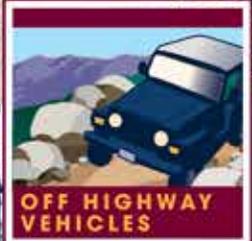




ON THE RIGHT TRAIL

a publication of the Southern California Mountains Foundation OHV Volunteer Program
www.MountainsFoundation.org



OHV Volunteers Keep Trails Open

The survival of some of Southern California's most beautiful off-highway trails is protected by the dedication of a network of volunteers for the nonprofit Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF) Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Volunteer Program. These OHV enthusiasts partner with the U.S. Forest Service to help ensure safe and sustainable trails for the nature-loving public.

Annually, 200 volunteers donate approximately 30,000 hours that equates to \$700,000 in contributed service to help sustain OHV opportunities in the San Bernardino National Forest. SCMF-OHV volunteers spend time on the trails they already enjoy, providing visitors education on trail ethics and resource stewardship. They can also be found interacting with the OHV community at various outreach locations including trade shows, dealer events, county fairs, and educational programs at area schools themed, 'On The Right Trail' (see page 3).

Program Director, Rick Lavello, touts the widespread benefits of the program. Interaction between SCMF-OHV volunteers and the visitors they meet along the trails advances their common goals. The connections they make help grow clubs and organizations, as well as foster relationship-building in their respective communities.

"Volunteers in the program gain respect for public lands and positively impact their community by taking action and responsibility for the protection of our natural resources," said Rick. And, in turn, the U.S. Forest Service has gained a presence in the field, promoting and dispensing vital messaging and education to the public. Most importantly, "This type of engagement and stewardship of OHV recreation areas is imperative to keeping public lands open for our families and future generations to enjoy."



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The Southern California Mountains Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that believes connecting communities to our public lands is the key to their survival. We mobilize individuals to inspire and engage in environmental citizenship.

Visit MountainsFoundation.org

Southern California Mountains Foundation
602 South Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Meet the SCMF-OHV Education and Safety Program at these Events

- The Sand Sport Super Show at the Orange County Fairgrounds (September)
- Los Angeles County Fair at the Fairplex in Pomona (September)
- The Off-Road Expo at the Fairplex in Pomona (October)
- The Progressive International Motorcycle Show in Long Beach (November)
- Open House and Parking Lot events at OHV Dealerships throughout Southern California

Join the OHV Volunteer Program general meeting, held the second Wednesday of each month from 7pm to 9 pm at Sizzler Restaurant, 1461 S. Rimpau Avenue, Corona.

BECOME AN OHV VOLUNTEER

For more details on scheduling these programs or becoming a volunteer, please e-mail Rick Lavello, program director, rlavello@mountainsfoundation.org, or call (909) 382-2606. To sign up visit MountainsFoundation.org.

Join the Team—Become a Volunteer

Southern California Mountains Foundation volunteers are trained, OHV supporters who greet fellow enthusiasts, share information about back-country travel on public lands, and assist with handling emergencies. Volunteers are also needed to help with special projects, including our *'On the Right Trail'* education program. Join the Southern California Mountains Foundation Off-Highway Vehicle Volunteer Program and experience the rewards of making a difference.

How to Become a Volunteer Host

- Have a strong commitment to the vision, mission, purpose, and objectives of the Program
- Demonstrate the ability to interact with National Forest visitors in a courteous, informed, and positive manner
- Attend orientation/host class training (subscribe to weekly e-newsletter for full class listings/details)
- Go on a trail ride in two of these districts: Mountain Top District, Front Country, or San Jacinto District
- Attend the Rules and Regulations class and the Scenario class
- Complete Class 101: Introduction to Map Reading and Interpretation
- Log 100 hours of program provided OHV classroom and field training
- Agree to a minimum of 90 hours of service (Hosts) educating the public, riding and patrolling trails
- Obtain vehicle certification for 4x4, M/C, ATV, or ROV (classes offered)



The Benefits of Volunteering

SCMF-OHV volunteers lead by example, providing dynamic, responsive support to our public trail systems. Our efforts help encourage the safety, stewardship, and respect for public lands critical to keeping trails open for generations to come. In addition, volunteers have access to training classes designed to make them safer, more skilled OHV operators.

Key Program Activities

Volunteers are needed in each of the following areas. Choose the one that most interests you (visit our website for full details).

