



**New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation**



2021 Snowmobile Season Report

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NYS SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The New York State Snowmobile Program exists by mandate from the Legislature. The Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has been given 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 trail maintenance entities 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 trail maintenance entities 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 funding is authorized by section 21.07 of the PRHP Law and is 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.

There are over 10,500 miles in the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System traversing 45 counties, maintained by over 200 clubs, and is funded through 52 municipal sponsors. This vast trail network is comprised of lands under the jurisdiction of OPRHP, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), NYS Canal Corporation, national forest land, local governments and many private landowners who have increasingly opened their property to snowmobiling with insurance coverage provided by the state snowmobile program.

OPRHP works closely with the [New York State Snowmobile Association \(NYSSA\)](#). NYSSA represents over 200 snowmobile clubs and acts as an advocacy and advisory organization for the snowmobile clubs it represents. OPRHP is also a member of the [International Association of Snowmobile Administrators \(IASA\)](#).

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.

Snowmobile Registrations

Snowmobile registrations for the 2021-2022 season totaled 114,479 registrations reflecting a decrease of 1,315 or 1.1% from the 2020-2021 season. This report includes charts with historical registration information.

In the **2021-22** season, \$5,783,195 was collected from the 114,479 registrations and \$4,246,752 was budgeted to provide financial support for the maintenance and development of the statewide trail system, which was comprised of 10,552 miles. This revenue is returned to local areas as reimbursement grants-in-aid for snowmobile trail development and maintenance.

The table to the right provides information related to snowmobile registrations trends in New York State from year to year.

2021-2022 Registration Breakdown	
Total Club Registrations	91,748
Total Non-Club Registrations	22,245
Total Exceptions	486
Total NYS Registrations	97,687
Total Out of State Registrations	16,792
Total Renewals	85,424
Total Originals	29,055
Grand Total	114,479

Club Registrations vs Non-Club Registrations

Club registration fee: \$5 to DMV; \$40 deposited into the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund.

Non-club registration fee: \$5 to DMV; \$95 deposited into the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund.

Exceptions: do not provide revenue

NYS Registrations vs Out of State Registrations

NYS Registrations: Any snowmobile registered by New York state resident

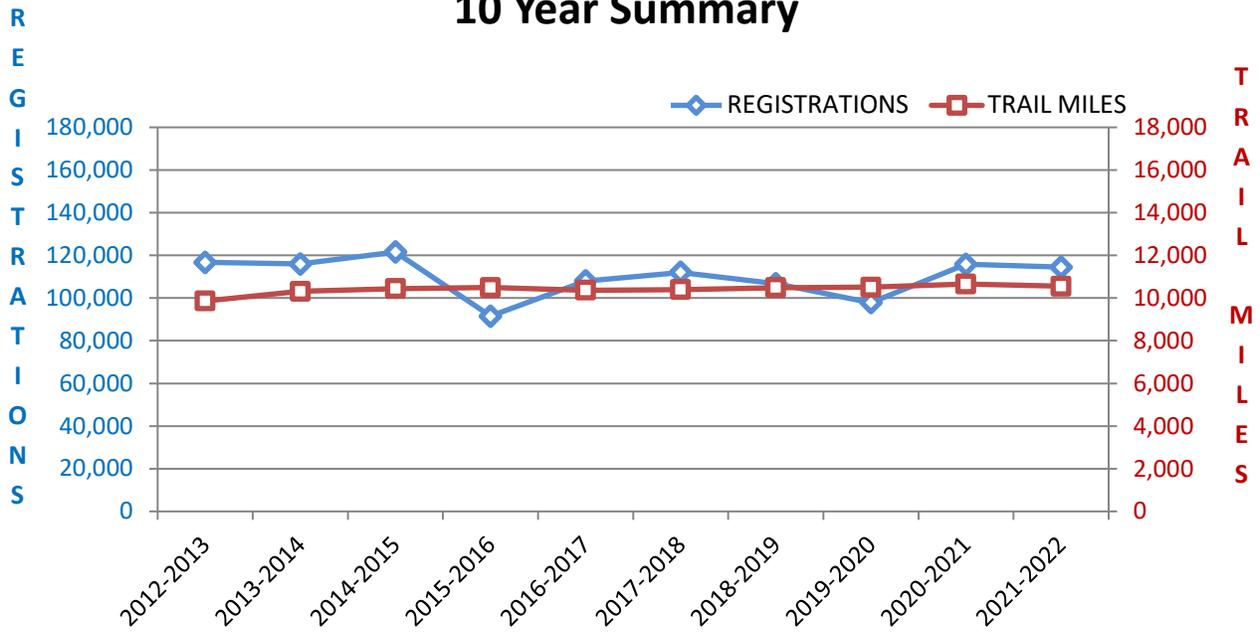
Out of State Registrations: Any snowmobile registered by a resident of a U.S. state other than New York or outside of U.S.

