# TRAIL AMBASSADOR TRAIL AMBASSATA TRAIL AMBAS

#### THE NOHVIS GROUP INC. IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

The leadership team of the nationally acclaimed NOHVIS Group would like to share some of our successful accomplishments, working in partnership with the Wisconsin ATV UTV Association and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

This success story starts with the anchor of the program, our uniquely structured and professionally implemented Trail Patrol Ambassador network of dedicated volunteers. NOHVIS Group professionals provide quality administrative and management duties, which in turn provides the volunteer corps



with a meaningful and worthwhile experience while interacting with other trail users. Our trained volunteers are very visible, serving as positive role models for others to follow. Trail ambassadors provide an invaluable community service, providing the offroad recreation world with real life, personal contacts while providing educational opportunities with riders out

on the public trail systems.

As important as the trail ambassador's role is, our overall program is more than just implementing the trail ambassador program. Our NOHVIS Group core team works alongside many different entities and agencies, always striving to develop a positive direction for off-road recreation sports.

Together with our many private and public working relationships, we promote safe and responsible riding while serving as strong leaders for the sport and industry.



#### THE TRAIL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Outdoor recreation is a vast resource that many American's participate in every year. Access to the great outdoors can be done in various ways, however one of the major systems in place throughout the United States is that of recreational trails. These trails are generally maintained by the men and women volunteers of locally organized clubs.

The Trail Ambassador program is one tool these clubs can utilize in their toolbox to help protect and maintain the trails on which they ride (and in some cases, have responsibility for).

Often times a land managing agency such as a county, township or state agency will contract with the local clubs to maintain the trail as part of a usage agreement. The Trail Ambassador program brings creditability and accountability to these agreements.

Our training program can help club volunteers become better advocates for trail preservation and community outreach.

Our leadership structure ensures the current generation of dedicated volunteers have the tools to attract, train and help mold future generations of individuals.

The Trail Ambassador teaches these clubs and individuals responsible recreational practices. The skills learned from our training program allow the Trail Ambassador to perform such duties as:

- Report illegal activity
- Survey & report on trail maintenance issues
- Report invasive plant species
- Conduct community outreach programs
- Conduct safety courses for the general public
- Promote a positive image for their sport
- Collect survey data to further improve the sport

The Trail Ambassador program has worked on behalf of the Wisconsin ATV and UTV registration program for the last

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15+ years. More recently, our program has expanded to other off-road sports including road legal four wheel drive vehicles.

With support from our partners, the Trail Ambassador program constantly analyzes the activities and policies of the program for ways to improve itself. The leadership of the Trail Ambassador program is always looking to upgrade our program to improve the various recreations the Trail Ambassador program are targeting.

## TRAIL AMBASSADORPRODUCTS & SERVICES



The trail ambassadors program offers a variety of tools and services for our communities. Volunteers can choose which type of activities to participate in, based on their level of comfort. Each product and service is equally important to the overall mission of the program.

The trail ambassador program focuses on four key mission concepts.

These concepts include:

- Increased club participation. Local clubs are the heart of any outdoor recreation system. The Trail Ambassador program encourages participation in local clubs.
- Be a presence on the trails. The Trail Ambassador program has a proud presence on the trail systems it serves. The presence of our volunteers reassure the general public there is a group watching over them and the trail system they enjoy using.
- Increase safety for other users. From reporting dangerous conditions on the trail system to talking with riders about how to enjoy their sport while taking the necessary precautions to protect themselves are one of many duties of a trail ambassador.
- Engage in community events. Outdoor recreation often involves community events. These
  events help raise funds to operate and often expand the current trail network. The Trail
  Ambassadors have the necessary tools to help at these important events.



### **TRAIL PATROL OPERATIONS**

The trail ambassadors are a visible presence on the trail systems. This presence sends a powerful message to all of the users, as well as the land managers and local citizens that are connected to the trail system.

