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A Members Guide to  
Participating in Club Events

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## 1. Overview

It is the goal of Hummer X Club to operate safe, family friendly events that are enjoyable for those attending. While the emphasis is on everyone enjoying the event, safety is the overriding factor, along with respecting the environment.

There are some very simple steps that you need to follow to help insure that events are both enjoyable and safe for everyone.

## 2. Pre Event Planning

There are a few small steps that need to be completed before the event.

- i. Make sure that your vehicle is prepared for the trail, that there are no known issues, fluids are all topped up, and test all 4WD systems.
- ii. Check your recovery gear, first aid kit and fire extinguisher, and make sure they are easily accessible.
- iii. Carry any spare parts and associated tools that you feel may be needed.
- iv. Print and complete an event waiver if required and bring it to the event. A new event waiver is required for each calendar year.
- v. Make sure you know where and when you will be meeting, and if required get directions.
- vi. You may be on the trail for some time, make sure you have plenty to drink, food, sun block, etc.

## 3. Event Meeting

Make sure that you arrive early and have any paperwork ready. The event sign in sheet must be completed for each event. Participants cannot participate in an HXC event without signing the sign in sheet and having an event waiver for the current year on file.

While waiting to start on the trail, ready your vehicle for the trail, air down if necessary, make sure everything is securely tied down, etc.

The event meeting will cover the club rules, the principles of Tread Lightly<sup>®</sup>, the trail that will be run, communications channels, taking notice of Trail Guides, local factors, (ie: sun block, drinking water, bug repellent, etc), and what to do if you require help or assistance.

Make sure you understand **all** the Trail Rules and the principles of Tread Lightly<sup>®</sup>. If you are not clear on the plan for the event and what is expected of you, please ask.

Finally, an exact time for the group to start driving will be set, which vehicle to follow and where to stage the vehicles. Please make sure you are ready.

## **5. Trail Leader & Trail Guides**

Every event will have a Trail Leader, someone who will make the decisions on the trail, obstacles to be attempted, and as the name suggests they will lead the group on the trail. They may not always be driving the lead vehicle and may delegate that at times, but they will be in overall charge of the event as it pertains to the trail.

The Trail Leader may be the Chapter President, or someone appointed by the Chapter President.

The Trail Guides (also known as “spotters”) are there to assist the event participants, especially on obstacles and tough terrain. They are not there to open doors for people or carry their luggage.

You are not on a guided tour, but are partaking in a group sport. This requires you to assist with spotting, recoveries, and generally assisting your fellow travelers whenever possible.

The Trail Leader and Trail Guides are responsible for keeping the group together. They will stop and wait for all participants at intersections or areas where there is ambiguity as to the correct route. They will also stop at regular intervals, if necessary, to ensure that everyone is okay and that there are no issues. Please be considerate of your fellow travelers and keep up with the group.

## **6. The Trail**

During the event the Chapter President, Trail Leader and Trail Guides will make sure that everyone is following the club rules. If anyone is breaking the rules, this will be pointed out. If the club rules are continually broken the participant may be asked to leave the event. Their activity may endanger themselves and others.

If you feel you do not have adequate experience to complete harder obstacles or terrain or are uncomfortable doing so, discuss this with the Trail Guides or Trail Leader.

When tackling obstacles, walk the obstacle first, understand the route you will be taking, and how to drive the vehicle over that route. Do not tackle anything with your vehicle that you are not comfortable with and willing to do freely.

When approaching obstacles, the lead vehicle will often move forward far enough to allow all vehicles to clear the obstacle. If spotting is required for the obstacle, wait for the Trail Leader or a Trail Guide. Do not just follow a vehicle through an obstacle without assistance, unless you are 100% certain that you do not need assistance. If you told to wait for assistance, please do so.

Make sure you follow the principles of Tread Lightly®. If you see an infraction occur, immediately explain the correct approach to the issue to the person involved, and let everyone else know the correct approach, or inform the Chapter President, Trail Leader or Trail Guides so they can do so. Do not just stand by and watch people damage the environment. We are there to enjoy the event, but not at the cost of the environment.

Some obstacles or terrain will present the potential for vehicle damage. Wherever possible this will be pointed out to you. But you are responsible for your own actions and making your own decisions, do not tackle any obstacles or terrain that you are not comfortable doing so.

In the event there is any issue, stuck vehicle, damaged or broken vehicle, injured person, etc, all vehicles should stop. The Trail Leader should be requested and options discussed with the participant and Trail Leader. Once a course of action is decided upon, any vehicles or persons not required to complete the action should be moved away from the area, with clear instructions as to where to proceed to. During vehicle recoveries and repairs, safety is the overriding priority, take your time and ensure that everyone is safe during the operation.

If you have concerns about anything on the trail, let someone know.