Renewals vs Originals

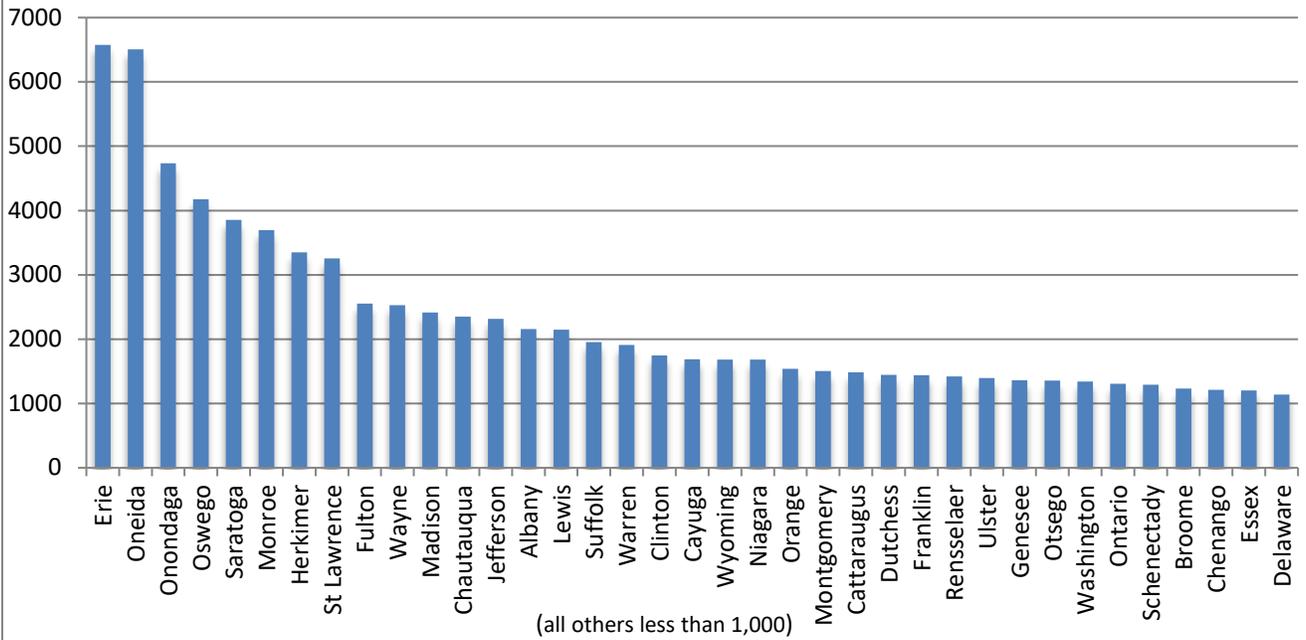
Renewals: Any snowmobile previously registered within New York state

Originals: Any snowmobile in registrant's name for the first time

Snowmobile Registrations & Trail Miles 10 Year Summary



2021-2022 Snowmobile Registrations by County



Municipal Snowmobile Trail Grant-In-Aid Program

The Snowmobile Trail Grant Program establishes a mechanism for allocating funds to local governmental sponsors who engage in the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, through the Snowmobile Unit, administers this program. The authorization for the program is based in Article 27 of the NY Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.

The trail maintenance and development reimbursement grant-in-aid program is administered by the Snowmobile Unit through local government sponsors. There are 52 local municipalities and over 200 TMEs that participate in this program. The maximum award value each municipality is eligible to receive is calculated on a rate per mile formula, based on the trail classification provided.

