

Snowmobile Standards

Off-Site Experiential Learning Policy - Appendix 24

The following standards apply to the use of snowmobiles during field trips authorized under the Field Trip Policy.

When the snowmobile **will at any time be operated on a highway (as defined under *the Motor Vehicles Act*, see below)**:

- Any person under the age of 16 cannot operate the snowmobile on the highway.
- Any person operating the snowmobile must possess a valid operator's licence issued under the *Motor Vehicles Act*.
- There must be a valid certificate of registration and policy of liability insurance for the snowmobile in accordance with the *Motor Vehicles Act*.
- A 'highway' is defined as 'any cul-de-sac, boulevard, thoroughfare, street, road, trail, avenue, parkway, driveway, viaduct, lane, alley, square, bridge, causeway, ice-road, trestleway or other place, whether publicly or privately owned, any part of which the public is ordinarily entitled to use for the passage or parking of vehicles, and includes:
 - a sidewalk, including a boulevard portion thereof,
 - when a ditch lies adjacent to and parallel with the roadway, the ditch,
 - when a highway right-of-way is contained between fences or contained in a cut-line or between a fence and one side of the roadway, all the land between the fences, all the land in the cut-line, or all the land between the fence and the edge of the roadway, as the case may be,
 - all the land shown on a registered plan of survey of a highway right-of-way,
 - when a highway right-of-way is not shown on a registered plan of survey or is not contained between fences or cut-lines, all the land within 30 metres of the centre line'.

The staff member in charge of the field trip must ensure that a person who operates a snowmobile during the field trip has received sufficient instruction and training to safely operate the snowmobile, such as a Safe Snowmobiler Card. If there is any question about whether a person has received sufficient instruction and training to safely operate a snowmobile, the staff member in charge or the school administrator should consult with the Offsite Review Committee for assistance and advice.

When a snowmobile operator is less than 16 years old and does not possess a valid operator's license, final approval must be obtained from the superintendent in consultation with the Off-Site Review Committee. Approval will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, when all risks to the safety of the student and other participants have been fully considered and mitigated.

The staff member in charge of the field trip must also ensure that a person who operates a snowmobile during the field trip adheres to the following standards:

- The person (and any passenger of the snowmobile or a trailer towed by the snowmobile) must wear a helmet approved for operating a snowmobile.
- The person must not tow a sleigh, trailer, or other object behind the snowmobile unless it is attached by a rigid tow bar.
- The person must not tow anyone behind the snowmobile unless the trailer has been specifically designed and manufactured to tow persons behind a snowmobile (a disabled snowmobile may be towed without meeting this requirement if the operator is sitting on the towed snowmobile and is controlling the steering and braking during the tow).
- When the field trip takes place within the City of Whitehorse, the person operating the snowmobile must have a valid 'Safe Snowmobiler Card'.
- Student-operated snowmobiles cannot be used to transport other students (students may travel as a passenger on a snowmobile operated by a teacher or other adult).