



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

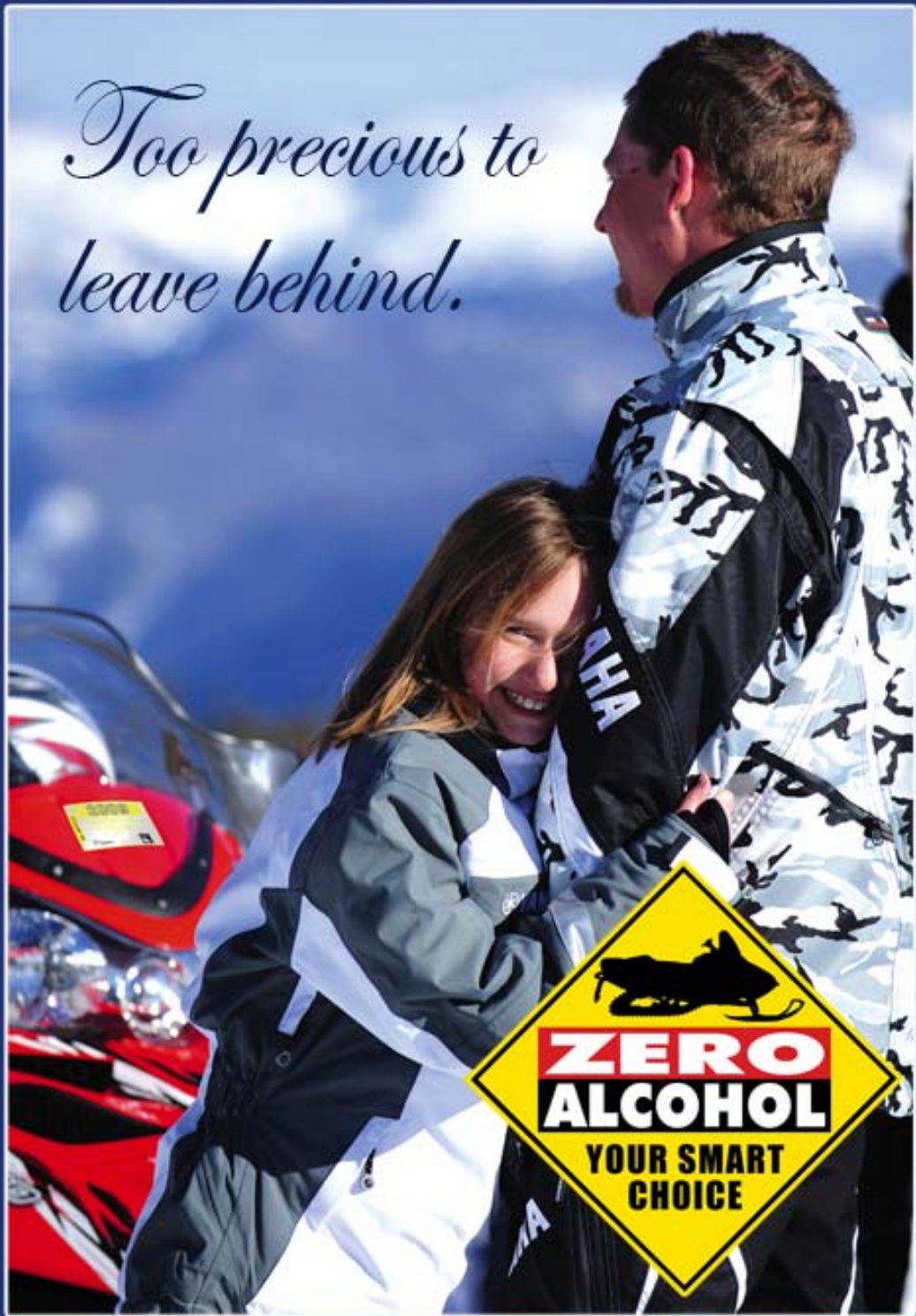
Snowmobile Unit



2018 – 2019 Season Report

Publication date: *May 13, 2019*

*Too precious to
leave behind.*



Zero Alcohol - Your Smart Choice

2018-2019 REPORT NYS SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM

The New York State Snowmobile Program was created by the State Legislature and falls under the jurisdiction of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), which has the responsibility to plan for the development, maintenance and oversight of a statewide snowmobile program. See Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Law (PRHPL), Title D, Articles 21-27; Rules and regulations applicable to administration of the snowmobile program by OPRHP are found at Title 9 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (9 NYCRR 453-460).

Mission Statement for OPRHP Snowmobile Unit & Trail Maintenance Entities (“TMEs”) as outlined by law:

§ 21.01. Legislative Findings and Purpose

The legislature hereby finds that it is in the public interest to:

- * Register snowmobiles as recreational vehicles for the purpose of enforcement of reasonable provisions concerning their use and control;
- * Encourage the sport of snowmobiling as a family activity;
- * Promote the proper and safe use and operation of snowmobiles;
- * Provide an adequate safety educational program for youthful operators;
- * Limit the operation of snowmobiles upon public highways and private property without the consent of the owner;
- * Protect and preserve the state’s natural resources, including its wildlife, wild forests, waters and scenic and wilderness character;
- * Reduce the effect on the environment of excess noise;
- * Insure privacy of remote areas;
- * Afford opportunity for compatible enjoyment of various recreational activities on the state’s lands and open spaces.

It is the purpose of this title to promote the safe and proper use of snowmobiles for recreation and commerce in this state by encouraging their use and development and minimize detrimental effects of such use upon the environment.

§ 21.02. Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Entities

Snowmobile TMEs play an important role in the trail system. As general guidelines, to further promote the proper and safe operation of snowmobiles and the other purposes as set forth in section 21.01 of this article, snowmobile TMEs should strive to:

1. clearly mark and delineate state designated snowmobile trails for which they are responsible;
2. encourage riders to participate in available snowmobile educational programs to make riders aware of the inherent risks associated with the sport;
3. equip trail maintenance vehicles so that they operate with such warning implements or devices as specified by law;
4. hold training sessions each season, for operators of trail maintenance equipment concerning the proper operation of such vehicles;
5. provide education for all other personnel charged with trail maintenance, inspection or patrol duties as to methods to be used for summoning aid in emergencies; and
6. maintain for public use trail area information showing the following: (a) the location of state designated trails; and (b) the status of each trail as open or closed. Nothing in this section shall create a legal duty or obligation beyond that which may already exist.