- Information Kiosk
- OHV Dealer Outreach
- *'On the Right Trail'* Educational Program
- Educational Rides
- Public & Media Outreach
- Trail Maintenance
- Special Projects
- 4x4, M/C, ATV, or ROV



OHV Program Successes

Southern California Mountains Foundation-OHV volunteers take great pride in the hard work donated every year to help keep public trails open. They educate the public about responsible OHV recreation opportunities and provide solutions to issues impacting OHV access and riding – it's a labor of love. Their dedication and effectiveness are demonstrated through these annual accomplishments:

- Connection with 10,000+ visitors to reinforce safety, stewardship, and trail ethics
- Provide public information about riding areas and rules- including extension of outreach at industry trade shows and dealer open houses
- Distribute maps and responsible riding educational materials
- Elimination of more than 400 illegal campfire rings
- Removal of more than 4,000 pounds of trash
- Clearing of more than 800 roads

The distribution of more than 30,000 Off-Highway Vehicle Guides is made possible through a partnership with the San Bernardino National Forest and the OHMVR Division of California State Parks.



Bringing the OHV Program to the Public

OHV enthusiasts are more than just owners and operators; they are a community of sportsmen and women committed to an outdoor lifestyle. The love for OHV adventuring often imprints on their children. The best way to deliver messaging is to reach them where they live, work, and learn. SCMF-OHV volunteers enjoy success in these three public outreach endeavors:

OHV Education Trailer

Staffed by program volunteers, this mobile, interactive exhibit travels to schools, community events, and industry shows- wherever OHV enthusiasts and their friends and families gather. Visitors can explore information on:

- Appropriate and safe OHV attire and safety gear (PPE)
- Required exhaust, spark arrestor and noise levels
- Trail etiquette and the importance of staying on the right trails
- Reducing impacts to the forest and other public lands
- Safety FIRST

On the Right Trail (ORT) Educational Program

This program teaches students in grades 3 through 7 the importance of being good stewards of public lands through fun, hands-on learning that engages critical thinking, problem solving, and leadership skills. Topics include Trail Etiquette and Ethics (social science), Threatened and Endangered Species (natural science), and more.

The program is a partnership of the Southern California Mountains Foundation, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, the U.S. Forest Service, Tread Lightly!, and the Bureau of Land Management.



OHV Dealer Outreach

Volunteers expand outreach efforts at area OHV dealer open houses. Literature and knowledge are shared regarding responsible riding practices and recreational safety. By reaching enthusiasts at the point of OHV purchase, program volunteers help instill responsible recreation as part of the outdoor lifestyle from the very start.

For more details on becoming a volunteer or getting involved, please contact Rick Lavello, Program Director, at rlavello@mountainsfoundation.org, or call (909) 382-2606.

Get Involved

The Southern California Mountains Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that believes connecting communities to our public lands is the key to their survival. We mobilize individuals to inspire and engage in environmental citizenship.

Help us meet our mission and make a difference on our public lands:

- **Become an active volunteer**
- **Membership**
Your club or individuals can join! Invest in our mission and gain benefits and discounts.
- **Partnership Opportunities/Corporate Volunteer Events**
Join Yamaha Motor Corporation and our generous family of sponsors in keeping our trails open, restored and safe for families and all enthusiasts to enjoy for years to come. Customized packages can be tailored to benefit partnership needs and the OHV community. Teambuilding events are an effective and rewarding means for your company or organization to give back to our public lands through community service; customized packages available.

For more information, contact
Rick Lavello, Program Director:
Email: rlavello@mountainsfoundation.org;
Call: (909) 382-2606.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The network of volunteers is as diverse as the land itself. People come from miles around, and all walks of life, to dedicate their time and efforts to protecting nature and OHV trails in the San Bernardino National Forest. The SCMF-OHV Program volunteers are the lifeblood of our work, and we are proud to introduce a couple of them to you.

Hans and Colleen Twardowski

When Hans and Colleen Twardowski were out patrolling and came upon a group of hikers stranded without food or water, springing to action was more instinct than duty. Both spent many hours on local trails as kids and learned quickly the importance of protecting them and those who enjoy them.

Since October 2014, Colleen and Hans have dedicated countless hours to patrolling the forest roads in Big Bear, educating visitors, removing litter, and leading volunteer orientation training. They both say "the mountains are in their blood," and enjoy the outdoors as part of their daily lives. Whenever they get the chance, they can be found recreating on local trails.

The Twardowskis enjoy giving back to public lands and have found participating in the program to be a great way to meet like-minded enthusiasts and build new friendships. Hans wants anyone who is considering volunteering to know that the program is the "best way to enjoy the forest without having to go alone, or worry about getting in trouble." Trouble, of course, being the situation from which he and Colleen rescued those hungry hikers.

Hans grew up in Idyllwild, Colleen in Norco, and the couple believes the program is a great way to spend time in the mountains giving back and "making a difference with your day at play."

Hans and Colleen, your dedication continues to make a significant difference, and we thank you for your hard work!



Help us check off these items from our WISH LIST:

- Printing services
- Safety equipment, tools, etc.
- Volunteer recognition merchandise; e.g. gas cards
- Trail maintenance tools
- Donated Off Highway Vehicle accessories

Contact: Rick Lavello, Program Director
rlavello@mountainsfoundation.org
www.MountainsFoundation.org

A Special Thanks to our Partners

