



For information, contact: (949) 727-3727 ext. 3091

GETTING READY TO RIDE

Irvine, Calif. – The all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is the perfect adventure vehicle for exploring the off-highway world. To maximize enjoyment when preparing to venture out into the nearest off-road riding area, it is prudent to get qualified instruction first. And, as with any outdoor activity, preparation, knowledge, and training are key to a successful experience.

Steering an ATV is different from steering a car, because body weight can be used to influence how the vehicle maneuvers. To maximize fun and get the most from their ATV, riders learn to look in the direction of the turn, steer in the direction they want to go, and move their body weight forward and to the inside of the turn.

Climbing up hills, for example, may require leaning forward to keep the center of gravity properly positioned. Going down hills, body weight may need to be moved backward. For bumps, ruts, rocks and logs, it may be necessary to stand on the foot pegs to help smooth out the ride.

Qualified Instruction

Finding a hands-on, half-day *ATV RiderCourse*SM conducted by licensed ATV Safety Institute (ASI) instructors at more than 1,000 locations is as simple as contacting a local dealer or calling (800) 887-2887. The course offers students an opportunity to increase their safety knowledge and to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor.

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Students practice safety techniques with hands-on exercises covering starting and stopping, turning, negotiating hills, emergency stopping and swerving, and riding over obstacles.

The course covers protective gear, environmental concerns and local laws. Participants receive the *ATV RiderCourse Handbook*, which reinforces the safety information and riding techniques covered during the *ATV RiderCourse*. These instructional materials as well as the course curriculum have been designed in consultation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Different Sizes and Styles of ATVs for All Ages and Abilities

It is important to never ride beyond personal capabilities or the ATV's ability to maneuver. There are different sizes and styles of ATVs for most ages and abilities. After selecting the proper-sized ATV, protective clothing and equipment should also be purchased.

ATVs are not toys and require adult supervision of young operators at all times. It is important to read the *Tips and Practice Guide* that is included with the owner's manual regarding the age warnings and other rider safety and training information. ATVs have permanently affixed labels warning parents that children under age 16 should *never operate* an adult-sized ATV. Adult-sized ATVs have engine displacements over 90cc.

Youth model ATVs are 90cc or less and are smaller, lighter, and slower than adult models. Different models are available for specific age groups:

Rider Age	ATV Size
6 years and older	Under 70cc
12 years and older	70cc – 90cc
16 years and older	Over 90cc

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Parents or guardians should not permit youngsters to ride an ATV that is not recommended for their age group. Additionally, while a youth may be of the recommended age to ride a particular size of ATV, not all youngsters have the strength, skill, or judgment necessary to operate an ATV.

Parents should supervise their youngster's operation of the ATV at all times and should permit continued use only if they determine that their youngster has the ability and judgment to safely operate the ATV.

The proper riding gear includes:

- Approved helmet (helmets should have stickers on the inside or outside confirming compliance with the standards from the U.S. Department of Transportation [DOT])
 - Gloves
 - Long-sleeved shirt/jacket
 - Over-the-ankle boots
 - Goggles/face shield
 - Long pants

Research indicates that a major factor in ATV associated injuries is rider misuse and inappropriate rider behavior:

- Riding without a helmet
- Riding with passengers
- Riding while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Riding too fast for conditions
- Riding on paved surfaces
- Other risky conduct in violation of the manufacturers' warnings

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ATVs require different handling skills and, in particular, the need to move body weight correctly to enhance stability on slopes. Riders should also be mindful of the terrain and environment, and identify hazards in order to predict what might happen depending on course of action chosen, which is in relation to riding ability and ATV capabilities.

Training is also important to update technique, or eliminate bad habits. Even someone who may have been riding an ATV for a number of years can benefit from attending a training course, which covers pre-ride inspection as well as safe methods of use.

The All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute[®] (ASI), a not-for-profit division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America[®] (SVIA), was formed in 1988 to implement an expanded national program of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety education and awareness. ASI's primary goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs, thereby reducing accidents and injuries that may result from improper ATV operation by the rider.

The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America is an information source about the ATV industry. SVIA provides information on ATV standards as well as promoting model state legislation on ATV riding. It also serves as a liaison with state and federal agencies on ATV training and their influence upon the environment. Membership is open to all corporations regularly engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing or wholesale distribution of ATVs in the United States. SVIA was formed in 1983 as a national not-for-profit trade association and is based in Irvine, California. Its members include AlphaSports, Arctic Cat, Bombardier, Honda, John Deere, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha.

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