Program Overview:

The program year for the OPRHP Snowmobile Unit begins April 1st and ends March 31st, thus the 2018-2019 season covers April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

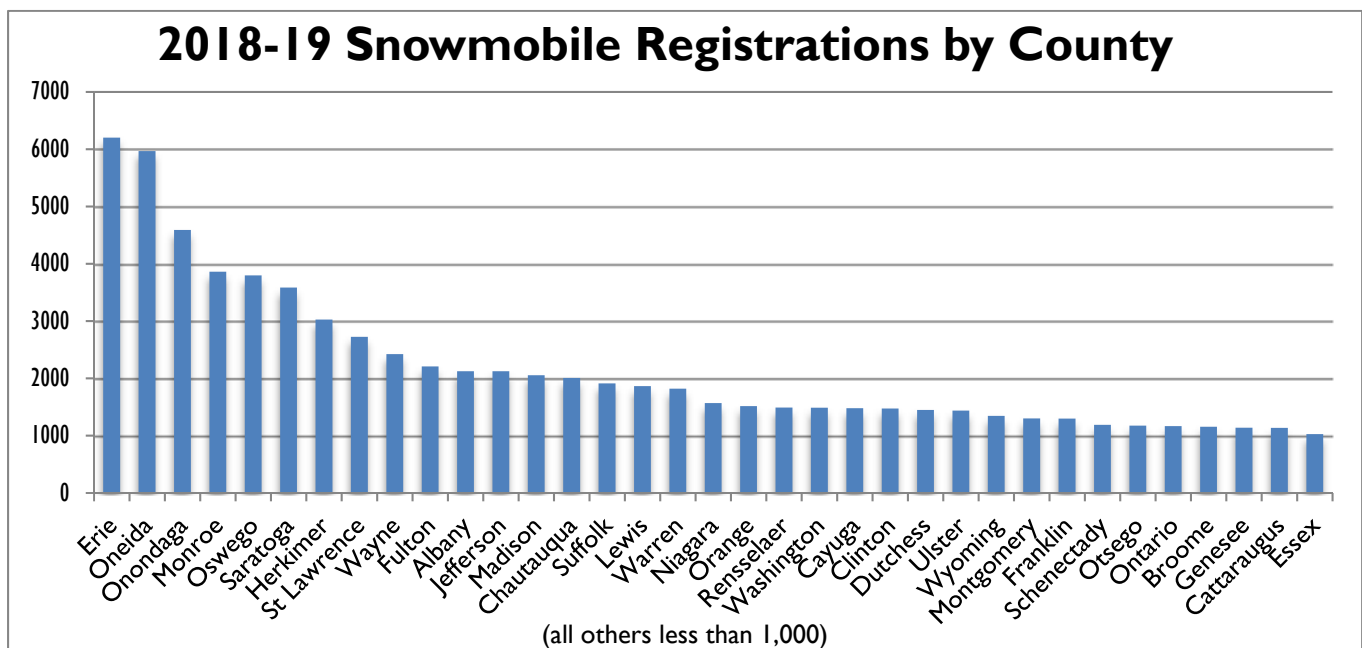
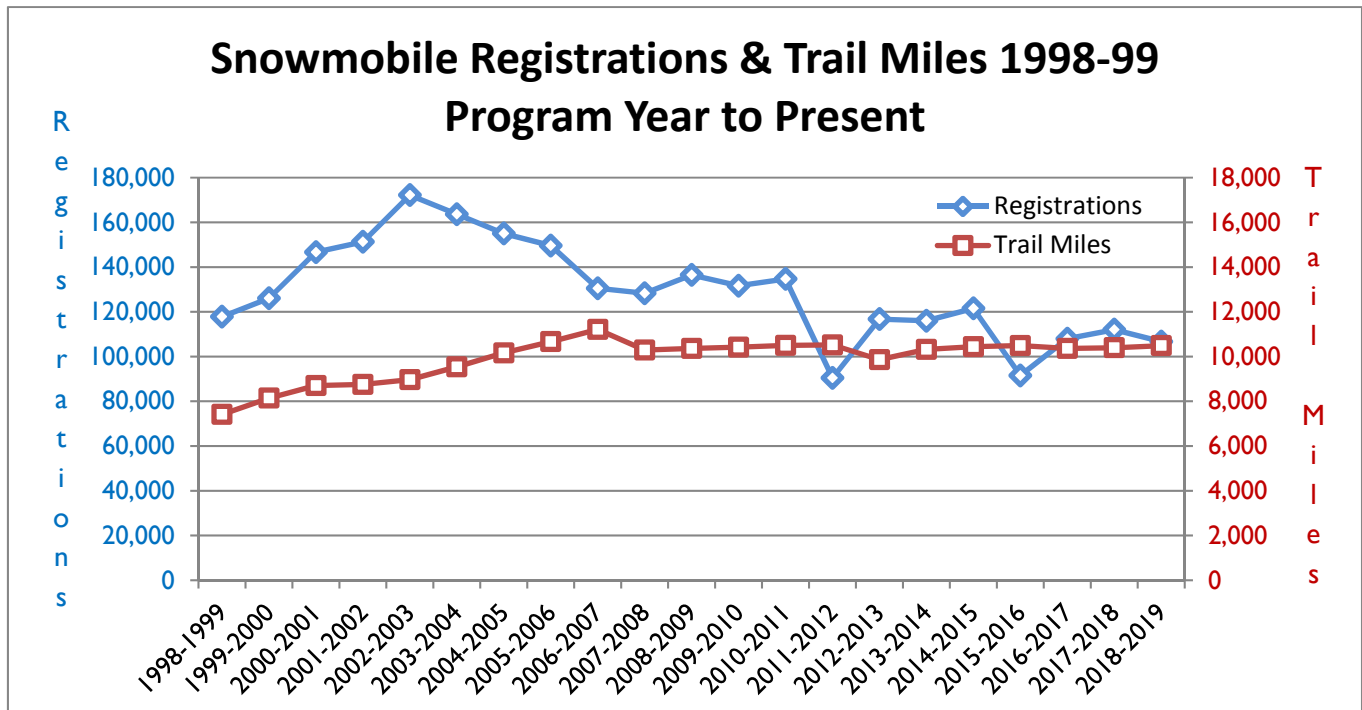
Program funding is authorized by section 21.07 of the PRHP Law, and obtained through state snowmobile registration fees. The yearly registration fee is \$100, or \$45 with a valid snowmobile club membership voucher. Five dollars from each registration is allocated to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the agency responsible for registration administration. The balance of the registration fee is deposited into a State Special Revenue Snowmobile Account for program purposes, creating the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund.

Snowmobile registrations for the 2018-2019 season totaled 106,678 reflecting a decrease of 5,344 or 4.7% from the 2017-2018 season. This report includes charts with historical registration information.

