

MOOSE RIDERS

Introduction to Moose Riders

Moose Riders are recognized as recreational motorcycling activity groups comprised of good standing members of the Loyal Order of Moose and Women of the Moose—developed by the Moose International Membership Department—and attached to either a sponsoring Lodge or State/Provincial Association.

The Moose Rider Activity Group's primary purpose is to recognize existing Moose member's passions for the sport of motorcycling while fulfilling their obligation of membership; to support Mooseheart and Moosehaven and the programs of Moose International, and their Lodge and to recruit new Moose Members, as an organized group.

Moose Riders are encouraged to promote fraternalism, attract potential new members who enjoy motorcycling, and to use motorcycling as a way to provide a positive community service outlet for Moose members.

Moose Rider Activity Groups may only exist under the protection of a Moose Lodge or a State/Provincial Moose Association corporation. They may not function outside of this protection, nor may they seek individual incorporation. Moose Districts do not offer corporate protection. Any group operating **as an activity group** without this protection, puts its **officer's personal assets** at risk as a result of any suits, claims, or legal actions brought against the group.

Activity Group vs. Club

The term Activity Group is the proper and only classification for a Moose Rider Lodge group. Moose Riders are never authorized to portray themselves as Motorcycle Clubs, Riding Clubs, Units, Chapters, or separate Associations in any way, shape or form.

Moose Riders do not operate under By-Laws. Moose Rider Activity groups are only to operate under the approved Moose Rider Guidelines.

Moose Riders do not pay dues. They contribute activity fees.

Openly portraying or identifying a Moose Rider Lodge Activity Group as a Club (M/C) operating under By-Laws and charging membership Dues misrepresents the group as a separate and autonomous organization, functioning outside of the protection of the Lodge or Association. A paper or information trail identifying the group as a separate club may put the group's officer's personal assets at risk in the event of suit or litigation against the group or individual members.

Any Moose Lodge motorcycle group operating outside of the approved standards will be subject to review and possible disbandment.

Who Can Belong?

Lodge Moose Rider Activity Group membership is open to both men and women, and both may be considered for Moose Rider officer positions. Members need not ride, nor own a motorcycle, but they must be dues paying members in good standing of the Chapter and Lodge to which the Moose Rider Group is attached.

State/Provincial Moose Association Moose Rider membership is open to current members of Lodge Moose Rider Groups AND individuals who are members of a Lodge or Chapter within that State or Province, providing a State/Provincial Moose Rider President and Moose Rider Board of Officers, and a State/Provincial Moose Association Moose Rider Activity Group has been appointed and approved by the State Provincial Moose Association Board of Officers.

If any Moose Rider Lodge Activity Group member has a spouse or significant other who is not a member of the Lodge or Chapter, he or she may be elected as a non-voting, honorary member. In addition, any good standing member of another Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose or chapter of the Women of the Moose may be an honorary member. The privilege of voting on Moose Rider business is reserved for dues paying members in good standing of the Chapter and Lodge to which the Moose Rider Group is attached.

Creating and Maintaining Motorcycle Activity Group in Your Lodge

Members in the Lodge and/or affiliated Chapter must determine if there are enough good standing members to support the formation of a Moose Rider Activity Group. Even though the Moose Rider activity group is geared toward motorcycle enthusiasts, it is open to any good standing member of the Lodge or Chapter, whether they ride a motorcycle or are simply a supporter. At the very least, enough Lodge and/or Chapter members are needed to initially fill the necessary Officer positions outlined in the Moose Rider Guidelines which are available at:

<http://www.mooseintl.org/portal/forms/GenGov/GuidelinesMooseRiders-2008.pdf>

Any good standing Lodge **OR** Chapter member may hold any position in the Moose Rider activity group.

Permission must be requested from the Lodge's Board of Officers to establish a Moose Rider Activity Group within the Moose home. A written request seeking permission to start a Moose Rider group, or a request to be heard in person at a Lodge meeting may be sent through the Lodge Administrator.

Once permission to proceed is received from the Lodge's Board of Officers, a completed copy of the group's Guidelines must be submitted to the Lodge Board of Officers for approval.

