

# SNOWMOBILING IN LEWIS COUNTY

## INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

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# NYS SNOWMOBILE RULES & REGULATIONS

## Registration

Each snowmobile operated in New York State must be properly registered, unless it is used only on its owner's property.

**If you are NOT a New York State Resident** and your snowmobile's properly registered in another state, province, or country, your snowmobile must still be registered in New York State and the NY DMV yearly validation sticker and out of state registration numbers must be displayed while operating in New York State.

*If the snowmobile is not registered in any state, province, or country, you must register it in New York State and properly display the NY registration numbers and DMV yearly validation sticker.* In cooperation with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Department of Motor Vehicles has been designated to provide all New York State snowmobile registrations.

These are available through all DMV District Offices and are valid for one year.

ALL REGISTRATIONS EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31ST EACH YEAR.

## Renew Locally at Lowville DMV

Office Hours are 8:30am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday.

You can reach the DMV by phone if you have questions at (315) 376-5332,  
fax (315) 376-9908

Office Address is : Lewis Co. Dept. of Motor Vehicles  
PO Box 232, 7049 State Rt. 12  
Lowville NY 13367

*For further information refer to NYS Snowmobiler's Guide Handbook pages 5-9.*

**Snowmobile Vouchers Not Available At Any DMV.**

## Registration Numbers & Decals

Registration numbers are permanently assigned to a snowmobile when it is registered for the first time. These registration numbers, consisting of no more than six numbers and two capital letters, remain with the machine until it is destroyed or permanently removed from the state. **Display them on each side of the snowmobile's cowling. Registration sticker is to be placed on a vertical surface on the cowling. Stickers must be affixed permanently to both sides of the snowmobile in plain view to a person standing on the side of a trail.**

All new snowmobiles purchased after August 31, 1995 will be issued a 3" by 6" NY registration sticker when it is registered. The new 3x6 sticker will already have your numbers printed on it. In the upper left hand corner you will put your validation sticker for each year. Once this sticker is applied, it can be removed. **However, the word VOID will be displayed across it, making it invalid. There is a mandatory fine of \$200 for an unregistered snowmobile. All other fines are determined at the discretion of the judge.**

## Youthful Operator

Anyone who is at least eighteen (18) years old may operate a snowmobile in New York State without any other qualification except as defined by state and local laws regulating that operation. However, it is recommended that all operators complete a recognized snowmobile operation course of instruction.

**Youth ages 14 through 17** years old may operate a snowmobile, on lands upon which snowmobiling is allowed, without adult or other supervision if they have completed a snowmobile safety training course recognized by the State of New York. If you ages 14 through 17 years have not completed the training course, they may operate a snowmobile if accompanied by (within 500ft of) a person who is at least 18 years of age.

**Youth ages 10 through 13** may operate a snowmobile on lands upon which snowmobiling is allowed, if they have completed a snowmobile safety training course recognized by the State of New York and are accompanied by (within 500 feet of) a person who is at least 18 years of age.

**Children less than 10 years old or less than 14** without a safety certificate may operate a snowmobile only on lands owned or leased by their parents or guardian.

## Insurance

The owner/operator of a snowmobile which is operated on the roadway or shoulder of a public street or highway or State Parks or land not owned or leased by the operator must have liability insurance coverage in the minimum amounts of \$10,000 for injury or death to one person, \$20,000 for injury or death to two or more persons and \$5000 for damage to or for the destruction of property.

Neither the Department of Motor Vehicles nor the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation maintains snowmobile insurance records, therefore **proof of insurance must be carried on the snowmobile itself when it is in operation**. Such proof must be exhibited to any police officer or person sustaining injury or damage.

*For further information refer to the NYS Snowmobiler's Guide Handbook page 9*

## Snowmobiling Penalties for Alcohol & Drugs

**(effective November 1, 1999)**

New York State Law Provides tougher penalties and sanctions for people convicted of snowmobiling while intoxicated or impaired by drugs. Your privilege to operate and your registration could be suspended.

**Convicted of a 1st offense:** Shall be punished by a fine not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$350.00, not more than 15 days in a county jail or by both fine and imprisonment.

**If convicted of the 1st offense within preceding five years and operates a snowmobile:** Shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,500 or by imprisonment of not more than 30 days in a county jail or by both fine and imprisonment.

