

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
NEWS RELEASE

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Yamaha donates helmets to snowmobile education program

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with Snowmobile North Dakota (SND) accepted a donation of 60 safety helmets from the Yamaha Motor Corporation to be distributed to youth riders participating in the snowmobile education program.

“Snowmobile North Dakota is extremely excited about this donation and extends its gratitude to Yamaha Motor Corporation for its generosity,” says SND program manager Keri Wanner. “Our organization and its members place snowmobile safety as a number one priority and feel this donation will enhance North Dakota’s snowmobile safety education program.”

The helmets, which are valued at over \$11,000, range in size so that they will properly fit kids who receive a helmet through the program. Distribution of helmets will take place through the remainder of the season beginning the week of Jan. 12 The list of classes can be found on the NDRPD website at <http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/>.

We’re glad that the helmets could go to a good home and be put to use in such a great way!” says Yamaha’s Wade West.

International Snowmobile Safety Week, which runs Jan. 11-17, is part of the “Safe riders! You Make Snowmobiling Safe” campaign developed by the International Snowmobile Manufacturer’s Association (ISMA). North Dakota Parks and Recreation is presenting the helmets to education class participants beginning this week to help promote safe snowmobiling, particularly with young riders.

North Dakota law requires anyone under the age of 18 to wear a DOT approved helmet. Helmets should be properly fitted, meaning snugly fitting on the person’s head. Helmets have a use life of approximately four to seven years, after that, the impact attenuation of the helmet begins to degrade.

“We are extremely pleased by Yamaha Motor Corporation’s donation and the impact it will have on keeping youth snowmobilers safe,” says Arik Spencer, NDPRD Recreation Division director.

North Dakota youth, ages 12 and older, who do not possess a valid driver’s license, must attend a snowmobile safety class and pass a written exam in order to legally operate a snowmobile on any land not owned or leased by the child’s parent or guardian. Pre-registration is required by calling 701-328-5357. A \$10 fee is charged for the course which is about four hours in length.