2021-2022 Snowmobile Trail Grant Funding Calculations based on rate per mile formula (Rate per mile x Trail Classification)				
Trail Type	Trail Classification	Statewide Mileage total	Rate per Mile	Funding total
Corridor	A	6,432	\$336.00	\$2,161,152.00
Corridor	B	560	\$276.00	\$154,560.00
Secondary	A	3,098	\$336.00	\$1,040,928.00
Secondary	B	462	\$276.00	\$127,512.00
	High Snow	2542	\$300.00	\$762,600.00
				\$4,246,752.00

Corridor Trail: A corridor trail is a “through trail” connecting to other trails in a manner similar to the interstate highway system. This main trail will connect villages, towns, cities, counties, and/or state parks, and should pass near service stations, repairs shops, restaurants, and motels. A corridor trail is expected to be maintained in such a manner that will allow it to handle a larger volume of traffic than a secondary trail. Corridor trails will be wider and feature special route marker signs. Overhead clearance should be maintained at a minimum of 12 feet and sustained grades and slopes at a maximum of 20%.

Secondary Trail: A secondary trail is usually designated to lead to a corridor trail at some point. This type may be one or more trails branching off from the main trail, originating from a local trailhead and providing access to necessary facilities not accessible directly from the corridor trail. Overhead clearance and maximum grade should be the same as the corridor trail.

Class A: Trail treads at least 12 feet wide, wider in curves and must be capable of handling groomer power units and drags that are at least 8 feet wide. They are cleared to an effective height of at least 12 feet. All culverts and bridges must be sufficiently wide enough to accommodate grooming equipment 8 feet wide. Bridges costing \$5,000 or more must be built according to approved engineering designs. The travelled portion of Class A trails can be much wider than 12 feet and must be capable of handling two-lane traffic. Where possible, add an additional 2 feet of width to improve safety in high use areas.

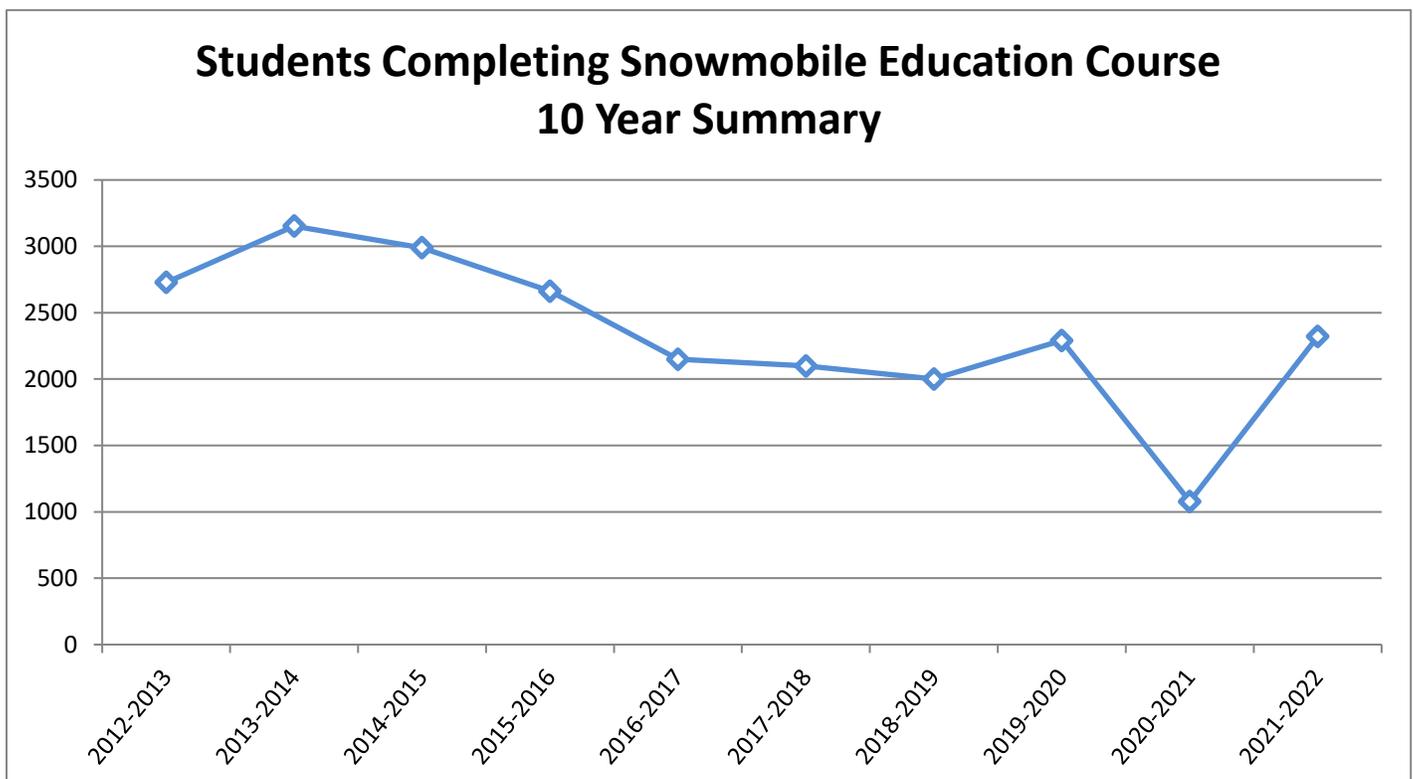
Class B: Trail treads at least 8 feet wide, wider in curves and must be capable of handling groomer power units and drags that are at least 4 feet wide. They are cleared to an effective height of at least 12 feet. Bridges costing \$5,000 or more must be built according to approved engineering designs. Class B trails can be wider than 8 feet. Where possible, add an additional 2 feet of width to improve safety in high use areas.