Refusal to submit to a chemical test will result in the automatic suspension of your operating privileges and a \$250.00 fine.

*For further information refer to NYS Snowmobiler's Guide Handbook page 40*

**SNOWMOBILING WHILE INTOXICATED BAC .08% EFFECTIVE NOV. 1ST, 2003**

# New York State Snowmobile Association Guidelines for Responsible Snowmobiling

As an off-road experience, snowmobiling can have risks. Every snowmobile rider using snowmobile trails in New York State should understand and accept the following:

- All snowmobiles will be operated meeting legal requirements.
- All operators and passengers know and obey all New York State laws pertaining to the use of snowmobiles.
- It is recognized and accepted that snowmobiling is essentially an off-road activity taking place in an unpredictable natural environment.
- It is not practical or possible to maintain all trails uniformly or to remove all unexpected or unknown trail conditions.
- Snowmobile operators and passengers will not consume alcohol prior or while using the trails.
- Snowmobile operators and passengers will be prudent and responsible and shall ensure that snowmobiles are operated with appropriate care and control at all times.
- Operators and passengers know how to snowmobile competently and understand that the operation of snowmobiles requires full cognitive abilities.
- Weather conditions affect trails and snowmobile operation and they may change without warning.
- Snowmobile speeds must be obeyed as posted. All operators must ride in control at a prudent and reasonable speed under the prevailing trail and weather conditions.
- Snowmobile operators will stay to the right side of the trail, notwithstanding that there are no center lines.
- Snowmobile operators know that there may be grooming or other maintenance activities under way at any time of the day or night which may take up the whole or any part of the trail and have the right of way.
- Snowmobile operators and passengers know snowmobile trails are not engineered highways.
- All snowmobile operators and passengers know and will adhere to the Safe Riders Pledge by the International Snowmobile Manufacturer's Association and follow safety practices presented by each snowmobile manufacturer to the owner/operator when a new snowmobile is purchased.

## Membership The Online System & Vouchers

- To join a NYSSA Club, go to <http://membership.nysnowmobiler.com>. You can create an account, select any club, pay online, and print your voucher.
- Please remind members to make a copy of their voucher prior to mailing or bringing it to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) with their registration.
- One voucher may be used to register all of the snowmobiles registered in one person's name. In other words - if you have four sleds, and they are all registered to you, you only need one voucher.
- A family membership includes two spouses or partners and any children, 17 and under, who intend to register a snowmobile in their names. Only one voucher is issued. It will have everyone's name on the voucher. The voucher can be reprinted as many times as needed to accommodate each person named on that voucher. The voucher can be reprinted as many times as needed to accommodate each person named on that voucher to register a snowmobile at the discounted rate of \$45. For example, if "John Doe" and his girl "Jane Smith" and their son "James Doe" join as a family they receive one voucher with all three names on it. If they have three sleds registered, one to each person, they just copy the voucher or mail all three in the same envelope.
- NYS Snowmobile Club dues are a minimum of \$24 per year, with NYSSA dues an additional \$5, and an additional \$1 donation to SLEDNY, an educational 501c3.
- A person joining a club as an individual membership receives a voucher in their name only, the NYSSA membership is included.

## Be Aware 2-Tier Registration Fee

The portion of your registration fee that is deposited in the snowmobile trail development and maintenance fund is \$90.00 if you're not a member of an organized New York State Snowmobile Club that is a member of the NYSSA. If you are currently a member, or join a qualifying club prior to renewing your registration, the trail portion of your registration fee will be \$35.

If you are a member of a NYSSA snowmobile club, or become a member of NYSSA snowmobile club prior to renewal, you will be eligible to pay a reduced registration fee of \$45.00 (\$10.00 registration fee + \$35.00 trail fee) if you:

1. Provide NYSSA voucher. This is your proof of membership in a NYSSA Club.
  2. Certify your enrollment by signing the "Snowmobile Club Member Certification" statement on the back of the Snowmobile Registration Application (MV-82SN) or snowmobile registration renewal (MV-3SN).
- Your signature will give DMV permission to verify your club membership with the NYSSA.
  - If NYSSA is not able to confirm your membership, your snowmobile registration will be subject to suspension pending a hearing.

