

SNOWMOBILE

UPDATE 2012



STATE SENATOR
TONYA SCHUITMAKER
SENATE DISTRICT 20



TOLL FREE 866.305.2120

VISIT www.SenatorTonyaSchuitmaker.com

MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE REGULATIONS

Keep up to date on Michigan snowmobile rules and regulations as well as safe riding hints at www.michigan.gov/dnr (type in the keywords *MI Snowmobile Regulations*) or use the QR reader on your smartphone to go directly to the site.



MICHIGAN = WINTER FUN

Michigan's Great Outdoors offers more ways to have winter fun than just about anywhere else.

Along with fantastic snowmobiling, active families can enjoy snowboarding, skiing, sledding, skating and ice fishing. Or the adventurous can catch the Olympic spirit close to home at the luge run - the most publicly accessible track in the country - in Muskegon State Park. For more information, visit www.msports.org.

Outdoor lovers can also enjoy the beauty and serenity of winter in a more tranquil setting. Check out the winter camping opportunities available at select Michigan State Parks. Or experience the backcountry on snowshoes or behind a team of sled dogs. Find out more at www.michigan.gov/dnr and www.michigan.org/outdoors (click on *Snowsports* on the left sidebar).

With so many ways to have fun, you'll wish winter would never end!



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DEAR MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILER:

With postcard-perfect scenery, exciting terrain and a network of nearly 6,400 miles of groomed trails, Michigan is THE destination for snowmobile adventure.

This season, why not share the fun? **Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week**, February 11-20, 2012, provides a great opportunity to help friends and family experience everything a Michigan winter has to offer.

For novices and old hands alike, the best way to keep the sport fun and safe is to ride with the proper skills and training. This guide provides information on a new online snowmobile safety course as well as information on trail maps, links to safety resources and more.

Snowmobiling is a recreational and economic force in Michigan. Along with the promise of winter fun and excitement, the sport generates hundreds of millions of dollars annually and sustains a great many "mom and pop" businesses in Up North communities. So enjoy Michigan's winter wonderland and help boost local economies around the state.

I hope you and your family have a safe and exciting snowmobile season. If my office can be of any assistance, please contact me toll-free at 866-305-2120 or visit www.SenatorTonyaSchuitmaker.com.

Sincerely,



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SCHUITMAKER: ONLINE SNOWMOBILE SAFETY COURSE NEW THIS YEAR!

Twelve percent of snowmobile-related injuries are sustained by children younger than 17 years.

While accidents happen whether a child is a passenger or an operator, Michigan has specific rules to help make sure children and adolescents who operate snowmobiles acquire the proper skills and training.

Snowmobile education training is required for youth ages 12 to 17. A new online option is now available for youth operators who need to complete an approved snowmobile safety course.

There is a \$29.95 fee to take the online course. More information is available at www.snowmobilecourse.com/usa/michigan/.

Of course, in-person classroom courses are still offered throughout the state. Check www.dnr.state.mi.us/recsearch/ for class locations and dates.



Youth operators must carry the safety training certificate with them whenever operating a snowmobile in Michigan.

MICHIGAN'S TRAIL SYSTEM – SNOWMOBILING AT ITS BEST

The annual snowmobile trail permit fee supports the maintenance and grooming of Michigan's renowned 6,400 mile designated snowmobile trail network. In fact, the state trail system is 100 percent self-funded.

Michigan is one of only three states that provide a large system of interconnected trails.

You can access maps of the trail network by region or county to plan the perfect day trip or weekend at www.michigan.gov/dnr (type in the keywords *Snowmobile Trail Maps*). The maps are updated regularly as new trail additions, re-routes and closures are completed.

MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE TRAIL PROGRAM

6,372 Miles Designated and Groomed

3,150 Private Lands

1,554 USDA National Forest Lands

1,668 State Forest Lands

(includes less than 2 percent in State Parks)

Legend

Link to Download

Parking Lot

Snowmobile Trail

Closely Groomed

Snowmobile Trail

Way

Dirt Road

River

Land

"Michigan has the largest groomed snowmobile trail system in the country. Trail sponsors, mainly snowmobile clubs, receive grant money to groom and maintain the highly rated trails." – Tonya Schuitmaker

State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker • Toll-Free: 866.305.2120

PA 371 OF 2010 CREATES REGISTRATION FOR "HISTORIC" SNOWMOBILES

Like classic cars, vintage snowmobiles rev up interest in a great pastime. A new historic snowmobile registration decal allows enthusiasts to enjoy yesterday's sleds today.

Snowmobiles 26 years old and older and owned solely as a collector's item are eligible for the special decal

at a one-time cost of \$50. The sleds are limited to occasional use and may only be used in club activities, shows, tours and similar events. While the registration does not expire, it cannot be transferred if the snowmobile is sold.

Historic snowmobile applications must be submitted by mail. At this time, requests cannot be processed at local Secretary of State offices. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/sos. Click on *Owning a Vehicle* on the left sidebar and then *Recreational Vehicles*.



Use the QR reader on your smartphone to go directly to www.michigan.gov/sos

FREE ICE FISHING W E E K E N D

Mark it on your calendar! **February 18-19, 2012** is Michigan's free ice fishing weekend.

All fishing license fees are waived for residents and out-of-state visitors on both inland and Great Lakes waters. All fishing regulations still apply.

Visit www.michigan.gov/freefishing for more details.



RESOURCES ON THE WEB



Cold temperatures and wind chill are among the factors that can contribute to frostbite and hypothermia. Check out the Wind Chill Calculator developed by the National Weather Service at www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill.



Communication is an important part of safe snowmobiling. Learn about the hand signals approved by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations at www.snowmobilers.org.



Check trail reports and find contact information for snowmobile clubs at the Michigan Snowmobile Association website: www.msasnow.org.

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