The trail patrol focuses on the following items:

- Assistance to stranded or lost riders
- Law and ordinance compliance
- Safety concerns regarding trail & route conditions
- Trail sign issues
- GPS mapping services
- A presence of volunteers that are dedicated to a positive image of their sport

Our trail ambassadors are trained to not only be a watchful eye for the items listed above, but to be an ambassador of the sport. We pride our trail patrol services on lending a helpful hand to anyone that needs assistance.

The volunteers from local clubs or regional volunteers are proven to be an asset to communities that are seeking to open new access routes or trails within their community. Having a dedicated group of volunteers that commit to patrolling the trails and routes offer an established form of responsibility to local land managers.

Working with local law enforcement is also part of our trail patrol operations. Ambassadors are trained to contact our communications center or the local law enforcement agency should the need arise.









### **TRAIL & ROUTE CONDITIONS**

A major opportunity for our trail ambassadors comes in the form of reporting trail & route conditions. Trail & route condition reports are designed to give the land managers, clubs or any entity that needs a report on the following conditions:

- Trail / route surface conditions
- Washout / erosion concerns
- Bridge issues
- Sign issues
- Gate issues
- GPS mapping services
- Invasive species information

During our trail & route condition report, trail ambassadors will examine all of the above conditions. A report will be generated and sent to the local club, land manager or requesting body (with permission from the appropriate land managers).

This information can be vital to any funding related activities. A trail report could be used prior to, or after a rehabilitation project has been completed. This will help ensure all the rehabilitation and maintenance efforts were successful.









#### **WELCOME CENTER**

A new feature being rolled out by the trail ambassador program is the welcome center. This service is designed to be setup alongside a highly traveled trail or route. The goal is to provide volunteer checks on equipment, safety gear & riding practices.

Some of the items on the check might include:

- For motorized sports, exhaust systems for sound and spark arrestors
- Registration compliance and general questions by riders
- Safety equipment requirements and safe riding practices
- General directions to service or points of interests

The trail checkpoint is a unique way to setup an area where users can approach the trail ambassadors to ensure they are properly covered. It's also a great way to promote the sport, trail ambassador program and the local club.

Trail checkpoints also serve as a great visual aid for local clubs to the local community. Having a visible area where the trail ambassadors are working and interacting with users of the trail system signify that these volunteers care for the riders and the trail system in that community.





### TRAIL AMBASSADOR TRAINING & REPORTING





#### **AMBASSADOR TRAINING**

The foundation of the trail ambassador program is the training our volunteers receive. Training is conducted on a local, state and national scale, depending on the course. We offer both virtual and inclassroom platforms, as well as a hands on field day.

New trail ambassadors must attend a multi-hour hour training and orientation course. This course is conducted by regional and local coordinators, or completed online via virtual meeting or self-paced via our website. In this course, volunteers learn the basics of the program, how to communicate with coordinators,

how to make contact with other trail users, how to make a positive impact in the community, how to deal with emergency situations and how to report back to the communication center. Students can obtain our trail ambassador text book in print or in digital format.



#### CONTINUING EDUCATION

To maintain your participation in the trail ambassador program, volunteers must attend ongoing training as updates dictate. Our training courses are offered from local, regional or national coordinators, or completed online via our virtual meetings or self-paced via our website. During our trainings, the volunteers will have a chance to learn new skills, improve existing skill-sets and learn to work together with other ambassadors.

#### **TOOLS FOR AMBASSADORS**

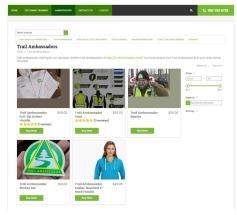
The trail ambassador program offers a wide range of tools for our volunteers to be successful. These tools include a dedicated communications center, a private app for Android and Apple devices and a website where ambassadors can download resources and utilize our online education platform.

When our volunteers become certified trail ambassadors, they are asked to complete reports whenever they are out on patrol. These reports help validate their work while providing useful information that our communication center can pass along to our land managers or law enforcement. We offer multiple ways for our ambassadors to submit their paperwork.