If you have questions, please call the NYSSA at 1-888-624-3489 x103.

## Online DMV Registration

NY Resident Registration Renewal: <https://transact.dmv.ny.gov/RegistrationRenew>

Out of State: <https://transact.dmv.ny.gov/snowmobileoutofstate>

## What's Expected From Enforcement Patrols

The Lewis County Sheriff's patrol and other Police Agencies patrol trails with snowmobiles. Police vehicles will also be on roads and intersections performing patrols. For your safety, and our we would appreciate it if you would help us with the following:

- Officers will be dressed with **fluorescent** safety vests. PLEASE look for them on the trails.
- When approaching a safety checkpoint please slow down and be ready to stop. Please have your registration and insurance cards available for us. This will get you back on the trail faster.
- Please have your snowmobile registered and insured. **All snowmobiles operating on land now owned or leased by the operator must be insured.** It is a lot cheaper than paying a fine and then having to register and insure them.
- All Sheriff patrol snowmobiles have a large Sheriff insignia on the windshield and rear of snowmobile. If an officer signals you to stop please do so.
- Please stay on the right side of the trail, especially on corners.
- Beware of others on the trails that are driving slower. Pass with caution.
- **Trail speed limits are 55 mph** unless posted otherwise. Please do not exceed these limits.
- Speed on trails are also determined by trail conditions. Please ride accordingly. You may be ticketed for speed not reasonable for conditions.
- When stopped on the trail please do so in a single file manner. Park on the right side of the trail. Please do not park on the crest of a hill or on a corner. When you get off your snowmobile please do not stand on the trail. Be alert for other passing snowmobiles.
- Please do not drink and operate your snowmobile. Sobriety checkpoints will be performed. You may be asked to remove your helmet. Please do so upon request.
- **Please stay on trails.** Landowners have been nice enough to allow riding upon their property. Please respect that right by driving within the trail markers. If caught outside the markers you may be charged with trespassing.
- **Please use extreme caution when crossing roadways.** Come to a complete stop and look both ways before crossing. Cross only at a 90-degree angle.
- Please buy an official Lewis County Snowmobile Association Inc. map and study it. Please be aware of what roads are open and closed to snowmobiles. Tickets may be issued for riding upon a closed road.
- **Do not operate a snowmobile on a State highway.**

The Lewis County Sheriffs Snowmobile Patrol is out on the trails to help ensure you have fun and safe ride.

Enjoy the season.

## It is Illegal to Operate a Snowmobile

1. At a rate of speed greater than reasonable or proper under the surrounding circumstances.
2. In a careless, reckless or negligent manner.
3. Under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
4. Without at least one lighted white or amber headlight and lighted red taillight between sunset and sunrise or when required for safety.
5. On the tracks of an operating railroad.
6. In any tree nursery or planting.
7. On private property, without the consent of the owner or lessee.
8. When towing a person on skis, or in a sleigh or sled across a public highway.
9. When towing a sleigh, sled or toboggan unless it is attached by rigid support, connection or tow bar.
10. Any faster than minimum speed to maintain forward movement when on frozen surface of public waters and within 100 feet of a skater, ice shanty or ice fisherman.
11. In any way that the operator fails to yield to an emergency vehicle approaching from any direction.
12. In any way that fails to comply with a lawful order from a police officer.

For further information refer to NYS Snowmobiler's Guide Handbook pages 11-12.

## Accidents and Accident Reporting

Despite the best precautions, accidents sometimes happen. In case of an accident involving a snowmobile, the operator must stop immediately. The operator must not leave the scene of any accident resulting in personal injury to another party until such time as assistance arrives, except for the purpose of summoning aid. The operator must provide his or her name and address, the name and address of the snowmobile owner, the registration number assigned to the snowmobile, insurance information, and safety certificate number (if applicable) to injured person or the person sustaining the damage. Any snowmobile accident resulting in a personal injury, or in property damage of \$1000 or more, must be reported to the nearest law enforcement agency or magistrate, with a copy sent to OPRHP. The operator of any snowmobile involved in a reportable accident must file a complete written report within 7 days of the accident. Snowmobile accident report forms are provided by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and are available at any police station or from the Office of Parks or [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com)

*For further information refer to NYS Snowmobiler's Guide Handbook pages 13*

## Operation on Highways

Operation of snowmobiles on highways depends on the classification of the highway and the prevailing conditions.

