



## **Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs**

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529 Trailside Drive, Suite 100, Deforest, WI 53532  
Tel: 800.232.1408 / 608.846.5530  
Fax: 608.846.5534  
Email: [awsc@awsc.org](mailto:awsc@awsc.org)

### **AWSC promoting responsible snowmobiling through safety classes**

As another great snowmobile season swiftly approaches, the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) continues its efforts to promote safe and responsible snowmobiling by encouraging riders to participate in safety courses available statewide. In fact, Governor Scott Walker has proclaimed January 15-21 Snowmobile Safety Week in Wisconsin.

“As a statewide association, it is important for us to focus on reminding snowmobilers to be safety-conscious out on the trails,” said Doug Johnson, President of the AWSC. “Every season we see an increase in the number of snowmobilers, and with that, unfortunately, comes the potential for an increased number of accidents. One of our major focuses is emphasizing the importance of safe and responsible snowmobiling to keep these accidents to a minimum so that our beautiful trails remain as safe as possible for all snowmobile enthusiasts.”

In 2011, the number of snowmobiles registered in the state of Wisconsin increased 5% from the previous season. On an individual basis, these snowmobilers rode farther than in previous seasons, increasing their mileage by 10%.

“As more people hit the trails and spend an increased amount of time out there, we want to do all we can to ensure that everyone has a safe ride,” Johnson said.

The AWSC encourages all riders to participate in snowmobile safety courses. These courses are designed to expose snowmobilers to the basic safety features, responsibilities, ethics, laws, and mechanical functions associated with snowmobiling. The AWSC provides a list of snowmobile safety courses available throughout Wisconsin. In fact, many of these classes are primarily taught by AWSC members. Classroom instruction is available to riders of all ages, and internet-based courses are offered by the Wisconsin DNR for participants who are age 16 and older. The DNR charges a modest fee for these courses.

“We are encouraged by the fact that the number of snowmobile fatalities has steadily declined over the last six years,” Johnson said. “Our focus is to do everything we can to get these numbers down to zero, and we believe our educational efforts and safety courses are the key to making this goal a reality.”

For more information on the AWSC and snowmobile safety courses, visit [www.awsc.org](http://www.awsc.org).