Snowmobile Safety Education

The Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has been given the responsibility for the establishment of a comprehensive snowmobile information and safety education and training program, including provision for issuance of snowmobile safety certificates for operation of snowmobiles by youthful operators.

- No person under the age of 14 years shall operate a snowmobile except upon land owned or leased by the parent or guardian. Leased lands as used in this section shall not include lands leased by an organization of which said operator or parent, or guardian is a member
- Safety course certificates are required for youths, ages 10 through 17, who wish to legally operate a snowmobile on public trails within New York state, with the following stipulations:
 - Youth ages 10-13 must have a certificate and operate within 500 feet of an adult
 - A person 10 years of age or older, but less than fourteen years of age who holds a valid snowmobile safety certificate may operate a snowmobile if accompanied by a person over eighteen years of age. “Accompanied” shall mean within five hundred feet of the person over eighteen years of age.
 - Youth ages 14-17 without a certificate may operate within 500 feet of an adult, but with a certificate, may operate without supervision
 - A person fourteen years of age or older but less than eighteen years of age, who either holds a valid snowmobile safety certificate or is accompanied by a person over eighteen years of age, may operate a snowmobile in the same manner as a person over eighteen years of age. “Accompanied” shall mean within five hundred feet of the person over eighteen years of age.
 - While ages 18+ do not require a snowmobile safety certificate to legally operate a snowmobile on public trails in New York State, it is highly recommended

During the 2021-22 season 111 courses were held and approximately 2,320 students received certification.



Snowmobile Law Enforcement Development School (SLEDS)

Law enforcement officers of the state, including Park Police, Sheriffs, local and State Police, Environmental Conservation Officers, and Forest Rangers are authorized to enforce snowmobile laws and regulations.

OPRHP is the lead agency conducting the Snowmobile Law Enforcement Development School (SLEDS) training program. The program is designed to present officers with the fundamentals of snowmobile operation and law enforcement, as well as provide an understanding of the knowledge and skills needed by the snowmobile law enforcement officer in order to function in an effective and professional manner. It is the intent of this program to achieve effective and uniform snowmobile law enforcement practices and policies across the state, while building upon the basic law enforcement and investigative skills of police agency personnel, involved in snowmobile patrol activities which require knowledge of snowmobile-related laws, rules, regulations, and accident investigation techniques. This is accomplished through a combination of classroom lectures and outdoor field exercises.

The program is open to officers from all law enforcement agencies throughout New York State involved in snowmobile patrol and enforcement.

2022 SLEDS program: 30 students attended from 11 law enforcement agencies

Agencies in attendance:

New York State Park Police
DEC Encon Police
DEC Forest Rangers
New York State Police
Montgomery County Sheriff
Livingston County Sheriff
Oneida County Sheriff
Warren County Sheriff
Madison County Sheriff
Monroe County Sheriff
Saratoga County Sheriff

Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grant-In-Aid Program

Every county, city, town, or village, engaged in snowmobile enforcement activities shall be entitled to receive state aid for costs incurred by municipal police agencies in the enforcement of snowmobile rules, regulations, and safety training.

