



20 graduate from area ATV course

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COLEMAN -- Twenty students ranging in age from 11 to 40 years old graduated from a three-day course on all-terrain vehicle education through the North East Wisconsin Riders (NEWR) ATV Club.

The certificate of completion received from the Department of Natural Resources will allow the graduates to operate an ATV in Wisconsin. Anyone over 12 years old can be certified to operate an ATV.

During the classroom segment, students specifically learned what the main parts of an ATV are, safety features, ATV handling and riding skills, rules and regulations, safety and emergency-survival skills.

"After the completion of the two-day classroom segment, students practiced on authentic outdoor ATV trails," John Krause, NEWR ATV club vice president, said.

"Instructors demonstrated trail sign reading, use of hand signals and how to operate ATV's safely while trail riding."

Krause, who is a classroom instructor, said that the club has an ATV precertification quiz online at the club's Web site -- www.newridersatvclub.com -- to test an ATV riders knowledge about the recreational activity before they decide to enroll in a certification class.

According to the DNR, all ATV operators who ride on public riding areas such as trails, frozen waters, routes, permitted county or forest lands must complete a safety certification course. The operators must also carry their safety certification card and must display it to law enforcement officers when requested.

The NEWR club also has certified trail ambassadors that were trained by the DNR in the past. A trail ambassador mainly helps protect the ATV trail system by patrolling the trails periodically to monitor and alert authorities to possible ATV violations. Secondly, they protect the ATV rider by patrolling the trails to alert emergency services and to render basic aid to stranded or disabled riders.

The next ATV education class the NEWR ATV Club will conduct will take place next year on Aug, 4, 11 and 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Coleman Elementary School off U.S. 141. The class is available on a first come, first-served basis.

The first two scheduled days will be indoor classroom book courses and the third day is an optional outdoor hands-on session for about two hours at a location held five miles outside of Coleman.

To register for the class, call (920) 591-0740 or e-mail info@newridersatvclub.com.