

ATV FAQs

“Does my ATV have to be registered, and titled in order to ride it?”

- Yes, an ATV must be registered and titled in order to lawfully operate it in Pennsylvania, unless it is being solely used on lands owned and leased by the operator.

“How do I get my ATV registered in Pennsylvania?”

- The contact information for our DCNR-Snowmobile/ATV Registration Section is 1-866-545-2476. This is a toll-free phone number, and can assist individuals with questions regarding registration and titling. The following link can also be used to obtain registration information online; <http://www.snowatvreg.dcnr.state.pa.us/>

“If I don’t live in Pennsylvania, do I have to have my ATV registered and titled when I come there?”

- If you are currently registered in a state that exempts Pennsylvania residents from its registration, you do not need to re-register in Pennsylvania. However, proof of registration must be carried with an operator while riding in Pennsylvania. A list of states with reciprocity can be found at the attached link; <http://www.snowatvreg.dcnr.state.pa.us/reciprocity>

“How are ATV registration fees utilized to benefit me as an ATV Rider?”

- The ATV registration and titling fees are NOT user fees for the privilege of using trails on state-owned land. The fees provide funding to administer the program, maintain trails on DCNR-managed forests and provide grants to profit and non-profit organizations for developing additional riding opportunities

“If I lost a title to an ATV or don’t have a title, how do I register my ATV?”

- If your ATV was purchased prior to 1987, it does not need a title. If it is newer than 1987, you will need to apply for a title and registration with the Department’s Registration Section, by calling 1-866-545-2476 or by visiting the website at: <http://www.snowatvreg.dcnr.state.pa.us/>

“Are the following machines allowed on State Forest ATV Trails; Dirt Bikes, Golf Carts, Dune Buggies, Trail Bikes, or Mud Mowers?”

- No, these machines and others not manufactured or capable of being registered as an ATV are not allowed on State Forest ATV Trails. Only registered, titled and insured ATVs are allowed on State Forest Lands. When determining if your machine is allowed on

State Forest ATV trails, please review the certificate of origin listed in the manufactures information.

“Must I get liability insurance?”

- If you are using your ATV solely on the land owned or leased by you, you do not have to get liability insurance. All other riders must carry liability insurance. Proof of insurance must be carried with you when you ride. There are no minimum requirements or coverage standards established by DCNR for liability insurance.

“At what age can a child begin riding ATVs on state owned lands?”

- No person under eight years of age shall operate an ATV upon State-owned land.

“Does my child need an ATV safety course to ride on state owned lands?”

- No person 8 to 15 years of age shall operate an ATV in this upon State-owned land unless the person has received DCNR approved safety training and has received the appropriate safety certificate issued by DCNR.

“How do I find a DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, ATV safety training course?”

- Individuals can click on the following link to the ATV Youth Safety Trainer web page for the list of contact information for ATV Safety Instructors.
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/ATVRiding/SafetyTrainingandReportingAccidents/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Bureau of Forestry also accepts the ASI course as an accredited training. <http://www.atvsafety.org/>
- DCNR also offers online ATV Safety training open to only individuals **16 years of age or older**; <https://www.offroad-ed.com/pennsylvania/>

“Is it legal to have a passenger on an ATV on state owned property or ATV trails?”

- Operators of ATV’s are advised to do so in accordance with manufacturing expectations and standards. The carrying of passengers on an ATV is permissible if the ATV is designed and properly equipped to safely carry a passenger.

“Who is required to wear a helmet while operating an ATV?”

- Anyone riding an ATV (driver or passenger) is required to wear a securely fastened helmet when operating an ATV on state owned lands and/or on designated roadways open to ATV’s.

“What are the size restrictions for ATVs on State Forest Land ATV Trails?”

