

# **Lewis County ATV Trail System**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why do I have to buy a permit and pay to ride my ATV?**

The implementation of the permit system is to pay for the entire ATV system which includes County reforestation lands, private landowner trails, an ATV play area (with more to come), and maintenance on the roads which connect these trails and areas. All of the other ATV systems on the East coast are funded by their States. NYS does not fund any ATV activities. There is no trail fund from your ATV registration. NYS does not recognize AT-Ving as a recreational activity, and therefore has closed virtually all State land and DEC Truck Trails to ATVs. NYS will not even increase the weight of an ATV to get increased registration revenues, and you cannot register most side-by-side utility vehicles in NYS.

### **When do the 2009 permits go on sale? Where can I buy one?**

Permits can be purchased online at [lewiscountychamber.org](http://lewiscountychamber.org), or in person at the Lewis County Chamber office (7559 South State Street, Lowville, NY 13367) beginning Monday, March 16.

### **How much does a permit cost?**

Permits cost \$40 per machine for members of a club belonging to the Tug Hill Adirondack ATV Association, \$80 for non-members. Family and weekend rates are not yet available, but may be in the future.

### **Will there be a trail map?**

There will be a new map of all of the ATV riding available in the region available in April. Remember, this system is ever changing and expanding. Be sure to follow the signs on the trail system, and stay on designated trails.

### **I don't belong to a club, but I want to take advantage of the discount offered to members. How do I join?**

You will be able to join a club on the permit application, both online and through the chamber.

### **Am I buying a permit for myself or for my ATV?**

Permits for the new trail system will be issued per machine, not per person.

### **Where does my permit application money go?**

Permit fees will be placed in a recreational trails fund for the establishment, maintenance, operation, enforcement and education of the trail system. This money will not go into the general fund, and will only be spent on recreational trails in the County.

### **When does the ATV system open?**

The trail system is scheduled to open May 1 and close the second Friday in October, the start of rifle season. You do not need a permit for the SNIRT run in April this year, or any of the Tug Hill ADK ATV Association Benefit Rides in 2009.

### **How old do I have to be to operate an ATV on the trails?**

Ages 10-17 must be accompanied by an adult 18 or older and must have successfully completed an ATV safety course. Riders 18 and up can ride without supervision.

### **What's the speed limit on the ATV trail system?**

The speed limit will be set at 25mph, unless otherwise posted.

### **Where will the permit requirement be enforced?**

The permit requirement will be enforced only on county and private land, but ATV patrols will ride through the entire system to enforce all rules and regulations.

### **What are the fines for violating rules and regulations of the trail system?**

For riding without a permit, fines are \$100 for the first offense and \$200 and a one-year permit revocation for the second offense.

Other fines are for riding on land outside trails (\$250 for first offense, machine impounded thereafter), altering trails to create hazards (\$250 for first offense, \$500 thereafter), and violating traffic rules (\$100 for first offense, \$200 thereafter).

### **What about the Counties surrounding Lewis County?**

All of the surrounding counties are working toward the same goal as Lewis County. Oneida, Oswego, Jefferson and St. Lawrence are all in the process of creating an interconnected, Regional ATV trail system that will have connecting ATV trails from the Montezuma swamp in Wayne County, through Oswego County, to Brewerton, through the Winnona Forest into South Jefferson County, into Barnes Corners across Tug Hill, though

Lewis County, to Highmarket, south to Boonville and Forestport, north through the Black River Valley, into Jefferson County and Carthage, back into Lewis County into Harrisville, to St. Lawrence County and all the way to their pilot ATV trail system.

As these counties rise to the level of Lewis County, (which they are all working towards), they will join the permit system which will let riders ride from Brewerton to Vermont, spanning 7 or 8 counties, and possibly into Canada. All on your ATV. Imagine it. We are building it. This will be the largest ATV system in the northeast, traveling from community to community on trails and roads. This is why your support is needed, and a trail permit is needed to fund this regional system. Help us expand this system. Help us build and create off road trails. Help us give you a great place to ride with varied terrain, easy to technical trails, a play area to get muddy, and a managed, maintained, safe and patrolled ATV trail system. This is why you need a permit.

### **NYS Vehicle and Traffic Laws**

S 2409. ATV safety course and safety certificate.

1. Safety course or courses. The commissioner shall establish a curriculum or curricula for an ATV safety training course or courses. Any such curriculum may include, but not be limited to, on-vehicle training and safe riding practices. The commissioner may establish different courses and curricula for different types of all terrain vehicles. The commissioner may permit any such safety training course to be given by any private person, club, association or municipality which meets standards established by the commissioner. The commissioner may establish a reasonable fee which any such person or entity may charge for such course or courses.

2. Safety certificate. Upon successful completion of a safety course given in conformity with subdivision one of this section by a person ten years of age or over, the person or entity which gave the course shall notify the commissioner of such completion in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall, upon receipt of such information, issue an ATV safety certificate to the person who has successfully completed the course. Such certificate may be limited to the type of vehicle for which the course was given.

S 2410. Operation by minors.

1. Except as provided by subdivision two of this section, no person under the age of sixteen years shall operate an ATV except upon lands owned or leased by his parent or guardian, unless he is under general supervision of a person eighteen years of age or over or a person sixteen years of age or over who holds an ATV safety certificate. "Leased lands" as herein used shall not include lands leased by an organization of which said operator or his parent or guardian is a member.

2. A person ten years of age but less than sixteen years of age who has received safety training as prescribed by the commissioner and has received the appropriate ATV safety certificate issued by the commissioner may operate an ATV in the same manner as a person who is sixteen years of age or older.

3. The failure of a person to exhibit an ATV safety certificate upon demand to any magistrate or any other officer having authority to enforce the provisions of this article shall not be an offense, but shall be presumptive evidence that such person is not the holder of such certificate.

4. No parent or guardian shall authorize or knowingly permit his child or ward, if under sixteen years of age, to operate an ATV in violation of any provision of this article, any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, or the provisions of any local law or ordinance.

5. No owner or other person in possession of any ATV shall authorize or knowingly permit any person under sixteen years of age to operate such an ATV in violation of any provision of this article, any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, or the provisions of any local law or ordinance.

**Thank you for supporting Lewis County. Ride safe!**