A Moose Rider Board of Officers (as laid out in the guidelines) for the group must be established. The initial Moose Rider members may nominate and elect initial Group Officers. The Lodge does not appoint **any** Lodge Activity Group Boards of Officers. An open invitation to the general membership should be extended to attend the first official meeting of the group.

Upon establishing a Moose Rider Activity Group, the Secretary will fill out the Moose Rider Activity Group Notification Form at:

<http://www.mooseintl.org/portal/familyactivities/mooseriders.asp> and send it to the Moose International Membership Department, Attn: Moose Riders.

It is important to keep up with your monthly meetings, even if your area has an “off season” not conducive to riding, and to participate in Lodge events, or establish Moose Rider sponsored events. See mooseride4kids.org for ideas.

State/Provincial Moose Riders

Each State/Provincial Moose Association President may appoint an Association Moose Rider President, **whose primary concern is to foster and develop Lodge Moose Rider Activity Groups within his or her State/Province.** This appointment may be with or without the establishment of a supporting Moose Association Moose Riders Board of Officers. The Moose Association Moose Rider appointment may be continued or terminated at the discretion of the incoming Moose Association President, annually. If the Moose Association Board of Officers allows for the formation of a Moose Association Moose Rider Board of Officers, one may be created, by nomination and vote of the Lodge Moose Rider groups in that State/Province. This is a Moose Association Activity Group that must primarily work with the Moose Association, and its Board of Officers. They, like all Moose membership activity groups are subject to abide by The General Laws and the parameters established in State/Provincial Association Moose Riders Guidelines (revised version to come) as overseen by the Moose Association Board of Officers, on behalf of Moose International.

It is the belief of Moose International that all members of Moose Rider Activity Groups residing within Lodges who are in good standing with their Moose Association should have the opportunity to belong to a Moose Association Moose Rider Activity Group—should one exist—but membership is not mandatory.

Once a State/Provincial Moose Association Moose Riders Activity Group has been established, any individual Moose member residing in that region, whose Lodge does not have an established Moose Rider Activity Group, or does not choose to be a member of a Lodge Moose Rider Activity Group, may apply for individual membership to his or her State/Provincial Moose Association Moose Rider Activity Group.

There is no provision for District Moose Rider **Activity Groups**; there is however, a provision for Moose Rider Districts, **which are geographical designations of Lodge Moose Rider Groups, intended as informational, distributional, and planning groups only.** There are to be no District Moose Rider Board of Officers. The State/Provincial Moose Association Moose Rider President will appoint one Assistant President per District, out of the Lodge Group Presidents of that District whose function is to gather Lodge Moose Rider Presidents within a geographical area (coinciding with the Association Districts), at the request of the State/Provincial Moose Rider Chairman to distribute Moose Association and Lodge event, project, and membership information. Lodge Activity Group Presidents may appoint one of their Lodge Activity Group Officers to assist them in District information gathering and distribution.

As stated above, Moose Districts do not offer corporate protection. Any group operating **as an activity group** without this protection puts its **officers personal assets** at risk as a result of any suits, claims, or legal actions brought against the group.

Identity

Moose Riders vs. M.O.B.

The name Moose Riders Activity Group should be the proper name. This program has been established so that all Lodges may have this activity group within the Lodge. The guidelines that were put in place only allow for Moose Riders. Moose On Bikes is a secondary name for a group of motorcycle riding members, and not the name for the approved Moose motorcycle activity groups appearing in the Moose Rider Activity Group Guidelines as published by the General Governor. **Moose On Bikes, M.O.B., or Moose Bikers** is never the proper **primary** identifying name for a Lodge motorcycle activity group.

Activity Group merchandise

There is no problem with local Moose Riders Activity Groups adopting their own logos or emblems for use on t-shirts or other approved, limited merchandise, so long they are not creating merchandise for public consumption, nor representing the items as official Moose International merchandise.

