

Anchorage Snowmobile Club

Guidelines for RIDE PARTICIPANTS

Pre ride considerations

- Alaska State law requires that all snowmobiles be registered.
- Helmets are required. Liability insurance is strongly recommended for all riders.
- The Anchorage Snowmobile Club has a zero tolerance policy; therefore, the consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited on the trail.
- Parents and/or guardians: you are completely responsible for the actions and safety of your children.
- Refer to the hotline or the website for details of the ride location and any given specifics for being prepared for the day. Both will usually indicate the ride skill level, trail and weather conditions, length of ride and whether extra gas is needed, etc.
- Bring extra socks, hat, gloves and enough clothing and supplies (i.e. food and water) to stay out overnight.
- Ensure that you and/or your sled are equipped with the proper equipment needed for the ride.

Ride day

- Before departing home, always check the hotline again for any recent updates.
- Arrive early enough at the parking area to ensure that you are unloaded and ready to participate in the Safety/Trail meeting 15 minutes prior to the departure time that was given for the ride.
- Make sure that you are signed in on the ride list, **ONE** name per line for accurate count. Name, emergency contact, cell phone number, vehicle license.
- Ensure that your sled is marked with the marking tape for that days ride. This will help identify your machine in belonging to the group. This also distinguishes you and your machine from other groups sharing the trail.
- Attend Safety/Trail meeting 15 minutes prior to the departure time. The ride leader will be covering trail conditions, destination, length, skill level, breaks, food and expected speed. A brief overview of the “Rules of the Trail” will also be covered.

Rules of the Trail

- Never pass the ride leader, do not fall behind the sweep.
- Give the Ride Leader room to maneuver. Do not follow too close!
- Everyone shall have a riding partner or buddy to watch for while riding. When the group stops ensure that ride buddy is with the group. If NOT, notify the ride leader **immediately**. A three-some will work for odd numbers. The sweep will be counting so as to let the Ride Leader know everyone is still with the group.
- Never leave the group without notifying the ride leader if you will be out of sight of the group for any reason.
- Inform the ride leader if the riding conditions become above your skill (or comfort) level.
- Follow at a safe distance from the sled in front of you. Always allow a safe braking distance for emergency stops.
- Do not lose sight of the rider directly behind you. If they fall behind, stop until everyone regroups.
- If you are separated from the group, turn on your cell phone and check for messages, stay with your machine. Turn on your two-way radio if you have one.
- Hand signals;
 - Use your left hand to point at a hazard to inform the next rider.
 - A raised hand above the head indicates slowing down or stopping. The right hand up would definitely indicate STOP - as the hand is off the gas.
 - Be aware: Some riders may use a hand mirror on the left hand and may often have the hand at eye level, using the mirror
- Those on the trail have the right of way. If merging onto the trail, yield to those on the trail. All riders need to be courteous and aware of those around you.
- When stopping on the trail, pull off to the right and leave the trail open for other users. **Never block the trail.**
- Do not use up the generosity of others by being stuck and regularly requiring the assistance of others.

Ride safe, ride smart and everyone will have an enjoyable time!