2018-2019 Registration Overview	
Total Club Registrations	89,542
Total Non-Club Registrations	16,610
Total NYS Registrations	89,590
Total Out of State Registrations	17,088
Total Renewals	81,426
Total Originals	25,252
Grand Total	106,678

In the **2017-2018** season, \$5,365,655 was collected from the 112,022 registrations and \$4,043,735 was budgeted to provide financial support for the maintenance and development of the statewide trail system, which was comprised of 10,393 miles. This revenue is returned to local areas as reimbursement grants-in-aid for snowmobile trail development and maintenance.

In the **2018-2019** season, \$5,159,630 was collected from the 106,678 registrations and \$4,231,836 was budgeted to provide financial support for the maintenance and development of the statewide trail system, which was comprised of 10,506 miles.



The Statewide Trail System traverses 45 counties and is maintained by over 200 TMEs funded through 51 municipal sponsors. This vast trail network is comprised of lands under the jurisdiction of OPRHP, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), New York State Canal Corporation, local governments and many private landowners. Private landowners have increasingly opened their property to snowmobiling, with the protection of insurance coverage provided by the state snowmobile program and the general obligations law.

OPRHP has established programs for snowmobile trail grants, premium payments for the statewide trail insurance policy, snowmobile law enforcement grants, a snowmobile law enforcement development school (NYS SLEDS), snowmobile safety education programs, special event permits, accident reporting, snowmobile publications, groomer education, trail signage guidelines, as well as public outreach and general program oversight.

Season in Review Report:

As part of a continuing effort to improve snowmobiling in New York State, the following is an overview of this season's accomplishments and a discussion of future concerns and objectives. In partnership with Local Sponsors and Trail Maintenance Entities, OPRHP remains focused on enhancing the delivery of services and facilitating our common goal of providing a safe and enjoyable snowmobile trail system.

The Snowmobile Unit continues to enhance the Automated Trail Grant Program (ATGP), the web-based system which TMEs and local sponsors use to enter claims for grant reimbursement. Comments have been very positive and supportive and many suggestions to improve the program have been received and implemented. Notably, a previously implemented 60 day data entry window for claims has been more stringently applied, with the goal of distributing the workload of claim entry and auditing across the project year. This is expected to significantly speed end of season processing and final grant payment. OPRHP is committed to continuing improvement and is considering more fine tuning of the program to reduce the workload for all involved while maintaining program consistency and integrity. Online ATGP training documentation has been updated and is more user friendly, and OPRHP is available to schedule teleconferences with local sponsors and TMEs.

In past years there has been criticism from the snowmobiling community regarding communication from OPRHP being confused, inconsistent, or too limited. Continued efforts to address this issue have significantly allayed these concerns, though OPRHP remains sensitive to this issue. In continuing efforts to maintain positive channels of communication, OPRHP has:

- ✱ Attended and participated at monthly NYSSA Board of Directors meetings;
- ✱ Conducted public outreach by maintaining a booth at the New York State Fair, which attracts thousands of snowmobilers, landowners and other stakeholders;
- ✱ Continued dialogue with DEC, DOT and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) concerning the implementation of the Adirondack Snowmobile Trails Plan. The issuance by APA of trail guidelines within the Forest Preserve has facilitated permanent placement of snowmobile trails that connect communities and establish attractive riding locations;
- ✱ Supported Governor's snowmobile rides and the "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" promotion campaign;
- ✱ Worked with government officials to continue the Free Snowmobiling Weekend for out of state snowmobilers visiting New York;
- ✱ Continued to offer trail location data for use with free and commercially available mapping programs
- ✱ Presented a season review and overview of the NYS Snowmobile program at the annual NYSSA Forum.

Another area of concern relates to the public's understanding and the enforcement of New York's snowmobile laws. To address this issue OPRHP has:

- * Attended Law Enforcement multi-agency roundtable discussions and meetings;
- * Held the NYS SLEDs officer training to achieve consistent law enforcement practices;
- * Discussed issues related to display and enforcement of snowmobile registrations with law enforcement agencies and NYSSA.

Areas of future concentration for OPRHP will be:

- * Constant monitoring of the snowmobile grant program for efficiencies and opportunities for enhancements;
- * Completion of updates to the Snowmobile Safety Education course, including proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations that would enhance the classroom course and certificate delivery;
- * Continue working toward making the grant application and documentation process even more user-friendly;
- * Increasing the accuracy of trail data to better support the decision-making process for OPRHP, DEC, DOT, TME's, and local sponsors;

Major Areas of Responsibility:

Snowmobile Trail Grants

The trail maintenance and development reimbursement grant-in-aid program is administered by the Snowmobile Unit through local government sponsors. Local governments can undertake the trail work directly or sub-contract with a TME or other organization for the maintenance of the trails. There are 51 local municipalities and over 200 TMEs that participate in this program. Trail mileage is officially incorporated into the statewide snowmobile trail system after review and approval by the Snowmobile Unit. Once the maximum award amounts are finalized, 70% of the grant amount is released at the beginning of the season and the remaining 30%, pending availability and documentation of expenditures, is released after the final audit at the end of the season.

The maximum total award amount is determined by a formula based on trail mileage and type. Trails are divided into A and B classifications based primarily on width. An additional "high snow" designation further increases the mileage rate for some trails to reflect areas that