Moose Rider Activity Groups may produce t-shirts and other garments expressing their individual Lodge identity, however these items will be subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The quantity produced shall not exceed the number of Lodge and Chapter members eligible to become Moose Riders.*
- 2. The images shall not depict the Moose Rider Activity Group as a Motorcycle Club (M/C); bear the term "1%", or otherwise link Moose Riders to any Motorcycle Club affiliation.*
- 3. Custom t-shirt logos may not infringe upon established motorcycling or other recognized industry logos, copyrights, or trademarks.*
- 4. Phrases used may not cross the boundaries of good taste, the rules for acceptable Social Quarters language, nor otherwise disparage or demean the Loyal Order of Moose, the public, or any other organization, race, or religion.*
- 5. Items created may not be sold to the public, with the exception of those created to raise funds during an event for supported charitable 501(c) 3 organizations. They may not be sold for Lodge profit or to benefit an individual Moose member (unless that member in need is to be the beneficiary of an approved charitable event).*
- 6. All garment designs will be subject to the co-approval of the Lodge Board of Officers and the Moose Rider Board of Officers.*

To ensure that there is no conflict, it is best to first submit a copy of the intended merchandise to the Moose International Membership Department, Attn: Moose Riders.

No member may sell merchandise using his or her membership or relationship in the Order for commercial or business purposes, which would be a violation of Section 55.3 #20 of the General Laws. A lodge, member, or activity group of a lodge or association (i.e., Moose Riders Activity Group) may sell merchandise to their good standing members. However, it would be a serious violation of IRS regulations and our laws for a Lodge or Association to sell merchandise to the public.

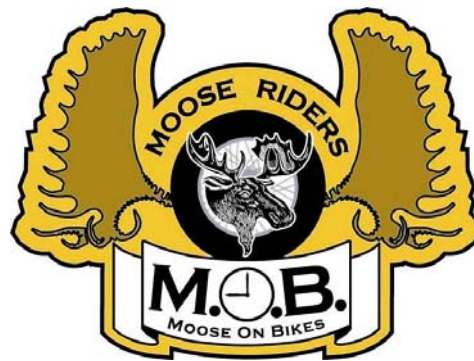
Any merchandise bearing the Moose Rider name and infringing on any popular or known manufacturer, service provider, or motorcycle club's logos, name, or imagery will be considered actionable by Moose International and is strictly prohibited.

The two (2) Moose Rider emblems, recognized by Moose International, identify the Lodge Activity Groups first as Moose Riders.

The large Moose Riders back patch is currently an "out of stock" item, however Moose International is considering making it available again through Catalog Sales.

Imagery and logos

The primary Moose Rider emblem depicts a moose skull mount with antlers on a red shield. Above and centered are the words "Moose Riders". On either side are the initials L.O.O.M. and W.O.T.M. signifying the Loyal Order of Moose and Women of the Moose. Below the mount is a silhouetted motorcycle, identifying us as riders. Below is the Moose Rider motto; "Loyal To The Bone" signifying the Loyalty to the causes of Mooseheart and Moosehaven, going beyond the flesh, to our very core, which is reinforced by the Moose skull mount above.



The secondary Moose Riders authorized international unification emblem depicts a black motorcycle wheel with a black moose head superimposed over it. This is a modernized version of the original L.O.O.M. logo and identifies us as Moose members and motorcycle riders. The wheel is symbolic of "the defending circle". Stylized brown antlers, taken from a 1931 Moose International design are on either side of it. Curved above and centered are the words "Moose Riders", set on a gold field. Appearing at the bottom of the logo is a white banner with a capital "M" flowed by a clock face set to nine o'clock, and a capital "B", under which are the words

“Moose On Bikes”. The initials M.O.B. are *always* to be depicted with the clock face set at 9:00 as the “O” in the center.

The current Moose International Membership Department policy regarding the wearing of back patches is as follows:

*“When worn, the Moose Rider Back Patches must be the dominant feature of the back of the garment to which it is applied. Authorized Moose Rider back patches must not be subjugated to the patch of any M/C or motorcycle owners' group. No other Back Patch or Back Patch Design is recognized as representative of the Moose Riders. Modifications or variations upon the original theme(s), without the expressed written approval of Moose International through the Membership Department are not authorized. Existing Moose Rider back patches that vary from the above examples will be submitted for approval to the Membership Department of Moose International
Attn: Moose Riders.*

Specification of the garment upon which the Moose Rider Back Patch is to be worn is left to the discretion of the individual Moose Rider Activity Groups.

