Grab Your Crew and Explore in an ROV

Come explore the extensive trails network of the San Bernardino National Forest behind the wheel of a Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle (ROV), or Side-by-Side (SXS). As populations continue to grow, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) riders represent the fastest growing segment of the power sports industry. ROV/SXS are the perfect multi-passenger roadsters for those looking to experience all kinds of diverse terrain in the company of friends and family.

Outdoor recreation lovers often choose an ROV or SXS because it offers a more inclusive experience than a quad or dirt bike. Each one seats multiple passengers, making them perfect for group outings. Safety features on most models even make them safe for young riders. The entire family can enjoy kicking up dust in the desert, splashing through muddy foothill trails, and winding around pines in the forest.

Be sure to put safety first when exploring any trail. As you prepare for your next ROV/SXS ride, remember these important safety items:

- Make sure all passengers wear helmets, safety belts, and appropriate clothing.
- Watch your speed. Stopping abruptly on some terrain can be tough.
- Look out for fellow explorers. Trails can get busy, so use caution and share the road.

The most important thing to remember on your ride, next to safety, is choosing an authorized trail. Remember, ROV/SXS vehicles are not street legal in California. Each one is issued a green registration sticker that signifies restriction to certain roads and trails. Visit the nearest Ranger station or SCMF OHV booth for up to date maps that list approved options.

Sticking to approved trails will protect not only you and your passengers, but also the environment. Recreational trails are created with specific uses in mind, which means they are carefully formed to specific dimensions. Trails approved for pedestrians and horses are narrower than those designed for vehicles. The U.S. Forest Service reminds ROV/SXS drivers that using trails not intended for their vehicles could cause serious damage to the environment and endanger other users. Incorrectly sized vehicles can cause dangerous conditions like broken trees, displaced rocks, and potholes.

For more information or to plan your next trail ride, please visit the National Forest Service at www.fs.usda.gov or the Southern California Mountains Foundation Off Highway Vehicles Program at www.mountainsfoundation.org. Visit page two of this newsletter for more information on how to use your ride time to protect the trails as an OHV volunteer.
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 an area orientation 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)

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.

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 work hard 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 a community of sportsmen and women committed to an outdoor lifestyle. SCMF-OHV volunteers deliver messaging by reaching them where they live, work, and learn.

**OHV Education Trailer**

Staffed by program volunteers, this mobile, interactive exhibit travels to schools, community events, and industry shows to share information on:

- Appropriate OHV attire and safety gear (PPE)
- Required exhaust, spark arrestor and noise levels
- Trail etiquette and Safety FIRST

**On the Right Trail (ORT) Educational Program**

Students in grades 3 through 7 learn the importance of being good stewards of public lands while engaging 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 share literature and knowledge on responsible riding practices and safety. Reaching enthusiasts at the point of OHV purchase instills 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 Trail Ready at Dirt Bike School**

Dirt Bike School (DBS) is a one-day training session available to anyone, six years old and up, who wants to learn how to have a safe day on the trails. Join the fun at an approved training site where Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) certified coaches teach basic riding skills and responsible riding practices, including risk management and environmental awareness.

Beginners enjoy Closed Range Exercises that provide hands-on training focused on safety and skill development. More advanced riders can take Introduction to Trail Riding to become more comfortable with riding off-road on actual trails.

Long-time OHV volunteer Dave Jones is the primary DBS instructor. After contributing nearly 5,900 hours to OHV patrols and education over the past 15 years, Jones’ experience made him the clear choice to pioneer the MSF program. He says that teaching riders to share roads and trails is one of the most important parts of the program. Our forest being smaller than others, he explained, makes it especially important for riders to learn to “portray a good neighbor image.”

Enroll in Dirt Bike School today by visiting www.dirtbikeschool.org to find a controlled off-highway riding site near you.
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 SCMF-OHV Program volunteers are the lifeblood of our work, and we are proud to introduce a couple of them to you.

Danny Bogner

The Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF) is proud to introduce an OHV volunteer whose tenure with the group stretches back eight and a half years and totals more than 8,000 volunteer hours, Danny Bogner.

Bogner’s dedication to preserving our trails was born of his instincts as a decorated Army Combat Infantry Veteran. In his civilian life, a notice on a mountain bulletin board for a scheduled boulder detonation intrigued him. Bogner says his combat experience fueled his interest in observing the blast. When he arrived at the event he found himself surrounded by likeminded mountain enthusiasts and formed fast connections that led him to SCMF and the OHV program.

Since then he has become a vital part of the volunteer network. He patrols trails in four-wheel-drive, ATV, and ROV vehicles, and on a dirt bike, extinguishing illegal fire rings and educating visitors. Bogner also helps protect trail users by felling and clearing trees for the U.S. Forest Service. When he’s not patrolling the trails, you can probably find him piloting a piece of heavy equipment to help maintain them. He credits his work with the OHV program for giving him a purpose in his retirement and a way to continue applying his lifelong work ethic to protecting the community he now calls home.

Brett Thompson

Brett Thompson started volunteering with the OHV program four and a half years ago. A friend told him about the program and he immediately felt the call to contribute. He now volunteers as a motorcycle patrol leader and leads a crew of volunteers on the OHV trails to ensure their safe use.

Thompson says that the most rewarding component of his post is the education he gives the public. Despite showing up in large numbers, many users are not up to date on the regulations designed to keep the trails open and safe. The patrol leader explained that he often has to enforce one rule that limits the types of vehicles permitted on the trails at certain times. He says most people go out and buy an OHV without making sure to read up on how and when they can use it.

As a Southern California native, Thompson spent many of his early years on the trails of the San Bernardino National Forest and areas like Lytle Creek. The beauty of the mountains is a lifelong staple for him and he loves to escape to the forest and leave the heat behind. You can still find him riding his bicycle or motorcycle in his free time, as he says he is not much of a hiker and prefers to be on two wheels rather than two feet.