Not all vehicles are equal on the trail. While the Club welcomes all vehicle types and does not discriminate against any vehicle type, it is important to understand that just because one vehicle completed an obstacle, another vehicle may not be able to do so. Do not tackle obstacles beyond the capability of your vehicle.

### **Trail Basics:**

- Ask for assistance if you need it
- Drive as slow as possible, but as fast as necessary
- Do not park or stop at top or bottom of hills
- Keep an eye ahead to avoid surprises
- When in doubt, get out and look
- Drive directly up and down hills
- Do not turn around when on a hill
- Air down if necessary
- Cross ditches and logs at an angle
- Avoid spinning the wheels
- Minimize use of brakes, use low range and 1st gear
- Do not over steer or over correct
- Steady progress through water creating a "bow wave"

### **Trail Etiquette:**

- Stay on the trail
- Give way to vehicles going up hill
- Avoid "digging" holes with your tires
- Always keep the vehicle behind you in sight
- Drive responsibly and protect the environment
- Give way to hikers, bikers, horse riders, etc
- Do not park so as you block the trail
- Do not tail gate the vehicle in front of you
- Keep out of the way of vehicles tackling obstacles
- Give aid to anyone in distress or stuck
- Do not litter
- No alcohol on the trail
- Be patient

## **7. Communications**

Good communication on the trail can save a lot of time, alert people to difficult sections of trail, and allow for the group to stay in contact.

Most importantly make sure you know which channels are to be used and that your comms device is set to the correct channel. When you set off on the trail perform a quick radio check to ensure that your unit is working and that you can communicate with others.

If you see a potential problem with the trail, with another vehicle, or if a vehicle is having difficulty with an obstacle, use your comms device to let people know.

Keep idle chatter to a minimum, especially in the vicinity of obstacles, as others may not be able to communicate important information in a timely manner.

## 8. Club Rules

### *i. No Alcohol*

No consumption of beer, wine, liquor, etc, will be tolerated on the trail. Violation of this rule will result in immediate exclusion from the event.

### *ii. No Littering*

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find places to wheel without having more shut down due to mistreatment of the environment. Please take your litter with you.

### *iii. Follow the Trail*

Follow the trail and do not wander off the trail, do not create new bypasses around obstacles. Keep the vehicle behind you in sight at all times. Do not attempt to pass the vehicle in front of you while on the trail unless instructed to do so and obviously no speeding. We travel as a group, so please be considerate to others and keep up with the group.

### *iv. Obstacles*

Do not start to tackle an obstacle unless you are comfortable doing so. If you require a spotter or assistance request it before starting the obstacle. Wait for the vehicle in front of you to complete an obstacle, (including steep descents or ascents) before you start to tackle it. Once clear of an obstacle move forward enough to allow all vehicles to clear it. Do not park at the top or bottom of an obstacle or hill. While waiting to tackle an obstacle ensure you and your vehicle are a safe distance from it and out of harms way.

### *v. One Stuck, All Stuck*

If someone gets stuck, then the group needs to stop until a plan is formulated to recover the vehicle. If someone is stuck, stop and render assistance, do not leave them there. Do not try and drive around stuck vehicles unless instructed to do so.

### *vi. Recovery Gear*

There is very little gear you need for going off-road, but there are some essentials that every vehicle should have.

Fire Extinguisher  
Shackles (2)

Recovery Strap  
First Aid Kit

Leather Gloves  
Comms Device (FRS or CB)

### *vii. Children and Pets*

Children or pets that are allowed to run loose on the trail endanger both themselves and the drivers of other vehicles. Please keep your children and pets adequately supervised at all times.

### *viii. Participation*

You are not on a guided tour, but are partaking in a group sport. This requires you to assist with spotting, recoveries, and generally assisting your fellow travelers. If you see someone experiencing trouble, offer assistance, if you feel you are not experienced enough, ask for assistance from a Trail Guide.

**ix. Safety**

Do not turn a blind eye to rule infractions. Either address them yourself or report unsafe conduct to the nearest Trail Guide or Trail Leader, the life you save could be yours or a loved ones.

***Safety and respect for the environment are the number one priorities at any event.***

**9. Tread Lightly®**

Understand the principles of Tread Lightly® and follow them. If you see anyone breaking them, politely explain this to them and let them the correct course of action. Most infractions are from ignorance and not intentional, simply pointing out the correct approach will go a long way to preventing future infractions and help educate your fellow travelers.

Travel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas.

Respect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitat and sensitive soils from damage.

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

More information on Tread Lightly® can be found at their web site at <http://www.treadlightly.org/>

**10. Post Event**

At the conclusion of the event, check your vehicle. You should look underneath the vehicle for potential damage, and carefully check the tires for any damage. Particular care should be taken to look for dried leaves, grass or other combustible material underneath the vehicle.