

# Dept. of Natural Resources: Encourages new riders to give snowmobiling a try

Posted on Thursday, Feb 5, 2026

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***Participate In Take A Friend Snowmobiling Week Feb. 7-16***



Make sure to encourage your friend to take a safety education class before hitting the trail. / Photo Credit: Travel Wisconsin

**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages snowmobile riders to bring a friend along on their next snowmobiling adventure.

Feb. 7-16, 2026, is Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week, which aims to recruit new snowmobilers to the sport. While on the trails, support a local business, soak in the views and show your ride-along friend why so many people are passionate about snowmobiling in Wisconsin.

“Not only is it safer to ride with others, but it’s also more fun,” said DNR off-highway vehicle administrator Lt. Jacob Holsclaw. “Plus, it can be exciting to share your passion about this outdoor sport with someone who has never experienced seeing the state’s beauty while riding on a sled.”

Responsible operation starts by always riding sober, under control and respecting the trail system.

Dress warm, review the [laws and regulations](#), [check trail conditions](#), get a [Snowmobile Trail Pass](#) and encourage your friend to take a [safety education class](#) before hitting the trails.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1985, and who has reached the age of 12, must have completed and received a snowmobile safety certificate in order to operate a snowmobile in Wisconsin.

Here are a few more snowmobile safety tips:

- Impairment of any kind – drugs or alcohol – can have tragic consequences.
- Remember that ice is never completely safe under any conditions.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or float coat, in case you fall through the ice and to help retain body heat.
- Always operate within the limits of your skills, visibility and snowmobile.
- Stop and look both ways before crossing a road. All snowmobile operators are required to obey stop sign postings and stop. Be sure the path is clear of all oncoming traffic.
- Stay on marked trails.
- Slow down.

Visit the DNR’s [Snowmobiling webpage](#) for additional information on [snowmobile](#)

[safety classes](#), [safety tips](#) and [how to register your snowmobile](#).