Under no circumstances are Moose Riders to add unauthorized rockers above or below the core patch or wear multi part back patches, or add the designation M/C or R/C to the back patch. This will be cause for the disillusion of the offending Moose Rider group.”

There may be some local resources available to Moose Rider Activity Groups to aid them in becoming known as a neutral motorcycling group. These include becoming active with local ABATE organizations, local chapters of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, and the local Blue Knights. It is also an option for individual members to consider joining the American Motorcyclists Association and displaying their patch. The term “Outlaw Club” refers to the motorcycling group, club, or organization taking an anti AMA stance.

In some cases, because of the prevailing Motorcycle Club activity in a state or region, it is not advisable to wear or display any Moose Rider emblems as back patches. Unfortunately, this is a reality of the greater motorcycling world.

Moose International does not currently have a policy of asking permission of any groups or individuals for the right to be recognized.

Why do we care?

The fact of the matter is, for motorcyclists, it’s a dangerous and sue-happy world out there.

The safety of our members is our first and foremost concern when making decisions at Moose International: physical and emotional safety, and safety of property, and other personal assets.

The secondary concern is that of protecting the brand, equity, intellectual property, and heritage of the Loyal Order of Moose, Mooseheart, Moosehaven, and Moose Riders.

In the motorcycle world, a fact of life is that consistent representation equals consistent recognition. Inconsistent use of disconnected, or non-standardized logos representing Moose Riders sends a confusing message to the public, and diminishes the value of being known as Moose Riders.

Sending the wrong messages with your logo, the placement of patches, identifying your activity group as a Motorcycle Club, and the appearance that you are laying claim to territory, are all ways to get the wrong attention of people who may cause you harm, or cause the breaking up of your Lodge's Moose Rider group.

Lodge Responsibility: Membership Due Diligence

If the Lodge qualifies all new members—as they should—they have no reason to fear being “taken over” by “Bikers”, or of the Social Quarters becoming a “Biker Bar”. Moose Riders are first and always Moose members. The Lodge Board of Officers has an obligation to see that the General Laws are followed and upheld, including verification of the eligibility of prospective members as set forth in Chapter 28 of the General Laws, below.

The Moose Rider program is structured to create a working relationship between the Lodge and the Activity Group, not pit them against each other. An organized and engaged Lodge Board of Officers should look at any activity group as an opportunity, not competition.

“Chapter 28 - Membership

Sec. 28.1 - Qualifications of Membership - *Members of the Order shall be a member of a lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose or a member of a chapter of the Women of the Moose.*

To qualify for membership in a lodge, an applicant must:

- 1. Be a male person.*
- 2. Be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.*
- 3. Not be a member of a terrorist group or recognized subversive organization.*
- 4. Not be a registered sex offender or convicted felon, unless the conviction has been expunged, the conviction has been vacated by an unconditional pardon or a dispensation waiving this requirement has been obtained from the General Governor.*
- 5. Be of good moral character.*
- 6. Profess a belief in a Supreme Being.*
- 7. Have not been expelled from any lodge, unless a special dispensation has been granted in accordance with the laws of the Order.*
- 8. Not currently suspended from membership in any lodge.*
- 9. Not having had an original application for membership rejected in any lodge.*

To qualify for membership in a chapter of the Women of the Moose, an applicant must:

- 1. Be a female person.*
- 2. Be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.*
- 3. Not be a member of a terrorist group or recognized subversive organization.*

4. *Not be a registered sex offender or convicted felon, unless the conviction has been expunged, the conviction has been vacated by an unconditional pardon, or a dispensation waiving this requirement has been obtained from the General Governor.*
5. *Be of good moral character.*
6. *Profess a belief in a Supreme Being.*
7. *Have not been expelled from any chapter, unless a special dispensation has been granted in accordance with the laws of the Order.*
8. *Not currently suspended from membership in any chapter.*
9. *Not having had an original application for membership rejected in any chapter.*