1. Snowmobiles **MAY NOT** be operated on the New York State Thruway, other interstate highways, or other limited access highways. The only exception to this law is during a snow emergency as declared by the agency having authority over the highway and when specifically approved by the Department of Transportation.
  2. Snowmobile **MAY** be operated on the shoulders and inside banks of highways, other than limited access highways, **PROVIDED** that the highways have been designated **AND** posted for snowmobile use by the governing authority. Snowmobiles may also be operated on designated highways for a distance not to exceed 500 yards to gain access to operational areas or trails adjacent to the highway. Again, an exception to this law may occur during a snow emergency as declared by the agency having authority over the highway in question.
  3. Snowmobiles **MAY** be operated on the **OUTSIDE** banks of highways other than limited access highways.
  4. Snowmobiles **MAY** be operated on highways, other than limited access highways, when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert.
  5. Snowmobiles **MAY** be operated on county, town, city, or village highways which are unplowed and unused by wheeled vehicles during the winter months. These roads must be designated as such by the governing authority.
  6. Snowmobile operation on any highway **MUST** be in a single file on the right hand side of the road, except to overtake and pass another snowmobile.
  7. Snowmobiles **MAY NOT** pull a person on skis or in a sleigh, sled, or toboggan on or across any roadway.
  8. Snowmobiles **MAY** make a direct crossing of any highway other than limited access highways at any time of day provided that
    - a. the crossing is made at approximately a ninety degree angle, and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
    - b. the snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the highway.
    - c. the snowmobile operator yields to the right of way to all oncoming highway traffic.
- For further information refer to NYS Snowmobiler's Guide Handbook pages 11-12

## Reading the Trail

Reading the trail and reacting properly to it is paramount to safe snowmobiling. The condition of the trail will change, so ride based on the current conditions. Every second of every ride feeds you a huge amount of information to assimilate and act upon. Safe actions result in a safe ride. Unsafe actions can result in tragic accidents. It is unlawful to willfully remove, deface, alter or otherwise damage signage, warning devices or implements, or other safety devices.



## Snowmobile & Operator Guidelines

1- Registration **MUST** be valid, with the current validation sticker and number displayed as specified by DMV. (Numbers and or decals displayed on the cowling of the snowmobile with validation sticker properly affixed.)

**2 - Snowmobile meets all of the equipment requirements outlined in section 25.17-1 (a-e) of the NYS Parks & Recreational Law. Pages 10, 11 in the snowmobilers guide book.**

- **Equipped with at least one (1) operational clear or amber head lamp.**
- Equipped with at least one (1) operational red tail lamp.
- Equipped with brakes in good operating condition with operational brake light.
- Equipped with functioning original equipment or equivalent (OEM) muffler. Muffler shall in no way be modified to increase total noise emission to a level greater than that of the manufactures original muffler.
- Equipped with a minimum of the 16" of reflective material on each side of the cowling.

**Snowmobile meets the requirement of insurance outlined in section 25.13 of the NYS Parks and Recreation Law, Page 9 in the NYS Snowmobilers Guide Handbook. AND must meet the requirements of any Lewis County Local Laws.**

3- Snowmobile Operator **MUST** have proof of valid insurance through until the end of the current season.

**Snowmobile meets the requirement of registration and display outlined in section 2222 and 2223 of the NYS Motor Vehicle Law. Pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 in the NYS Snowmobilers Guide Handbook.**

## Local Town & County Laws

1. Never operate over 55mph.
2. If operating in a reduced speed zone, never exceed the posted speed limit.
3. Always operate n a reduced speed for trail, road conditions, hazard conditions, and/or terrain.
4. Insurance is MANDATORY if not operating on property owned or leased by you.
5. In the Town of Montague, NO parking on any town roads between November 1st and April 1st. Violators may be ticketed and/or towed.
6. In the Town of Osceola, NO parking on any Town roads between 2am and 8am. Violators may ticketed and/or towed.
7. In the Town of West Turin, NO parking on any TOWN road at any time between November 1st to April 1st. Violators may be ticketed and/or towed.
8. It's illegal to operate on the tracks or right of way of an operating railroad.

