



New Hampshire Off Highway Vehicle Association Club Incentive Program

Background:

In 2017 there were only 1,700 club members among 19 NH clubs who belonged to NHOHVA. This meant that OHRV clubs lacked the funds to support OHRV trail projects or the ability to meet the 40% matching requirement for Grant-in-Aid. These clubs were also short on the volunteers needed for trail development and ongoing maintenance statewide. NHOHVA faced its own funding shortfall that limited compliance with 501(c)(3) rules restricting lobbying to 20% of expenditures.

Club Incentive Program (CIP) Initiative:

The CIP was developed with state legislation and in partnership with NH F&G was implemented in May 2018. The CIP provides financial support to clubs for maintaining and developing state-approved wheeled OHRV trails open to the public by leveraging state Grant-In-Aid (GIA) and RTP programs. It boosts club membership and engagement, strengthening volunteer capacity for trail work and increasing rider outreach, education, and stewardship to help keep trails open. The program funds NHOHVA's online Club Membership Program (CMP), which manages individual club membership lists and monthly reports, and helps cover lobbying costs to defend against harmful legislation and support beneficial measures for New Hampshire's public OHRV trails. Currently, the CIP offers a \$30 discount on the registration of wheeled Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles (OHRVs) in New Hampshire.

Eligibility:

- Individuals qualify for the discount by joining a qualifying New Hampshire OHRV club.
- The club must be a member of NHOHVA, clubs must also designate a Director to represent their club as a member of the NHOHVA BoD and attend the quarterly meetings.
- Annual dues are \$50, plus \$10 for each membership entered in the CMP.
- Clubs must maintain OHRV trails that are open to the general public recognized by NH BoT to be eligible to offer discount vouchers.
- Clubs must meet Grant-in-Aid (GIA) eligibility requirements, including:
 - Current general liability insurance,
 - Good standing with the State of New Hampshire as a nonprofit,
 - A diverse board of directors of 5 or more,
 - Regularly scheduled meetings.
- Exception: Seacoast Trail Riders are grandfathered into the CMP and are not subject to the above requirement to maintain public OHRV trails open to all.

Discount:

Members listed on a voucher receive a \$30 discount on each OHRV registration in their name(s).

Full price Registration: If someone does not wish to join a club, they can register their machine at a higher price where the \$30 will go directly into the NH grant-in-aid program. Currently, only 42% of all NH OHRV registrations receive the Club Member Discount.

Results:

This program has increased club membership 500% on average, with roughly 8,500 memberships in total annually. This has provided clubs with enough funds to receive \$1.2 million in GiA funds awarded each year since the program was initiated.

NHOHVA has successfully worked with NH BoT to decrease the GiA match from 40% to 20% to help clubs be able to hire experienced subcontractors vs. relying 100% on volunteers to get much-needed trail work completed. This has helped satisfy landowner concerns and allowed clubs to build new trails to increase trail networks. This has also helped alleviate some traffic on maintained roads open to OHRVs to minimize abutter complaints. NHOHVA also helped to establish the HB 1188 Study commission to bring all stakeholders to the table to discuss all OHRV issues, subjects and to minimize senseless legislation from being introduced or passed. NHOHVA also helped update the DNCR 840 rules, which govern the GiA program. Originally written for snowmobile clubs, we have been able to insert and modify many portions to represent specific OHRV needs.

NHOHVA representatives attend many events throughout the year to promote responsible riding, encourage membership, and to support all NHOHVA affiliated clubs. This includes the Sportsman's Show at the Big E in Springfield, MA. The NH Outdoor Expo in Milford, NH, The F&G Wild NH Day, and other various events when the opportunity presents itself.

NHOHVA representatives have also participated in an OHRV ride day held each year at Jericho State Park, which includes members of the NH House F&G Committee and the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee, which are the two committees that hear most of the OHRV bills in NH. This has been a valuable experience and gives us the chance to educate these legislators about our sport, the importance of working together with our state agencies, and the importance of the industry in NH.

Summary:

Why It's Important to Join an OHRV Club?

Joining a New Hampshire OHRV club directly supports the public trails you ride. Club membership provides the funding and volunteer strength needed to maintain, improve, and expand public trail systems. They also help clubs qualify for state Grant-in-Aid funding, strengthen advocacy efforts that protect riding access, and ensure responsible, sustainable trail use. In short, membership keeps trails open, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

NHOHVA Executive Committee

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