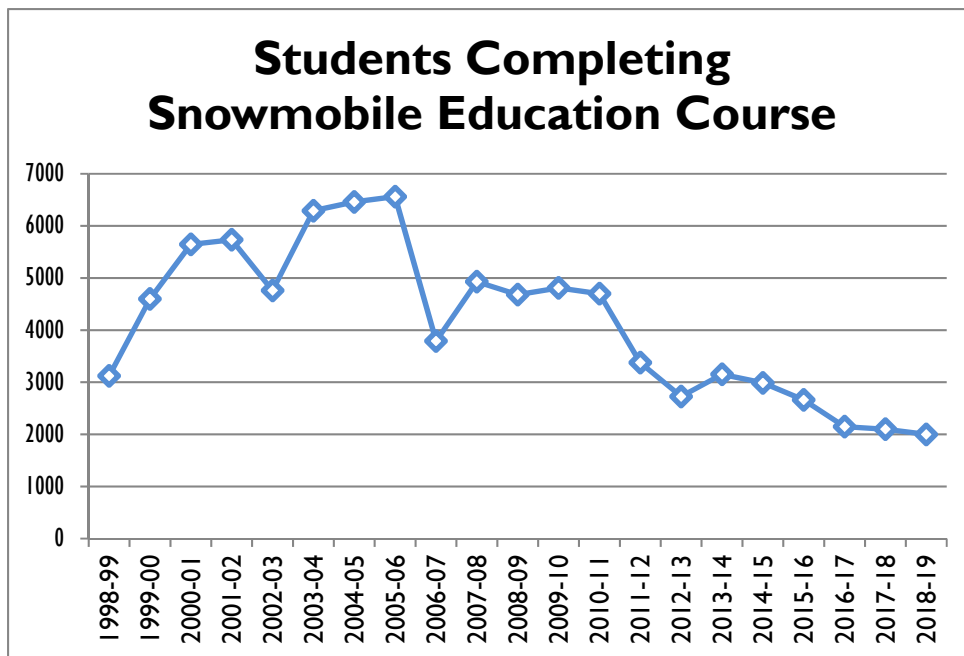
2018-19 Snowmobile Trail Grant Mileage			
Trail Type	Mileage	Rate	Funding
Corridor A	6332 mi	\$336/mi.	\$2,127,552
Corridor B	599 mi	\$276/mi.	\$165,324
Secondary A	3,051 mi	\$336/mi.	\$1,025,136
Secondary B	524 mi	\$276/mi.	\$144,624
Total	10,506 mi		\$3,462,636
<i>High Snow</i>	<i>2,564 mi</i>	<i>\$300/mi.</i>	<i>\$769,200</i>
Grand Total			\$4,231,836

historically have a longer snowmobile season. The exact formula is adjusted season to season based on funds available in the snowmobile account. As 70% of the funds are advanced at the beginning of the season, these funds reflect the previous season's registration revenues.

Snowmobile Safety Education

Anyone who is at least 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 safety course. Operators between the ages of 10 and 17 years face restricted operation on lands other than those owned or leased by his or her parent or guardian unless he or she has successfully completed a safety course.



Throughout New York State, over three hundred active volunteer instructors are certified by OPRHP and offer snowmobile safety courses. Minimum requirements for becoming a certified instructor include taking the course as a student, submitting an application to OPRHP, and assisting a currently certified instructor in two safety courses. Anyone wishing to become a certified instructor should contact the OPRHP Snowmobile Unit using the contact information on the last page of this report. Individuals interested in taking a course should visit <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/safety-courses.aspx> to obtain a listing of courses offered throughout New York State. During the 2018-2019 season 130 courses were held and approximately 2,000 students received certification.

OPRHP continues to develop an update of the safety education course materials. This update will be distributed to currently active instructors and the NYSSA safety and education committee for comment once a draft is complete.

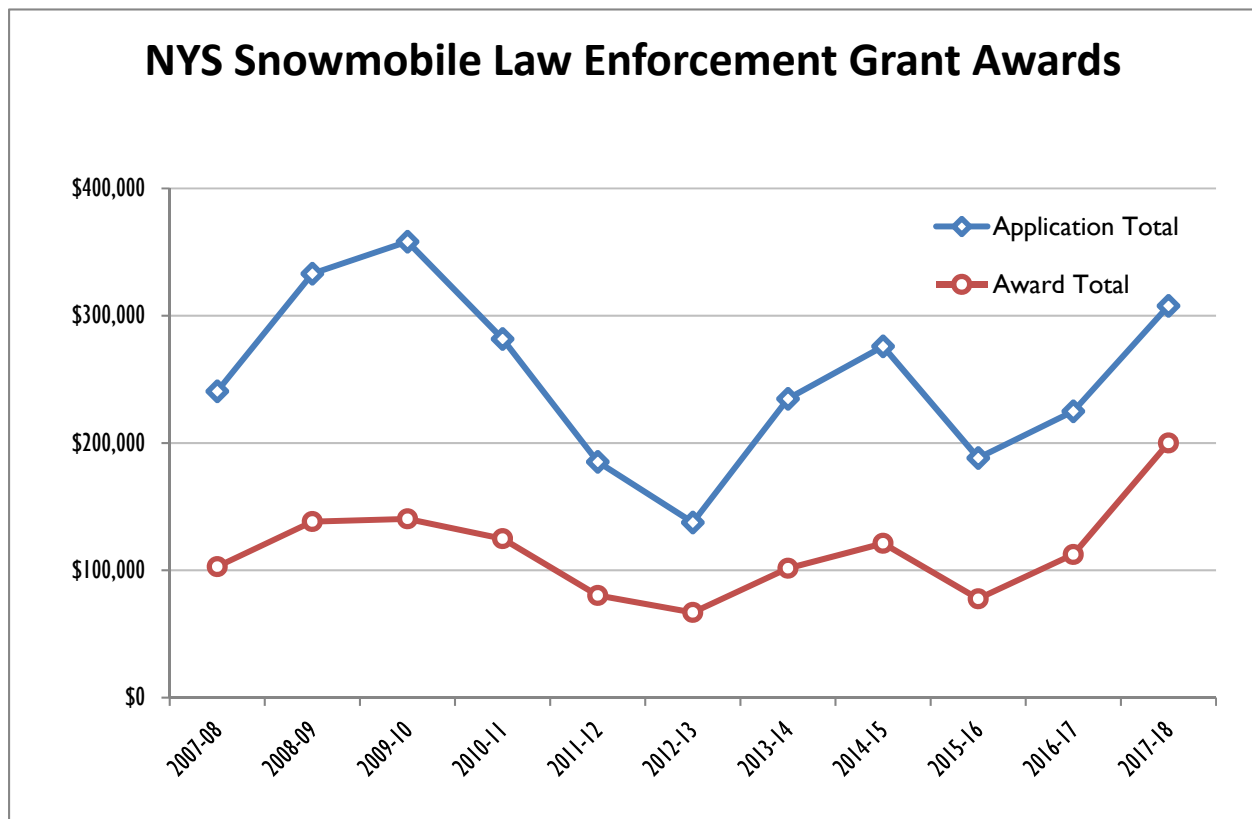
Law Enforcement Program

OPRHP is the lead agency conducting the Snowmobile Law Enforcement Development School (SLEDs) training program. SLEDs accepts law enforcement officers from state, county, and local agencies involved in snowmobile law enforcement. SLEDs was started in 1994 and redeveloped in 2008 to provide more field situational instruction. The course covers snowmobile safety, law, patrol procedure, accident investigation, field operations, emergency response, basic snowmobile use, and evasive operation. The current program is four and a half days of intensive instruction, riding, field exercises and skills development necessary to help law enforcement officers maintain a safe trail system. The primary goal is to achieve effective and uniform snowmobile law enforcement practices and policies across the state.