- All ATV trails are open to machines that are 50 inches wide, and under 1,200 lbs. These machines (i.e. Class 1 ATVs).
 1. Michaux State Forest and Tiadaghton State Forest allows for only Class 1 ATVs on their trail systems. Thus no Class II ATV’s (machines greater than 50” in width and/or exceed 1,200 pounds) are permitted on their trail systems.
 2. All other DCNR ATV trails are open to Class II ATVs that does not exceed 58” in width and does not exceed 1,200 pounds.
 3. NOTE starting in May 2017: DCNR is piloting three ATV trail systems that permits Class II ATV’s with a maximum width of 64” and a maximum weight of 1,800 pounds. These trails are: The **Whiskey Springs Trail System** and the **Bloody Skillet Trail System** in the Sproul State Forest, and the **Susquehannock Trail System** in the Susquehannock State Forest, are now allowing for ATVs and UTVs of a width of up to 64 inches and 1800 pounds on their trails systems.

“Where Can I ride my ATV?”

- DCNR has approximately 270 miles of trails throughout the state that are designated ATV trails. The following link will take you to the Bureau’s ATV website where individuals can find the maps of the available DCNR ATV trails.
- <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/ATVRiding/ATVTrailsinStateForests/Pages/default.aspx>
- There are other opportunities to ride ATVs in other areas off of state lands. For information on other locations to ride your ATV, please visit the following websites:
http://www.riderplanet-usa.com/atv/trails/pennsylvania_list.htm
<http://www.personal.psu.edu/bel/ATV/>
<https://paohv.org/Where-to-Ride/pg/riding>
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/allegHENY/>

“Why are ATVs that are larger than the Bureau of Forestry’s restrictions not allowed?”

- The Bureau of Forestry trails have not been designed to allow for the sustainability of utilizing larger ATVs then those that currently meet the size and weight restrictions.

“Do I need any permits to ride my ATV on state owned property or ATV trails?”

- DCNR does not require any additional permits or trail passes to ride on state owned lands. However, all ATV’s operated on state owned lands must be registered.

“Can I ride my ATV on private land that I do not own?”

- No person shall operate a snowmobile or an ATV on private property without the consent of the owner. Any person operating an ATV on private property shall stop and

identify himself upon the request of the landowner and, if requested to do so, shall promptly remove the ATV from the premises.

“Are ATVs allowed on State Forest Roads?”

- No, ATVs are not allowed on State Forest Roads unless they are posted open for ATV use.

“Are township roads open to ATV riding? Is this allowed?”

- Some municipalities have designated their roads as joint-use to be used with ATVs and licensed motor vehicles. These roads must be officially posted/signed as being designated and open to ATV’s. For questions on specific roads, contact the municipality where the road(s) is located.

“Who can enforce ATV laws?”

- Every law enforcement officer in this Commonwealth shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. This includes DCNR Rangers, however DCNR Rangers jurisdiction is only on DCNR lands.

“Where can I find a copy of Pennsylvania ATV laws?”

- The following link will provide a *summary* brochure of Pennsylvania ATV laws on our website;
http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20030015.pdf
- A copy of the ATV laws under the Pennsylvania Vehicle code (Chapter 77) can be found at the following link;
<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=75&div=0&chpt=77>

“Are OHMs considered ATVs and legal to ride on state land?”

- No, OHMs are not considered ATVs, and cannot be utilized on ATV trails. The Bureau of Forestry does however, offer two motorized trail bike (motorcycle) trails. The Seven Mountains Ramble (a dual sport trail) and Shade Mountain (a non-licensed, off-highway trail bike trail) trails are both located in portions of Mifflin, Snyder, and Union Counties in the Bald Eagle State Forest. If you wish to have copies of either of these trail maps, please contact the Bald Eagle State Forest office at 570-922-3344, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

“If both snowmobiles & ATVs must be licensed/insured in PA, why can snowmobiles use forest roads while ATVs cannot?”

- Snowmobiles are permitted on designated joint-use state forest roads during the winter months due to low risk with snow and ice covered roads and very limited traffic.

When is an ATV accident report needed to be completed?

- An ATV crash reports needs to be completed and when any ATV accident resulting in injuries to or death of any person or resulting in property damage to the estimated amount of \$100 or more shall within seven (7) days after such accident using the DCNR ATV accident form and submit it to the Department. Use following link to obtain the accident form:

http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_002524.pdf

Reminders:

No person shall operate a snowmobile or an ATV while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or drugs.

No person shall operate or ride on an ATV with any bow and arrows or with any firearm in his possession unless it is unstrung or unloaded.