



**ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN SNOWMOBILE CLUBS
YOUTH KAOS PROGRAM
(Kids and Adults On Snowmobiles)**

MISSION: The purpose of the AWSC KAOS Youth Program is two-fold. First it is to give the youth an in-depth understanding of how the total snowmobile program is organized, starting from the local clubs up to and including International. Secondly, KAOS is considered a leadership training program for young snowmobilers. As dedicated volunteers are getting older, our goal is to train the younger members to take over leadership roles in order to keep our organizations as strong as they currently are.

MEMBERSHIP: Each county elects one/two high school age snowmobilers (high school age being 14-18) who will represent their county in the statewide youth program known as KAOS (Kids and Adults On Snowmobiles) as a **Youth Representative**. Once a member of KAOS for a minimum of two years, youth can apply to become a **Youth Advisor**. These youth are selected by the Adult Committee and the Youth Chairman/Advisor(s). Youth Advisors can be ages 18-21 and serve as mentors to the Youth Representatives.

CHAIN OF COMMAND: The KAOS Program begins with the blessings of the **AWSC Executive Board and the Board of Directors**. Their directives are given to a **Youth Chairman/Advisor(s)**. The Chairman/Advisor works firstly with **an Adult Committee** who form policy, implement ideas, and supervise all youth activities and projects.

EXPECTATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Each Youth Representative is asked to attend the Annual Fall Workshop, the Annual Spring Convention, the summer Director's meeting, and the winter Director's meeting. Their responsibilities at these events are (a) to meet and discuss ideas on how the youth can get involved and plan future projects; (b) meet the adults of the snowmobiling community to learn from their experiences how they, as future leaders, can become involved; (c) attend the Director's meetings to get an understanding of how the snowmobiling program operates; and (d) join various adult committees to gather more knowledge and have some input of the opinions of youth.
2. Youth Representatives are to attend their local adult club meetings, county meetings and/or alliance meetings as much as possible. They are to report what is happening in the youth program, offer assistance, and ask for support.
3. Youth Representatives are to engage with other snowmobiling youth from their own community and teach their peers the importance of involvement for the future of the sport.

FINANCING:

1. Funding for the KAOS members to attend these events varies from county to county. Some counties support their youth rep totally with lodging, registration and other expenses. Others, those less lucrative, will give as much as they are able to (some pay just registration, or just lodging, or give a flat amount to be used as the youth deems necessary). Any amount is appreciated and shows the youth that you believe in them and support them in their endeavor to help them and the program grow.
2. KAOS members plan their own fundraisers at the state events in order to raise money to keep the program moving. Money raised here pays for leadership training, youth hospitality rooms, ISC, event prizes, cost of activities, speakers, etc.

EVENTS: At our State events, we plan age appropriate events for the youth to gather together. At our workshops we will run a session specifically for the youth (safe snowmobiling, safety instructors, how to start your own local youth organization, clean air snowmobile challenge, racers, motivational speakers, etc.). At convention we plan a fun youth only activity. (pool parties, bowling, casino day, trampoline park). In the evenings they typically have their own hospitality room with games, snacks and refreshments.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: KAOS has 2 youth leadership training weekends, one in the fall and one in the winter. All youth representatives and youth advisors are invited to join together for three days of brainstorming ideas, listening to key speakers on leadership for today and the future, and enjoy some snowmobile time TOGETHER. Parents are asked to drop them off on Friday evening and pick them up Sunday morning. It is amazing to hear the ideas these young people have and want to express. They feed off each other and really have an interest in making the world of snowmobiling a continuing respected sport.

CLOSING: Above is a list of how the youth program works for Wisconsin. Other states have looked to us as a guide and find what works best for their situation. Wisconsin youth have traveled to Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, New York, Michigan, South Dakota, Manitoba, Canada, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland to speak about the importance of youth involvement in associations and assist them in forming a youth organization.

It is very difficult to get young people to step forward on their own. They need a lot of encouragement, but once you have them - they are an exceptional group of citizens. Keep them active, plan a lot of activities, ask them what their needs and wants are, and listen to them. Give them some responsibility. Let them prove themselves. Recognition is extremely important. They love to be recognized for whatever they do, whether it be a small gesture or a large one. The more they know they are appreciated, the more they will give. It is also important that their advisors enjoy these members and treat them like an important part of the total program. It is extremely important to have the support of the adults throughout the state program - from the officers, the directors, the counties and the local clubs. These young people need to know that everyone believes in them and considers their opinions important. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, REMEMBER THIS IS THEIR ORGANIZATION. YOU ARE THERE TO GUIDE THEM AND TEACH THEM - THEN LET THEM RUN WITH IT!!!**

For questions on the KAOS Program contact awsckaos@gmail.com or Co-Chairs Jay Thompson: jaysthompson66@yahoo.com or Michelle Gates: mmgates@charter.net