The program is open to officers from all law enforcement agencies throughout New York State involved in snowmobile enforcement, and when resources allow, officers from other states and Canadian provinces are considered for attendance. This season's SLEDS course was attended by 32 officers from 15 agencies.

Law Enforcement Funding

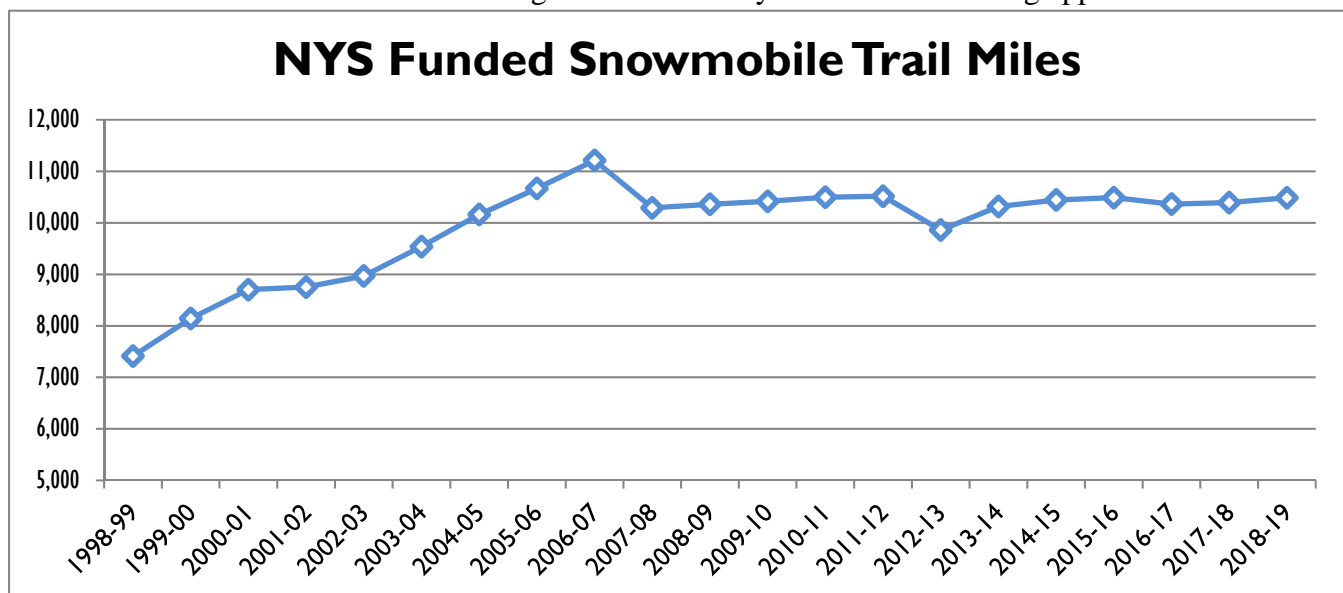
In addition to the trail maintenance and development grant, OPRHP administers a reimbursement grant for costs incurred by municipal police agencies in the enforcement of snowmobile rules, regulations, and safety training. Reimbursement is 75% of approved expenditures with a county maximum of \$37,500 and a statewide cap of \$200,000. Funding is provided from the trail fund and the submission deadline is the end of May each year. Due to this deadline, the 2018-2019 grants have not been processed at the date of this publication. For the 2017-2018 season, 20 agencies participated with approved claims totaling \$230,858.96 which was pro-rated to the maximum of \$200,000. OPRHP expects a continued rise in claims, and thus a continued decrease in the reimbursement percentage to participating agencies due to the statewide cap.



2017-18 Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grant Participants		
Agency	Application Amount	Award Amount
Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office	\$23,424.13	\$15,219.77
Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office	\$12,316.07	\$8,002.33
Cortland County Sheriff's Office	\$2,587.32	\$1,681.10
Delaware County Sheriff's Office	\$1,295.91	\$842.01
Erie County Sheriff's Office	\$28,365.88	\$18,430.66
Fulton County Sheriff's Office	\$4,034.68	\$2,621.52
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office	\$2,992.71	\$1,944.51
Town of Inlet Police Department	\$21,363.64	\$13,880.97
Town of Webb Police Department	\$50,000.00	\$32,487.37
Lewis County Sheriff's Office	\$28,181.53	\$18,310.88
Livingston County Sheriff's Office	\$22,846.08	\$14,844.18
Madison County Sheriff's Office	\$5,648.68	\$3,670.22
Monroe County Sheriff's Office	\$25,208.84	\$16,379.38
Niagara County Sheriff's Office	\$17,661.89	\$11,475.77
Oneida County Sheriff's Office	\$18,194.49	\$11,821.82
Ontario County Sheriff's Office	\$1,345.22	\$874.05
Oswego County Sheriff's Office	\$12,670.55	\$8,232.66
Saint Lawrence County Sheriff's Office	\$9,782.39	\$6,356.08
Saratoga County Sheriff's Office	\$13,770.79	\$8,947.53
Wayne County Sheriff's Office	\$6,121.14	\$3,977.19
Totals	\$307,811.94	\$200,000.00

Snowmobile Trail Mapping

The Snowmobile Unit maintains a GIS database of all funded trails in the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System, based on information provided by the trail development and maintenance grant local sponsors and primarily collected by the TMEs. As the maximum grant award amount is based on trail mileage, regular updates of GPS trail data and conscientious approval of new trails at the local sponsor and OPRHP levels are vital to the program's success. Only those trails that meet the program requirements and are determined to enhance the existing statewide trail system receive funding approval.