Authorized expenditures shall not exceed \$50,000 for each county, including the municipalities therein, shall bear to the total authorized expenditures of all the counties, cities, towns, or villages for enforcement of article 25 of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law during the fiscal year. The maximum reimbursement value is 75% of approved expenditures with a county maximum award of \$37,500.

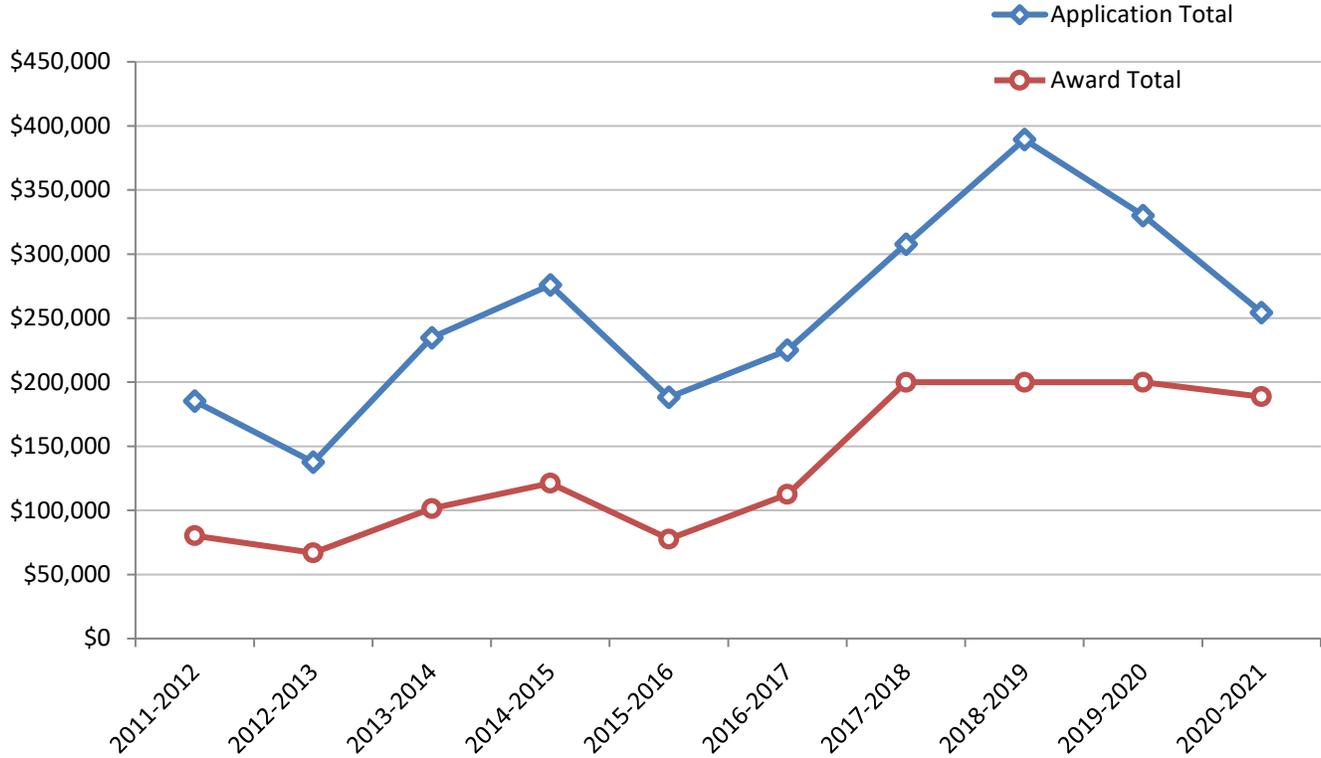
In accordance with Article 27.15, State aid; snowmobile enforcement: the amount of funding allocated cannot exceed the sum of \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars). If the combined statewide post audit submission total exceeds the \$200,000 limit, individual awards shall be equally pro-rated, based on the maximum allowable amount

A summary for the 2020-2021 Snowmobile Law Enforcement State Aid Grant Awards are provided below. 2021-22 submissions have not been processed at the date of this publication.

