and association development.

NOHVCC recognizes that most OHV activists are volunteers with many demands on their time. NOHVCC group development materials provide information and samples to help you build your organizational and collaborative skills, make the most efficient and effective use of your time, and still have time left over for fun.

NOHVCC “Tools” in addition to ***Guidelines for Off-Highway Vehicle Clubs*** include:

- Advice from the NOHVCC professional staff,
- Advice from NOHVCC advisors including land managers and business professionals;
- Advice from your NOHVCC State Representative and Alternate;
- NOHVCC web information including an extensive resource library;
- Referrals to other clubs and associations in your state and across the country.

Now, if you're ready and willing to form an OHV club, turn the page.