Sec. 28.2 - Application for Lodge Membership - *Each person applying for membership in a lodge must be sponsored by another good standing (active) member of a lodge. A good standing (active) member of the lodge to which the applicant is making application must also endorse the applicant. An applicant must properly complete and sign an official membership application on the form provided by Moose International, as authorized by the Supreme Council. Both the sponsor and endorser must sign the application. The completed application will be a part of the condition of membership between the member and the lodge.*

The answers within the application shall be warranties, and if any answer is materially false, incomplete or incorrect, it may cause forfeiture of all rights and privileges as a member of the Moose Fraternity, unless a special dispensation is granted by the General Governor (i.e., prior felony conviction or registered sex offender). If any applicant is elected or enrolled into any lodge in violation of this section, he shall be dropped from the rolls of the lodge, subject to the right of appeal as set out in Section 60.1. Convicted felons and registered sex offenders not receiving a special dispensation to retain their membership shall be expelled from the Order.

Sec. 28.3 - Application Review Committee - *Every applicant for membership shall be referred to a committee appointed by the Governor of the lodge. The Application Review Committee shall conduct a thorough investigation of the applicant from public records and other non-privileged sources and file a written report to the Board of Officers containing their finding, either favorable or unfavorable. When the Application Review Committee reports unfavorably on an applicant for membership, the Governor or presiding officer shall declare him rejected without the formality of a vote. Unless authorized by the General Governor, a rejected applicant cannot again be proposed for membership until after the expiration of a period of six (6) months from the date of the rejection. If the report of the Application Review Committee is favorable, the applicant shall be voted on in the manner provided by Section 28.4. A majority of the Application Review Committee reporting is sufficient.*

Sec. 28.4 - Voting on Lodge Applicants - *Every applicant for membership, approved by the Application Review Committee, must be voted upon by the membership at a regular lodge meeting. When an applicant is voted on and receives a simple favorable majority of votes cast, he shall be declared elected to membership. The vote shall be taken by the "voting sign of the Order," unless the presiding officer or any member present at the meeting requests the vote be by secret paper ballot."*

Prospective members sponsored by Moose Riders should undergo no more—or less—rigorous investigation that those sponsored by non-riding members.

Events, Fundraisers, and Rides; the Mechanics

Moose Ride 4 Kids Day

As Moose members and Moose Riders, we represent the “Defending Circle” of the Loyal Order of Moose. In that capacity, our loyalty is not only to our local communities, but also to the twin communities of Mooseheart and Moosehaven. We take the responsibility of being surrogate parents of the children of Mooseheart and supportive sons and daughters of the seniors at Moosehaven seriously. To that end, it is only reasonable that Moose Riders plan and execute at least one (1) scheduled event *each* per season benefiting both our children and our seniors. There are numerous worthy causes and charities that do great things for the young and old in our own cities and towns, and plenty of non-Moose riders that support their efforts - but remember that we have taken an oath of responsibility to securing the future for our wards and it is our duty to fulfill our obligation to increase “...the strength of the order by proposing for membership qualified individuals of high personal character...” and to give your “...energy and substance in support of Mooseheart and Moosehaven...”. We can succeed in these efforts by hosting an event that welcomes the public on behalf of Moose Charities.

Moose Ride 4 Kids Day is a Moose International supported, Moose Rider effort to host motorcycle fund raising events across North America, coinciding with the annual Mooseheart Bike Blessing & Run.

Participation may be at the Lodge Moose Rider Group level, Combined District Moose Rider Group level, or as a collective State/Provincial Moose Association Moose Rider Group. The hope is that all Moose Riders will be able to either host or participate in a motorcycle event to benefit Mooseheart, which may be open to the public, between **the third Saturday in May each year** and **Labor Day Monday**.

Moose Rider groups participating in Moose Ride 4 Kids Day will have an opportunity to receive the annual Moose International **Mark “Tiny” Metcalf “Big Heart” Award**, which will be given to one Moose Rider Group in two different divisions. One award will go to each of the **Lodge, District, and State Moose Association** Moose Riders, out of all participating groups, raising the largest dollar amount on or for their Moose Ride 4 Kids Day event. All Moose Ride 4 Kids donations are to be sent each year to Moose Charities and designated for Mooseheart **by September 20, to qualify**. The winners will be announced on **October 1**.