2020-2021 Snowmobile Law Enforcement State Aid Grant			
Participating Organizations	Statewide Amount Requested	Statewide Amount Approved	Statewide 75% Payment Value
18	\$254,391.48	\$251,622.03	\$188,716.52

#	Agency	Statewide Amount Requested	Statewide Amount Approved	Statewide 75% Payment
1	County of Niagara	\$16,287.91	\$16,287.91	\$12,215.93
2	Town of Webb	\$41,587.00	\$36,707.87	\$27,530.90
3	Warren County Sheriff's Office	\$14,246.58	\$14,201.48	\$10,651.11
4	Oswego County	\$40,560.20	\$40,560.20	\$30,420.15
5	County of Hamilton	\$6,729.80	\$6,829.77	\$5,122.33
6	Delaware County	\$835.80	\$817.24	\$612.93
7	County of Wayne	\$5,461.40	\$5,461.40	\$4,096.05
8	Fulton County Sheriff Office	\$4,560.00	\$4,561.29	\$3,420.97
9	Monroe County Sheriff's Office	\$9,565.34	\$9,565.34	\$7,174.01
10	Oneida County	\$36,885.15	\$36,900.95	\$27,675.71
11	Town of Inlet	\$24,756.00	\$24,762.70	\$18,572.03
12	St. Lawrence County	\$7,281.36	\$7,281.42	\$5,461.07
13	Lewis County	\$25,321.59	\$25,571.61	\$19,178.71
14	Cattaraugus County	\$3,283.79	\$3,283.79	\$2,462.84
15	County of Cortland	\$7,650.23	\$7,650.23	\$5,737.67
16	Livingston County Sheriff's Office	\$3,108.05	\$3,108.04	\$2,331.03
17	Chautauqua County	\$5,747.89	\$7,547.39	\$5,660.54
18	Ontario County	\$523.39	\$523.40	\$392.55
		\$254,391.48	\$251,622.03	\$188,716.52

NYS Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grant Awards 10 Year Summary



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.

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 under "Applications & Forms" on our webpage <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/documents.aspx>



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Snowmobile Unit
Albany, NY 12238-001
T: (518) 474-0446
F: (518) 486-7378
snowmobile.unit@parks.ny.gov

APPLICATION FOR SNOWMOBILE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT

NOTE: BEFORE COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION, THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THIS PROPOSED SPECIAL EVENT MUST READ AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED WITH THIS APPLICATION. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS SHALL BE CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF THIS EVENT PERMIT.

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:		2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON-IN-CHARGE OF THIS EVENT:	
		PHONE #:	FAX #:
		EMAIL:	
3. SPECIFIC LOCATION WHERE EVENT IS TO BE HELD (NAME & ADDRESS):		4. TYPE OF EVENT: (OVAL, SNOWCROSS, DRAGS, ETC...)	
5. I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE OBTAINED A STATEMENT OF NO OBJECTIONS FROM THE OWNER ON WHOSE LAND THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE, OR IF PUBLIC LAND HAVE SECURED REQUIRED PERMITS. ADDITIONALLY, I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY OBJECTIONS FROM ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No **IF NO, EXPLAIN ON SEPARATE SHEET		B. DURATION OF SPECIAL EVENT	
		BEGINS:	
		ENDS:	
		ALTERNATE BEGINNING:	
		ALTERNATE ENDING:	
		DAY	DATE
		TIME	
		<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM
		<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM
		<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM
		<input type="checkbox"/> AM	<input type="checkbox"/> PM
7. NAMES, ADDRESSES, & PHONE #S OF THREE (3) PERSONS TO BE APPOINTED "SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PERSON-IN-CHARGE" OF THIS EVENT. NOTE: THE PERSON-IN-CHARGE (BOX 2) MAY NOT ALSO BE AN ASSISTANT.			
1.			
2.			
3.			
BY SIGNING AND SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION, THE PERSON-IN-CHARGE CERTIFIES THAT: -INSURANCE COVERAGE WILL BE IN PLACE THROUGHOUT EVENT -LOCAL POLICE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE EVENT -PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE VICINITY AND ANYONE ELSE WHO MAY BE AFFECTED HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF THE EVENT -ALL OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SNYCPR §455 (ATTACHED) WILL BE MET			
DATE:	SIGNATURE OF PERSON-IN-CHARGE OF SPECIAL EVENT:		

