



Snowmobile Safety and Youth: Model Press Release

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

DATE:

CONTACT:

ENSURING A FUN AND SAFE SNOWMOBILE SEASON

P l a c e of Organization __), The 2000-2001 snowmobile season has arrived and (Name of Organization __) reminds all snowmobile enthusiasts of the importance of safe operating practices to prevent injuries and deaths, especially among children and adolescents.

“Children can be injured as riders, drivers, or pedestrians,” states (organizational representative title and name __). “It is critical for adults to assess whether a child is physically and mentally able to drive or ride a snowmobile, as well as look out for pedestrians when driving.”

To assure a fun and safe snowmobile experience for youth, (organizational name __) offers the following list of adult responsibilities when snowmobiling with youth:

- Role model safe behaviors such as appropriate speed, respect for other trail users, wearing an approved helmet, and checking weather and terrain conditions before riding.
- *Set* age and developmentally appropriate expectations for youth.
- Provide continual supervision and positive reinforcement of safe behaviors.
- Make certain youth drivers take a certified training class and periodically review safety guidelines with them.
- Join a snowmobile club that provides family-oriented activities in a safe, alcohol-free environment.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends youth be at least 16 years old to drive a snowmobile.

“Snowmobiling can be a wonderful family activity,” says (organizational representative __), “however, snowmobiles are not toys, they are motorized vehicles just like motorcycles and cars.”

To locate snowmobile clubs and safety classes in your area, contact (state snowmobile enforcement agency __) at (__ phone number or (state snowmobile association) at (phone number __).

(Insert Organizational Tag line/motto)

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