2026-27 MAINE ATV QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Please reference the *Maine 2026-27 Maine ATV & Snowmobile Laws* book for more details, available at mefishwildlife.com/atvlaws.

MAINE'S STATE ATV PROGRAM



Maine's state ATV program is critical to the economics of many rural Maine communities.

It provides a funding mechanism for ATV clubs to work with landowners and provides a trail network that is attractive to both resident and nonresident ATV enthusiasts. Governor Mills convened an ATV Task Force in 2019 and in 2020 the Task Force provided several focal points as initiatives to keep the world of ATVing in Maine a success. Learn more at **mefishwildlife.com/atvtaskforce** or **maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail_activities/atv/index.shtml.**

Do your part to keep Maine's ATV trails open for generations to come:

- Stay on marked ATV trails. ATV trails have green and white signs. Not all snowmobile trails are ATV trails.
- Respect closed trail signs.
- Never drink and ride.
- Drive to the right and at an appropriate speed.
- Tread lightly – Don't tear up the trail!
- Remember that modified exhausts are **illegal.**
- Be respectful on ATV access routes – Yield to all traffic and never pass a vehicle.
- Be courteous to others when riding on multi-use trails.
- Support a local club by donating your time or money.
- Register your ATV. *It is required and helps pay for trail maintenance and support.*

REGISTER YOUR ATV

Registration fees fund trail maintenance and building new trails. Fees also support volunteer ATV clubs who provide critical work maintaining the trail systems, and private landowners who allow trail access. **For every ATV registration purchased, over ⅔ of the fee goes directly into the trail maintenance fund.**

ATV and snowmobile registrations are valid from July 1st through June 30th. ATV registrations submitted on or before April 30th will expire on June 30th of the current year. ATV registrations submitted on or after May 1st will expire on June 30th of the following year.

Residents may renew their ATV registration at **mefishwildlife.com.** Nonresidents may register their ATV online at **mefishwildlife.com.**

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV) REGISTRATION FEES

RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	ANTIQUE ATV
$70* *Prior to registration, sales or use taxes are due.*	**Season: $115*** **7-Day: $100***	**$45*** *Residents** & Nonresidents*

The season registration for an ATV is valid for one year, commencing on July 1st of each year.
**Plus agent fee.*
***Antique ATVs must be registered through the MDIFW Augusta office (in-person or via mail).*

SIZE REQUIREMENTS

An oversized ATV is defined as an ATV that is wider than 65 inches or that weighs more than 2,000 pounds according to the original manufacturer's specifications. Oversized ATVs cannot be registered in the State of Maine.

Exception: Maine residents who previously registered their oversized ATV before 1/1/2022, may continue to register that oversized ATV. That oversized ATV may only be operated on land where the operator has written permission from the landowner, lessee, or landowner's representative, on frozen waters of the state, or on portions of state approved ATV trails (that do not limit the use of oversized ATVs). Written permission from the landowner or lessee is required for use of an ATV on cropland or pastureland or in an orchard. An oversized ATV that is allowed under this exception may be transferred to a new Maine resident owner who may also register that oversized ATV.

AGE REQUIREMENTS***

A person under 10 years of age may not operate an ATV.

A person 10 years of age or older but under 16 years of age may not operate an ATV unless that person has successfully completed a training course approved by the department and is accompanied by an adult. Proof of having completed a training course must be presented for inspection upon request of a law enforcement officer.

A person under 16 years of age may not cross a public way maintained for travel unless the crossing is in accordance with section 13157-A, subsection 6, paragraph A and the person satisfies the requirements of 13154-A, subsection 3.

****This does not apply to the operation of an ATV on a) Land on which the operator is domiciled; b) Land owned or leased by the operator's parent or guardian; or c) A safety training site approved by the department*

KNOW YOUR TRAIL MARKERS

Maine has an amazing network of trails making it possible for ATV and snowmobile riders to explore thousands of miles across the state. Access to these trails is made possible thanks in part to many generous private landowners.

Note: *Interconnected Trail System (ITS) trails are not always open to ATV use. ITS trails that are open to ATV use will be posted with ATV trail markers.*

Snowmobile trails are not ATV trails, unless they have an ATV trail marker.



Trail is OPEN to ATV use. *These markers may also include additional information about the trail.*



To ensure access to these trails remains open for recreational use, please respect landowners and stay on the marked trails!



TRAIL IS CLOSED TO ATV USE. This includes side by sides, dirt bikes, and motorcycles.



ATV access routes connect trail systems via the roadway to provide riders with more riding opportunity and a greater experience. When on an access route, yield to all traffic, ride to the right, never pass a vehicle, and never exceed the posted speed limit.

ATV SEASON

Much like other hobbies in Maine, ATVing is NOT year-round. ATV trails are only open certain times of the year, depending on trail conditions. Trails typically open in May in the southern half of the state and in June in the northern parts, and close in the fall at various times, all dependent on weather and conditions. Before you go, check with the local club to see if the trails are open. **Always respect closed trail signs, don't be the person to cause a trail to close forever.**

ATV SAFETY & LAWS

Taking a ride on an ATV, UTV or snowmobile is a great way to be active and enjoy the beautiful Maine outdoors. Following safety precautions, rules and common sense are necessary ways to ensure your ride on one of these machines is as safe as it is fun.

Don't drink and ride. A person may not operate or attempt to operate a recreational vehicle:

- While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or a combination of liquor and drugs;
- If 21 years of age or older, while having 0.08% or more by weight of alcohol in that person's blood; or
- If less than 21 years of age, while having any amount of alcohol in the blood.

Use your lights. Riders are required to use lights during the period from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise; and at any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions caused by fog or otherwise, other persons, vehicles and other objects are not clearly discernible for a distance of 500 feet ahead.

Ride at a speed that is safe for the conditions and your experience. A person may not operate an ATV except at a reasonable and prudent speed for the existing conditions. A person who violates this provision commits a Class E crime.

Ride responsibly. A person may not operate an ATV in such a way as to recklessly create a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to another person.

Ride safe. A person may not operate an ATV so as to endanger any person or property.

Respect private property. A person may not while operating an ATV: Tear down or destroy a fence or wall on another person's land; Leave open a gate or bars on another person's land; Trample or destroy crops on another person's land; or Remove or destroy signs or posted notices.

Headgear is required for those under 18 years of age. A person under 18 years of age may not operate an ATV or ride as a passenger without protective headgear. Headgear must conform with minimum standards of construction and performance as prescribed by the American National Standards Institute specification Z90.1 or by the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218.

FREE ATV WEEKEND: AUGUST 20-22, 2027

During Free ATV weekend a nonresident may operate in Maine on an ATV that is not registered in Maine if the nonresident's ATV has a valid registration from another state or a Canadian province. An Oversized ATV that is legally registered in another state or province cannot be used.

TAKE AN ATV SAFETY COURSE

Participation in an ATV education course will teach you how to properly operate and maintain an ATV. Laws, responsibilities and personal safety will also be covered. Passage of a final exam is required. You must attend every day of the class in order to receive your certificate. Those between the ages of 10 and 16 are required to complete the course. Ages 12 and older can take a combined ATV and snowmobile safety course online. Learn more at **mefishwildlife.com/safetycourses.**

SUPPORT A LOCAL ATV CLUB

Donate your time and/or money. Clubs are critical to Maine's ATV program, and at the heart of its success. ATV clubs provide trail stewardship, emergency assistance, rider education and outreach, and help with landowner & government relations.

OUTDOOR PARTNERS

ETHICS ARE WHAT WE DO WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING mefishwildlife.com/outdoorpartners