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE OPRHP OFFICE AT LEAST 15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT START DATE AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY:
- A DETAILED DRAWING OF THE EVENT LAYOUT
- LETTER OF NO OBJECTION FROM LANDOWNER OR PERMIT IF PUBLIC LAND

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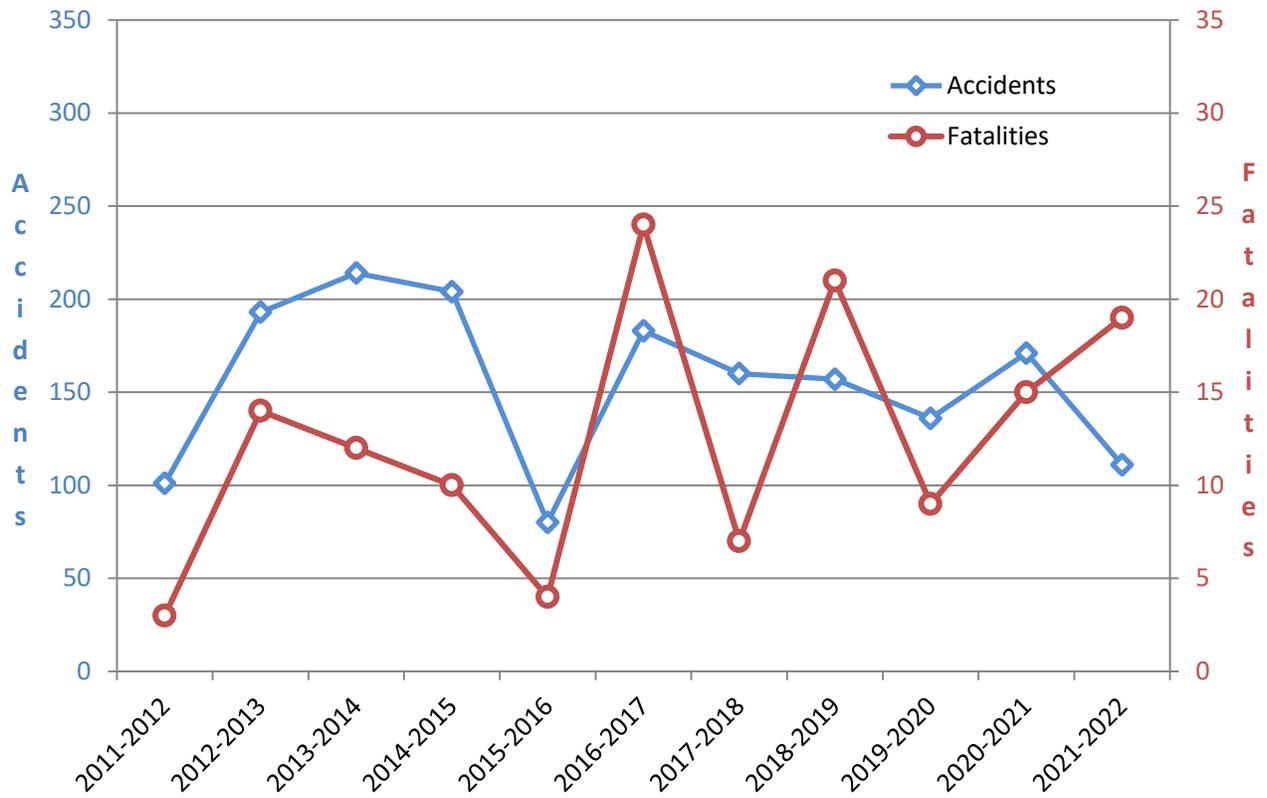
Snowmobile Accident Reports

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.

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. At the time of this publication, there were 111 accidents reported and 19 fatalities during the 2021-2022 season, compared to 171 accidents and 15 fatalities during the 2020-2021 season. OPRHP is dedicated to working with partners in the snowmobile community and state legislature to take any necessary actions to address these issues.