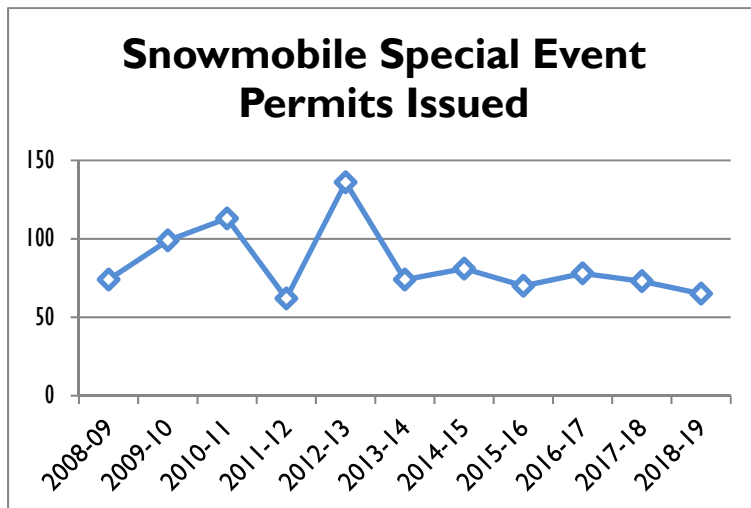
Trail submission and approval is “Phase I” of the grant process. All trails seeking funding which were not included in the previous project year and all changes to trails previously funded must be accompanied by current GPS data. In addition, OPRHP has coordinated with NYSSA to develop a mandatory data update schedule. The last mandatory update was in 2016 which required data be collected no earlier than 2011. The next requirement will be in 2020 and require data collected no earlier than 2017, and thereafter data must be no older than three years old as of January 1 of the submission year. This places a heavy workload on OPRHP to review submissions, notify local sponsors of the determinations, and compile the data into a statewide dataset in time for the upcoming season. However, keeping trail location data as current as possible is vital to program integrity, emergency response, and the safety and enjoyment of the snowmobiling public. This past season over 400 individual requests for trail changes or additions were processed.

OPRHP currently funds 10,506 miles of trails through payments to local government sponsors with an additional 115 miles of trails maintained directly by OPRHP and DEC which are not funded through the program. The single largest participating landowner is the State of New York, with roughly 17% of trails on public lands (not including road right-of-ways). Trails on public lands have the advantage of generally having more permanence, as opposed to trails on private land which may be rerouted or closed from season to season or mid-season. Roughly three-quarters of all trails are located on private land by permission of the landowner, making these private landowner agreements and the work that snowmobile clubs do to secure them vital to the long term success of the statewide trail system.

A .kmz file with the most current trail and junction data are available on the OPRHP website at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/maps.aspx>.

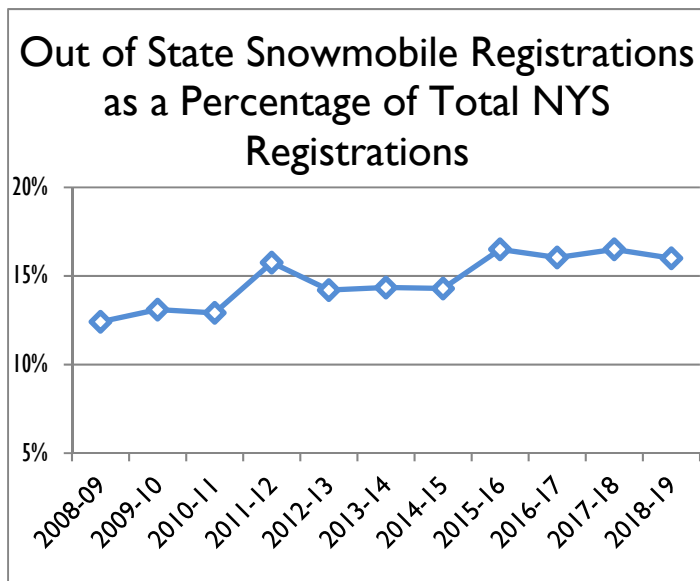
Snowmobile Special Events

A "special event" is an organized rally, race, exhibition, or demonstration of limited duration, which is conducted according to a prearranged schedule and in which general public interest is manifested. An OPRHP-issued permit allows participants to operate snowmobiles at special events (including on-site practice) with exemption from provisions concerning speed, mufflers, lights and registration. For 2018-2019 OPRHP continued to reinforce that the snowmobile special event permit does not provide an exemption of Section 25.19 of the PRHP Law regarding the minimum age for operation. No individuals under the age of 10 may participate in an event. Those age 10 to 17 must meet snowmobile safety certificate requirements. OPRHP has also continued to exclude from permit coverage any participants who consume alcohol during the event.



The sponsor of a snowmobile special event must secure a permit from the Snowmobile Unit, and the application must be submitted at least 15 days prior to the special event. Appropriate law enforcement agencies must be notified of the event, written permission from the landowner must be secured, and any other potentially impacted parties must be notified. It is the responsibility of the person in charge and the event sponsor to plan and undertake the event with the utmost regard for the safety of the participants and spectators.

The Special Event permit application and instructions are available on the OPRHP website at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/documents.aspx> . For 2018-2019 OPRHP approved 65 special event permits. Streamlining the application process will be focused on in 2019.



During January 25-27, 2019, OPRHP again sponsored the free snowmobiling weekend first offered in 2015. This event allows out of state residents to enjoy NYS snowmobile trails without being required to purchase a NYS registration, provided their snowmobiles are legally registered in their home state at the time. The goal is to promote New York as a destination snowmobile location, with the hope that riders who take advantage of the free weekend later register in the state to “escape, explore, experience” the snowmobile trail network. While it is unknown if this is attributable to this event, out-of-state

registrations as a share of overall registrations has remained at a higher level since the promotion was first offered. OPRHP will continue to support this promotion and attempt to monitor its success.

