

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute would like to impress upon parents and guardians the importance of all-terrain vehicle safety.

ATV safety is important even if your family doesn't own an ATV, as your child may have friends who do. Here is what all parents need to know when it comes to your child and ATVs:

- Always wear a helmet and other protective gear.
- Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider vehicle.
- Never ride on public roads – another vehicle could hit you.
- Ride an ATV that is right for your age. The guidelines are:

Age 6 and older Under 70cc
Age 12 and older 70cc to 90cc
Age 16 and older Over 90cc

- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.
- Take an *ATV RiderCourse*; call Toll-Free (800) 887-2887, or visit www.atvsafety.org.

As parents, you literally hold the key to your children's safety. Every ATV has an ignition key, and when an adult controls the key, they control the use. Parental supervision is vital to a child's safety; children under the age of 16 must be actively supervised at all times when riding an ATV.

ATVs are not "one-size-fits-all." Nearly 90 percent of all youth ATV-related injury incidents are the result of a child riding an adult-sized ATV, meaning an ATV with an engine size greater than 90 cubic centimeters. No child under the age of 16 should be permitted to ride an adult-sized ATV.

Even though a child is of the recommended age to ride a particular size ATV, not all children have the strength, skill or judgment needed to operate an ATV. You should supervise your child's operation of the ATV at all times and allow continued use only if you determine that your child has the ability and judgment to operate the ATV safely. The Institute publishes a booklet, *Parents, Youngsters, and All-Terrain Vehicles*, designed to help parents determine if their child is ready to ride an ATV. An electronic version is available on our website in the library section or call (800) 852-5344 to obtain a free copy.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission data shows that over 90 percent of all ATV-related fatalities are the result of warned-against behaviors. These behaviors include: not wearing a helmet, riding on public roads, carrying a passenger on a single-rider ATV, riding the wrong size ATV, youth riding unsupervised, and riding with no formal ATV training. Please prepare your child to make the safe choice when given the opportunity to ride an ATV. The ATV Safety Institute'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. For more information about ATV safety or to find out about training in your area, please visit our website www.atvsafety.org, or call toll-free (800) 887-2887. Also on our website, you may view and download a short video on ATV safety and the importance of rider training. Click on the "Ride Safe, Ride Smart" icon.

Sincerely,

Tim Buche
President
ATV Safety Institute