



**“What can my age group do to improve the quality of our snowmobile trail system?”** by Kimberly Moe

I have always been taught that if you want to get something done, it doesn't do any good to sit and complain about it, you have to get out there and get the job started. This statement is very true when discussing snowmobile trail maintenance. Lots of teenagers all around the Grygla area love to ride snowmobiles, myself included. It's a great way to get out with your friends and have a good time. These teens don't realize all the work that had to be done so they could go riding. Someone had to groom the trails, clear them, and put up the signs. I know all about this process because my dad takes part in trail maintenance. Anyone interested in improving the quality of the trail system should be informed of what's going on and find out how they can get involved.

A person who uses the trail system should be a member of a snowmobile club. It's important to get young people involved so that they get an idea of what they can do to help out. By volunteering their time to develop new trails and maintain current trails members are able to meet new people, gain new experiences, and have fun in the process. Another advantage of a club membership is the connections with people who have the same interests. Attending meetings keeps you informed about what the club is doing, their future projects, and fun opportunities such as club rides. Membership fees and fundraisers can also be used to support trail systems.

It's also important to support associations who are involved in preserving and protecting snowmobile and ATV trails. Two of these organizations include Minnesota United Snowmobiler's Association and ATVAM. They are very active in working with legislation, trail development, and securing access to land. These organizations also provide training for instructors and support safety training for young people. Membership dues help support these projects. Publications inform members of events, projects, and trail development.

The easiest way to improve the quality of our trail system is to take care of our trails. A lot of hard work goes into developing and marking trails. Anyone who rides on a trail needs to make sure that every member in their group stays on the trail and stays off private property. Riders need to be aware of all trail signs and markings. Trails also need to be kept clean, all garbage needs to be disposed of properly. If everyone respects the trails they will last a long time.

My family has enjoyed snowmobiling for many years. I started riding with my dad when I was a toddler and still enjoy family snowmobile trips. My favorite memories include riding to the shelter to have a hotdog roast, and always falling asleep on the way home. I will never forget my adventures in the woods and I hope to be able to one day take my kids out to enjoy snowmobiling.