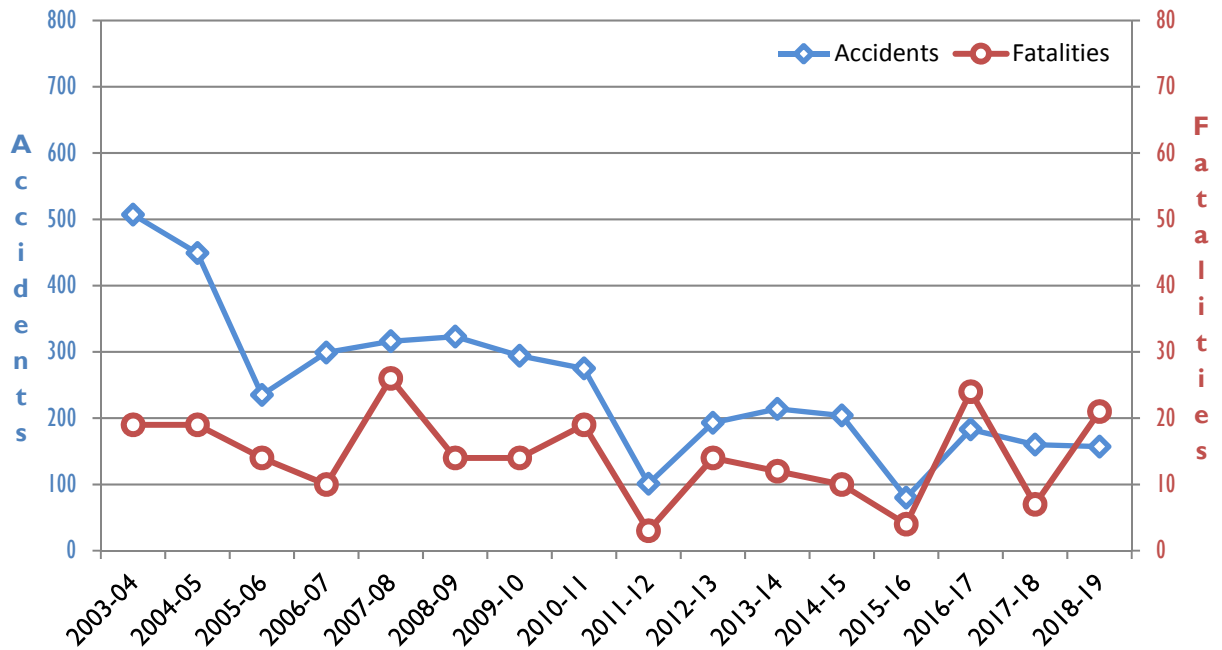
Snowmobile Accident Reports

The operator of any snowmobile involved in any accident resulting in personal injuries or death of any person, or in which property damage in the estimated amount of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars or more is sustained, must report such accident to both an appropriate law enforcement agency and OPRHP. The law enforcement agency will submit an original snowmobile accident report to OPRHP, who compiles received accident reports into a statistical summary. A summary for the 2016-17 season can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/documents.aspx>. OPRHP did not have available staff resources to complete a 2017-18 summary, however publication of a 2018-19 report will be a priority for 2019.

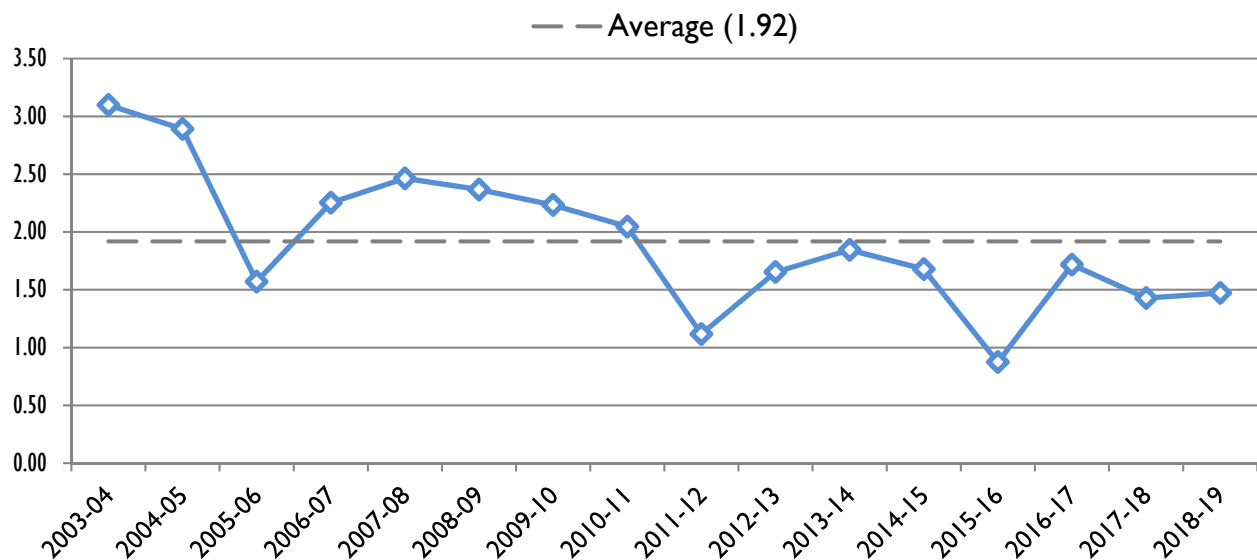
Unsafe speed has been the primary cause of snowmobile accidents. Most accidents continue to involve single-vehicle collisions with fixed objects, such as trees. While OPRHP believes that all fatal accidents and most personal injury accidents are reported, it is possible that some, especially those involving property damage only, go unreported. As of the date of this publication, 157 total accidents and 21 fatalities were reported during

the 2018-2019 season, compared to 160 accidents and 7 fatalities in 2017-2018. While fatal accidents were high enough to garner media attention, the overall number of accidents continues to be relatively low. At the time of this publication, OPRHP is still collecting and evaluating fatality information to provide accurate data and is dedicated to working with partners in the snowmobile community and the state legislature to take any necessary actions to address this issue.

Reported Snowmobile Accidents/Fatalities



Reported Snowmobile Accidents Per 1,000 Registrations



OPRHP wishes to reiterate core safety messages:

- ✱ All riders are encouraged to complete a NYS Snowmobile Safety Course.
- ✱ Use caution and prepare appropriately when traveling across frozen waterways.
- ✱ Use the buddy system; never ride alone.
- ✱ Leave a travel plan with destinations, time of return, and an emergency contact number with someone at home.
- ✱ Don't drink and ride, and encourage family and friends to follow your example.
- ✱ Slow down. High speed operation leaves little room for mistakes and increases stopping distances.
- ✱ Always wear a helmet. While not required, OPRHP also recommends use of a rigid chest/back protector to guard against severe internal injuries.
- ✱ Keep nighttime speeds below 45 M.P.H. to avoid outriding the headlights. At this speed, by the time a hazard is illuminated, there is not enough stopping distance to react to and avoid it.
- ✱ When riding in groups, always maintain a safe following distance of at least 3 seconds, or more as conditions require.
- ✱ Respect private property. The majority of the snowmobile trails in the NYS OPRHP system are on private property. Snowmobile clubs invest significant time and effort to set up agreements with landowners each year. Riding outside the marked trails on private property is trespassing and may cause landowners to close their properties to trails.
- ✱ Stay within the marked trails and don't cut corners. The groomed trail surface is maintained with safety being the primary goal, while deep snow off the trail may hide hazards.