## Offenses and Penalties

Any person who violates any provision of this Local Law shall be guilty of a violation. For a first conviction thereof, such person shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$150. For a conviction of a second violation within a period of eighteen months, such person shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$!500 or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or by both such fine and imprisonment. Upon conviction of a third or subsequent violation, such person shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5000, or by imprisonment for not more than 24 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

## Land Owner Representatives

Land owner representatives have been established for the local land owner to contact a club representative in their area for problems with the trail or complaints of snowmobilers on their land.

**For trail conditions:**  
[www.adirondackstughill.com](http://www.adirondackstughill.com)

### **Lewis County Area Snowmobile Association Inc.**

PO Box 136 - Glenfield, NY 13343  
Doug Dietrich  
dmdietrich59@gmail.com

### **Brantingham SnoMads Inc.**

Glenfield/Greig/Lyons Falls/ Watson  
Paul Kaufmann - (315) 348-4268  
www.brantinghamsnowmads.org

### **Lost Trail Snowmobile Club, Inc.**

Boonville/Lyonsdale/Port Leyden  
Dan Stysh - (315) 942-4749  
Snow Phone (315) 942-6823  
www.loasttrailclub.com

### **Osceola Snowmobile Club, Inc. - Osceola**

Arlene Mosch - (315) 599-7391  
www.osceolasnowmobile.com

### **Turin Ridge Riders Inc.**

Turin/Houseville  
Pixie Bobela (315) 348-8868  
www.turinridgeriders.com

### **Barners Corners Sno-Pals, Inc.**

Montague/Barnes Corners/Copenhagen  
Gary Stinson - (315) 232-3624  
Barners Corners Snow Phone - (315) 688-4645  
www.sno-pals.com

### **Long Pond Sno Sled Club, Inc.**

Harrisville/Croghan/Belfort/New Bremen  
Jim Seymour - (315) 543-2411  
Jim Zehr - (315) 346-6751; cell (315) 771-6668

### **Missing Link Snowmobile Club, Inc.**

Carthage/Deer River/Copenhagen  
Steve Gamble - (315) 493-2270  
www.missinglinksnow.com

### **Southern Tug Hill Snow Riders Inc.**

Swancott Mills/West Leyden/Highmarket/Constableville  
Christopher Rinck (315) 416-0587  
www.southerntughillsno/riders.com

### **Valley Sno Travelers of Lewis County, Inc.**

Lowville/Harrisburg/Martinsburg/Montague  
Bill Tarasek - (315) 376-2503  
Snow Phone - (315) 376-4974  
www.valleysnowtravelers.org

# To Report Emergencies Dial 911

Lewis County Sheriff's Office - (315) 376 - 3511

New York State Police - (315) 376-6513

Lewis County General Hospital ER - (315) 376-5252

Lewis County Search and Rescue - (315) 376-7711

## Lewis County Chamber of Commerce

[adirondackstughill.com](http://adirondackstughill.com)

315-376-2213 - [admin@lewiscountychamber.org](mailto:admin@lewiscountychamber.org)

## New York State Snowmobile Association Inc.

P.O. Box 1040 - Pine Bush, NY 12566

Toll Free (888) 624 - 3849 - Fax (888) 317-2441

[nysaoffice@nysnowmobiler.com](mailto:nysaoffice@nysnowmobiler.com)

[nysnowmobiler.com](http://nysnowmobiler.com)

## New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Snowmobile Unit

Agency Building One - Empire State Plaza - Albany, NY 12238

(518) 474-0446

[nyparks.com](http://nyparks.com)

## For Information or Questions

The Lewis County Sheriff's Office

Recreation Enforcement and Education

Deputy Michael K. Leviker

5252 Outer Stowe Street

P.O. Box, 233

Lowville NY 13367-0322

(315) 376-5221 or (315) 376-3511

[mikeleviker@lewiscounty.ny.gov](mailto:mikeleviker@lewiscounty.ny.gov)

Lewis County Department of Recreation Trails

Jackie Mahoney

Director of Recreation, Forestry & Parks

Courty House - 7660 N. State St. - Lowville, NY - 13367

(315) 376 - 5972 - [jackiemahoney@lewiscounty.ny.gov](mailto:jackiemahoney@lewiscounty.ny.gov)