Trail ambassadors have access to our website tools, which include submitting trail reports and ordering trail ambassador clothing. They can also access our standard operating guidelines and other resources to support their operations.



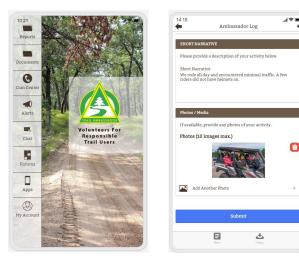
We also have a private mobile app for Android and Apple devices. This app includes tools for submitting reports, referencing laws and sending



messages to the communications

center. It's free to download and use, as long as you're an ambassador.

Finally, our communications center can submit paperwork on behalf of the ambassadors. If they are in the field or do not have access to a device connected to the web, the communications center can take their call or leave a voicemail to submit their information.



#### **VOLUNTEER TODAY**

Are you interested in helping support your local area trails & routes? Do you belong to a local ATV / UTV club and want to provide a valuable service to the users of our ATV / UTV trail systems?

If so, we are looking for dedicated volunteers to be the eyes and ears for our land managers and law enforcement partners.

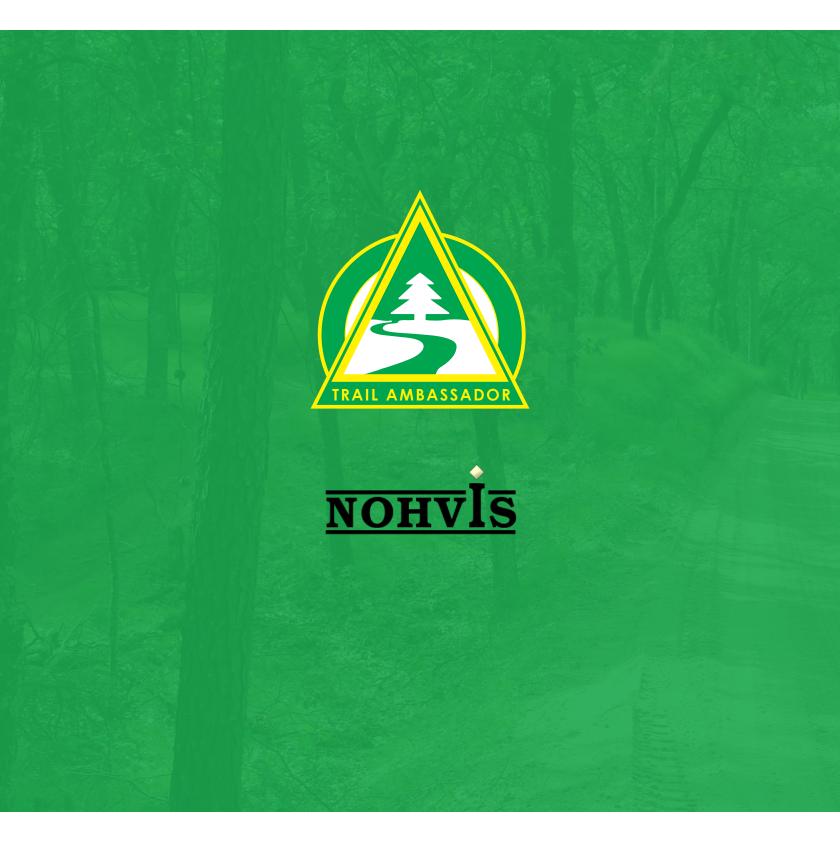
If you have your own vehicle and the willingness to serve, we want you! Our trail ambassadors receive classroom and hands on training throughout the year and work closely with land managers, law enforcement and rescue services within Wisconsin.

Classroom learning is done online via Zoom and spans two evenings (both evenings are required). We also offer a self-paced platform within our website. Hands-on training is conducted in the field following the completion of our classroom material. We have a full line of classes lined up for 2021.

To see a list of upcoming classes, check out our website by visiting www.trailambassador.com.



If you're interested in volunteering for the program, click "**Register to Volunteer**." Our communication center will reach out to after they complete the required background check.



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