2018-19 Snowmobile Fatality Summary			
Date	County	Nature of Accident	Primary Causes/Notes
12/7/18	Herkimer	Collision w/Tree	Unsafe Speed, Alcohol Involvement
12/7/18	Herkimer	Collision w/Tree	Unsafe Speed, Operator Inexperience
12/9/18	Lewis	Collision w/Tree	Unsafe Speed, Unfamiliar w/Terrain
1/10/19	Oneida	Collision w/Tree	Alcohol involvement, Reckless Op., No Helmet
1/13/19	Herkimer	Collision w/Tree	Unsafe Speed, Unfamiliar w/Terrain
1/13/19	Herkimer	Ejected, Pinned by Machine	Unsafe Speed
1/18/19	Fulton	Struck Ice Heave, Ejected	Unsafe Speed
1/18/19	Oneida	Ejected, Struck Tree	Unsafe Speed, Failure to Keep Right
1/21/19*	Steuben	Collision w/Auto	Failure to Yield ROW
1/26/19	Fulton	Ejected	Unsafe Speed, Alcohol Involvement
2/1/19	Herkimer	Struck by Machine	Rider Dismounted, Struck by Other Snowmobile
2/9/19	Lewis	Ejected, Struck Tree	Unsafe Speed, Reckless Op.
2/16/19	Hamilton	Ejected, Struck Ice Heave	Thin Ice, Alcohol Involvement, Helmet Unsecured
2/18/19	Lewis	Failed to Stop, Ejected	Unsafe Speed, Alcohol Involvement
3/1/19	Lewis	Collision w/Tree	Unsafe Speed, Failure to Keep Right
3/1/19	Herkimer	Collision w/Tree	Failure to Negotiate Curve, Alcohol Involvement
3/3/19	Herkimer	Struck Rock, Ejected	Unsafe Speed, Unfamiliar w/Terrain
3/3/19	Herkimer	Struck Dock, Ejected	Unsafe Speed, Alcohol Involvement
3/8/19	Washington	Ejected	Unsafe Speed, Unfamiliar with Terrain
3/17/19	Oneida	Ejected, Struck Tree	Unsafe Speed, Failure to Negotiate Curve
3/19/19	Saratoga	Ejected, Pinned by Machine	Obstruction/Debris, Environmental Factors (Ice)

**Information still being collected at time of publication*

Snowmobile Publications

The following are available to the public online and in print by request:

The 2015 New York State Snowmobile Trail System Map is a 24"x36" map of trails funded through the grant program, with a wealth of registration, operation, and regulatory information on the back. OPRHP hopes to publish an updated map with 2019 data for the 2019-20 season.

The 2017 Snowmobile Trail Signing Handbook outlines a comprehensive and uniform system of trail signing across the state. The objective of trail signing is to enhance the safety of persons, vehicles, and property; improve travel within and between trail systems by maintaining consistent standards; increase comfort and confidence in navigating the statewide trail system; and promote recreational snowmobiling trails.



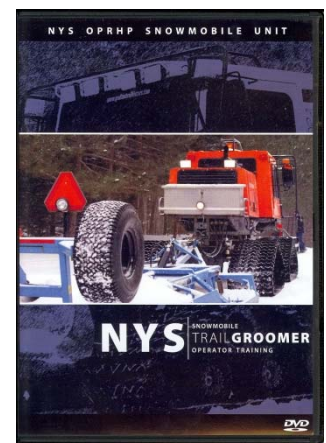
The Snowmobiler's Guide is an easy to use reference guide to snowmobiling in New York. It contains practical information for all snowmobilers whether they are experienced or novice, resident or visitor, an adult or youthful operator. The handy checklists included can be copied for use on many occasions. The Guide received minor updates in 2016 will be further updated as necessary.

Safety education publications are printed and provided to instructors and students who participate in the New York State Snowmobile Safety Course.

The Guidelines for Snowmobile Trail Groomer Operator Training serves as a resource guide for trail grooming managers and equipment operators.

Snowmobile Trail Groomer Training

The Snowmobile Unit has developed a Groomer Operator Training Program combining the guidelines from the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators ("IASA") Grooming Manual, input from experienced groomers, and past OPRHP publications. Training includes technical information and advice on the art of grooming snowmobile trails. Through the cooperation of OPRHP, NYSSA, and local TMEs, many groomer operators have attended grooming workshops held throughout New York State. *The Guidelines for Snowmobile Trail Groomer Operator Training* serves as a resource guide for trail grooming managers and equipment operators. A PowerPoint presentation that enhances the *Guidelines* is also available upon request. The "NYS Snowmobile Trail Groomer Operator Training" DVD, developed by OPRHP, was mailed to each TME in August 2009 and is available at <https://youtu.be/mkOYD6Izvhc>.



Magistrates Training

In 2009, it issues were recognized regarding obtaining appropriate and timely dispositions from local magistrates concerning snowmobile violations and offenses. In response, the OPRHP Snowmobile Unit approached the NYS Court System for approval to develop a training course for magistrates. The course is focused on providing magistrates background and understanding on snowmobile laws which will better enable them to make legal decisions, ultimately assisting the snowmobile community in achieving a safer trail system. The course is accredited with the court system and recognized as a source for magistrates to earn their required continuing education credits.

This class has been presented to magistrates from over fifty counties with very positive responses including an increase in the appropriate processing of violations of laws and rules regulating snowmobile operation. OPRHP will continue to offer training as the need arises. If you are a magistrate interested in training, or feel your county magistrates need more training, please contact the Snowmobile Unit.

OPRHP wishes to thank, in no particular order:

- ✱ The 230+ snowmobile clubs throughout New York state, through whose dedicated volunteer service the statewide trail system is made possible;
- ✱ The New York State Snowmobile Association;
- ✱ The many county and town agencies which function as local sponsors for the snowmobile trail grant;
- ✱ The various state, county, and local law enforcement agencies who dedicate their efforts to maintaining safe snowmobile trails through outreach and enforcement;
- ✱ The 300+ volunteer snowmobile safety instructors who through their educational efforts make the trails safer and more enjoyable for all;
- ✱ All private landowners who open their property to public snowmobiling;
- ✱ The more than 100,000 snowmobilers who, through dedication to safety, responsibility, and respect, make the New York State trail system a fun and enjoyable place to ride.

Upcoming Season Calendar

Date	2018-2019 Project Year	2019-2020 Project Year
April 1, 2019		Start of the project year.
May 31, 2019	Phase III due and the AGTP is locked.	
June 1, 2019		Phase I (Prior Approval) application deadline.
July, 2019	Final project year payments processed (based upon available statewide fund balance and available documentation).	

OPRHP CLOSING OUT THE 2018 – 2019 FILES

September 1, 2019	Phase II application deadline.
November, 2019	70% payment process begins. Notification by OPRHP of projected allocation of State aid for each applicant and issuance of 70% vouchers for signature of Local Sponsor (dependent on sufficient funding availability). End of grant-in-aid project year.
March 31, 2020	Phase III due and the AGTP is locked.
May 31, 2020	Final 2019-2019 Payments processed (based upon available statewide fund balance and available documentation).
July, 2020	

OPRHP CLOSING OUT THE 2019 – 2020 FILES

NYSOPRHP Snowmobile Unit
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