



## Verde Valley 4 Wheelers Guide Sheet

# Driver, Leader and Tail Gunner Guidance for the Trail

## All Drivers: Staying Together on the Trail

*We need to stay together in case someone has trouble, and to make sure no one gets lost. This is how we do it:*

- Keep an eye on the vehicle *behind* you. If you haven't seen it in a while, stop until they catch up. Make sure they see which way you go at intersections.
- If the vehicles ahead of you are out of sight too long, get on the radio and let your trail leader know. The leader will stop until everyone is back together.

## All Drivers: Courtesy and Safety on the Trail

*The Verde Valley 4 Wheelers expect the following points of trail courtesy:*

- As a driver you have several responsibilities to make sure you and your passengers have a safe and enjoyable trail ride. Remember, the ride leader is in charge, but it is up to you to have a capable and properly equipped off-road vehicle, have sufficient off-road driving skills for the trail, and to assess obstacles before you attempt them.
- Give your vehicle and equipment a safety and mechanical check before leaving home.
- Be prepared for a trail run that may take longer than planned due to breakage or unforeseen problems. Bring more food and water than you think you will need and be prepared to get home late. Safety always comes first.
- Please know your vehicle limitations and think of your safety and the safety of others before attempting that insane obstacle. We are on the trails to have a fun time, not to get hurt or damage our rigs.
- All members, including officers, are responsible to the trip leader and the trail boss.
- The trip leader and trail boss each have the authority to deny a person participation in a club activity if they do not have the mandatory equipment, or for any other reason.
- All members and guests should be respectful towards others. Remember, we're all here to have a good time.
- Everyone wears a seatbelt.
- Have a GMRS capable radio or borrow one. Radio messages keep everyone on the same page, and that can help keep you and your passengers safe.



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- Use your radio if you need help, want spotting, you are unsure of the direction to go, or if you see someone else needs help or is having trouble keeping up.
- Give the vehicles around you plenty of room to maneuver on the trail. Do not tailgate. If the vehicle in front of you is going up a steep climb, wait until they are safely at the top before you start. Same thing going down a steep slope.
- Remember, uphill traffic has the right-of-way.
- Notify the trail leader if you're leaving the run early.
- Three tries at an obstacle, then get some help or let the next person give it a try.
- Please, no littering. Pick up a little extra trash when you can.
- Adhere to smoking restrictions and be mindful of introducing secondhand smoke. Follow all fire regulations when indicated.
- Stay on the trail. Cross-country travel tracks are unsightly to others.
- Control pets and pick up waste.

## Trail Leader: Pre-Run (if needed)

*The run will be more enjoyable for everyone if it goes smoothly. Sometimes that means a pre-run should be done. Here are suggestions for a pre-run:*

- Confirm the route from the meetup location to the trail head.
- If you're not 100% certain of the trail, you may be able to obtain a GPS track for it. Multiple apps for your phone or tablet work well to follow a GPS track. More information on GPS apps is linked in the Club Info section of the website.
- Select a suitable air-down and driver-meeting location.
- Confirm the trail is open and that the rating has not changed from what was advertised.
- Look for potential 10-100 spots.
- Select a lunch stop.
- Select a suitable air-up location.



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## Trail Leader: Driver Meeting

*It is helpful to call all drivers together briefly prior to leaving the meetup spot.*

*Here are some items to cover:*

- Announce the tail gunner.
- Announce the name of the trail, its difficulty rating and approximate time to finish.
- Remind all that keeping the group together is important, and keeping the vehicle behind them in sight is how we do that.
- Reminder: If the group becomes separated, notify the trail leader.
- Remind participants to request 10-100 stops, camera stops, viewing stops, etc.
- Spotting is available any time anyone asks.
- Ensure any guest vehicles are capable of the trail. They should also have, as a minimum, front and rear recovery points, fire extinguisher, spare tire, radio, suitable tires with a full size spare and a first aid kit. Ask the driver about their experience level.
- Announce the radio channel. Best to use high-power channels for larger groups. It's also best if the tail-gunner has a higher power radio to reach the leader. (See Table)

<u>GMRS Channel</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Max. Power</u>
1	462.5625	5 W
2	462.5875	5 W
3	462.6125	5 W
4	462.6375	5 W
5	462.6625	5 W
6	462.6875	5 W
7	462.7125	5 W
15	462.5500	50W
16	462.5750	50W
17	462.6000	50W
18	462.6250	50W
19	462.6500	50W
20	462.6750	50W
21	462.7000	50W
22	462.7250	50W

Note: Channels 8 through 14 are limited to 1/2 watt (limited range) and are not used by the Club.



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## Trail Leader: on the Trail

*To be most successful, a trail leader not only navigates the trail and promotes the safety of the group, he also supervises any abnormal situations, breakdowns, recoveries and spotting over obstacles.*

- Proceeds at a reasonable pace, keeping it safe and fun.
- Conducts a radio check with each vehicle.
- Calls out trail hazards, oncoming traffic and turns at intersections.
- Expects confirmation of all radio instructions from the Tail Gunner.
- Spots, or arrange spotting any time anyone asks, and at all difficult obstacles.
- Attends any breakdown repairs or recovery tasks. Makes sure safety is first and that everyone helping is being coordinated by a single person.
- Coordinates with the tail gunner and the driver of the broken vehicle to discuss options if there is a breakdown that cannot be quickly repaired.
- If winching is required in a recovery, makes certain the individual in charge is familiar with the [Warn Basic Guide to Winching Techniques](#). And never allows using a hitch ball for a recovery attachment point.
- Stops at suitable intervals for 10-100's.
- Calls out lunch stop, viewing stops, and any other stop.
- Remains at the air-up location until the last person has aired up. Makes sure everyone knows how to get home.

## Tail Gunner: on the Trail

*The tail gunner is most helpful to the trail leader and everyone if they do the following:*

- Reports to the trail leader when all vehicles are moving following a planned stop.
- Repeats all major instructions from the Trail Leader ("Copy - Turn Right at the intersection").



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- Reports to the trail leader when completing a major turn or crossing a major intersection (“We have all made the right turn at the intersection”).
- Asks another driver to relay radio messages if needed (as mid-gunner in larger groups) so that everyone receives all messages.
- Reports any unexpected delays to the trail leader.
- Closes any gates opened by the Trail Leader.
- Reports to the trail leader if the group is being overtaken by faster-moving traffic.
- Reports to the leader when oncoming traffic has cleared the group.
- Advises the drivers of oncoming traffic that he is the last one in the group.

## For All Members: Guest Protocol

*Guests can be invited to some events and on club runs. They are the responsibility of the club member who invited them. Guest drivers are subject to club Driver Guidance in this document and any requests of leadership.*

- Guest passengers in member rigs will need drinking water and lunch.
- Guest vehicles must be satisfactory for the trail. They should also have, as a minimum, front and rear recovery points, fire extinguisher, radio, suitable tires with a full size spare and a first aid kit.