2021-2022 Summary of Snowmobile Related Fatalities				
Date	Time	County	Leading Factor	Result
1/2/2022	6:25 PM	Essex	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/4/2022	2:07 PM	Herkimer	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/16/2022	7:36 PM	Lewis	Failed to Negotiate a Turn	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/17/2022	10:00 PM	Oswego	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/20/2022	21:04	Lewis	Failed to Negotiate a Turn	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/22/2022	2:46 AM	Lewis	Alcoholic Involvement	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/27/2022	4:14 PM	Oswego	Failed to Yield the ROW	Collision with a Moving Object
1/28/2022	6:07 PM	Herkimer	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/28/2022	3:41 PM	Oneida	Unfamiliar with Terrain	Collision with a Fixed Object
1/30/2022	10:11 PM	Chautauqua	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
2/4/2022	7:43 PM	Essex	Failed to Negotiate a Turn	Collision with a Fixed Object
2/13/2022	12:27 PM	Lewis	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
2/13/2022	3:44 PM	Warren	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
2/20/2022	10:00 PM	Clinton	Failed to Negotiate a Turn	Collision with a Fixed Object
2/27/2022	11:38 AM	Schenectady	Unsafe Speed	Collision with a Fixed Object
2/27/2022	2:28 PM	Madison	Reckless Operation	Fell From a Moving Vehicle
3/3/2022	11:43 PM	Lewis	Failed to Negotiate a Turn	Collision with a Fixed Object
3/4/2022	12:44 AM	Lewis	Failed to Keep Right	Collision with a Moving Object
3/4/2022	12:44 AM	Lewis		Collision with a Moving Object

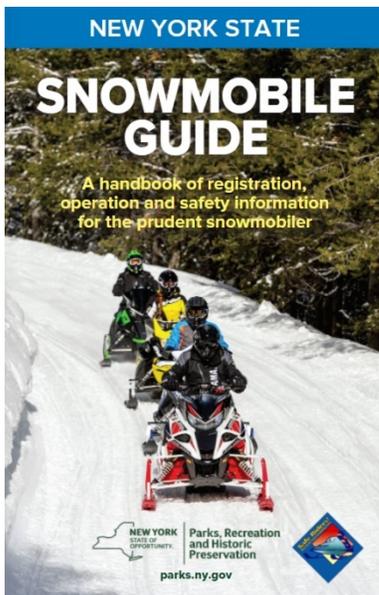
Reported Snowmobile Accidents/Fatalities 10 Year Summary



Snowmobile Publications

Publications can be found on our website at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/documents.aspx>. Publication materials can also be requested by sending an email to our unit mailbox at Snowmobile.Unit@parks.ny.gov.

New York State 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.



New York State Snowmobile Guide: Serves as a snowmobile resource guide, with over 50 pages of useful information.

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Check out the interactive guide under “Training Manuals & Informational Guides” on our webpage.

Snowmobile Trail Groomer Operator Training: Serves as a resource guide for trail grooming managers and equipment operators.

Guidelines For Snowmobile Trail Groomer Operator Training

A Resource Guide for Trail Grooming
Managers and Equipment Operators



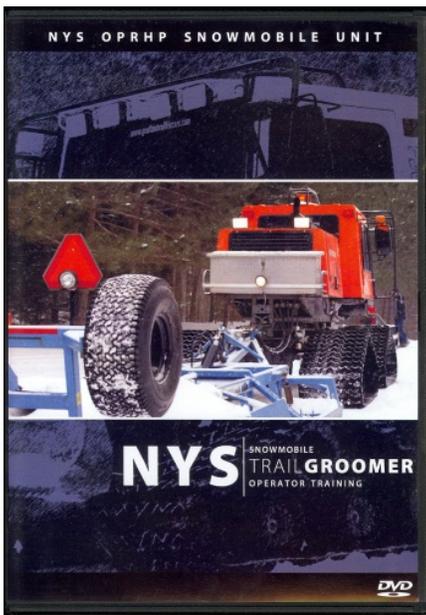
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Reprinted 2021



Snowmobile Trail Groomer Training Video

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. Trail Maintenance Entities/Clubs can request a copy of the “NYS Snowmobile Trail Groomer Operator Training” DVD, developed by OPRHP, by sending an email to snowmobile.unit@parks.ny.gov. The video can also be found online at <https://youtu.be/mkOYD6Izvhc>.

Important Dates to Remember 2022-2022 Program Year

April 1, 2022	Start of 2022-2023 Program Year
May 31, 2022	Submission Deadline for 2021-2022 Expenditure submissions
June 1, 2022	Submission Deadline for 2022-2023 Snowmobile Trail Applications
September 1, 2022	Submission Deadline for 2022-2023 Applications for Funding
March 31, 2023	End of 2022-2023 Program Year

NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Unit

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