To help aid the coordination of these events and to maximize the media coverage of our national Moose Ride 4 Kids Day events, it is important that contact information and participation plans (see mooseride4kids.org) are passed along to the Membership Department, at Moose International, Attention: Moose Riders in advance of your event.

Other Moose Rider Events:

Planning meetings for your events should include the Lodge Board of Officers. Any time the Lodge property and premises are used all proper insurance policies and dispensation criteria must be met, and the Lodge Board must grant permission.

Rides, Runs, Cook-Offs and other events can be used as open house opportunities and fundraisers, and may include the public—as long as the General Laws are followed to the letter.

Seasonal events may include Poker Runs, Pledge Runs, Raffle Runs, Hog Roasts, and Rides with Biker Olympics competitions or Timed Skills Rallies. Off-season events might be monthly or weekly Moose Rider sponsored dinner nights, a themed night with a showing of Wild Hogs or Easy Rider at the Lodge, a Black & Chrome Benefit Ball, or a Moose Rider Chili Cook-Off or Bar-B-Cue Competition.

Ride Event Process

Any member that wishes to propose a ride may do so with the following requirements:
Inform a Group Officer to ensure the event does not conflict with other Group activities.

Contact at least one Road Captain that is able and willing to act as a ride leader. Road Captains should help coordinate all Lodge Activity Group rides, including: Mapping routes, establishing stop points, providing maps, confirming insurance compliance, informing riders of rules, etc.

The event will then be proposed at the next Moose Rider meeting for group approval and input. A ride committee will then be formed.

Ensure a minimum of 4 members (including at least one Moose Rider officer or committee member of the host Lodge/Chapter) will attend the ride committee meeting. Any ride organized that does not have 4 members (including one Officer) on its committee will not be considered for endorsement.

Ensure the President has the information published in the Activity Group or Lodge newsletter and on the Web Site.

The Moose Rider committee will work with the Lodge Board of Officers in preparation of any planned Moose Rider event that the Lodge will be host to, or be a part of. Each event will be subject to the General Laws. Events will adhere to the restrictions laid out therein. The Moose Rider Activity Group in compliance with the General Laws will seek all dispensations and additional insurance, but Moose Rider events will not be subject to any undue or extraordinary restrictions.

On all Moose Rider sponsored rides, the participants will be required to sign hold harmless and indemnification forms, releasing the host Moose Rider Lodge, Moose International, Mooseheart, Moosehaven, Moose Charities, and any charitable organization involved in the event, from any liability for injuries resulting from participation.

The Moose Riders Activity Groups do not condone riding while intoxicated. Members must use their best judgment when on any ride to limit consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Who Gets the Money?

The Moose Riders may maintain a petty cash amount not to exceed \$500.00 to operate the activity group, and may be replenished out of funds raised for that intent, when needed.

Any additional funds raised BY Moose Rider groups and deposited into the Lodge General Fund are to be used for the intended charitable use, under which the Moose Rider group accumulated them.

Funds may be used as emergency funds by the Lodge, but the Moose Rider group must be notified, give consent, AND under the condition that the funds are replenished for Moose Riders intended purpose.

Funds may be used as funding beyond petty cash reserves for administrative costs needed to facilitate Moose Rider rides, events, activities, and outings.

The Funds can go into a *savings account* earmarked for the Activity group with the stipulation of approval by the Lodge Board of Officers. The only way to withdraw funds is by signature of *both* the lodge Administrator and the Activity group's secretary with all actions approved in advance.

From the Guidelines: "With approval of the lodge Board of Officers and membership and by dispensation of the General Governor, a separate savings account may be established in the name of the lodge for the Lodge Activity Group under such terms and conditions prescribed by the General Governor."

You can't teach a Pit Bull to be a Pointer

Moose Riders tend to be enthusiastic, organized, and willing to take an idea and run with it. They know how to get a job done, though they may not go about it the way non-riders might. They understand how men and women can work together to accomplish a goal, and don't have a problem sharing the praise for a job well done. They're good at problem solving, networking, and fund-raising. Moose Riders are passionate about Mooseheart and Moosehaven, and if given the task, will see to it that the Nine O'clock Ceremony is observed whenever members are gathered in the name of the Moose, and an endowment collection is made.