

Starting a Moose Riders Activity Group

Elect Officers and add appointments for other positions as outlined in the Guidelines.

Pick a Charity to support in addition to Moose Charities. One of the many positive things about Moose Rider groups is interaction with the public. Mooseheart and Moosehaven are near and dear to the Moose, but they are not so well known by non-Moose. By supporting a known charity in your area, you'll have an opportunity to introduce non-members to our mission and devotion to Mooseheart/Moosehaven and possibly encourage their membership.

All applications for membership will be made available to the group Board of Officers for approval.

All riders must show proof of insurance on vehicles used in activities.

Decide on your annual activity participation fees – Some groups start at as low as \$5.00. This money is credited to your Moose Rider Lodge account. (See **Guidelines, Article VI; (E) Treasurer; Sec (2)**)

It is important ***not*** to categorize Moose Rider Activity Groups as Motorcycle Clubs. The Moose Rider **Activity Group is not a Motorcycle Club**. It is an Activity Group of the sponsoring Lodge. It may appear to be a small detail, but unnecessary conflicts or legal and liability risks may arise if this is not established locally. Also, **3-part patches are never to be worn** on the backs of Moose Rider vests or jackets and are not endorsed. A three part back patch signifies a territorial claim within the Motorcycle Club community and can be the unwitting start of conflicts. This could have repercussions for Moose Riders everywhere.

Moose Rider groups are recognized by Moose International, just as any other activity group, as a legitimate and positive outlet for the growth of our membership and as a positive public relations opportunity. Moose Rider activity groups **answer to the PMA, the Lodge Board of Officers and Moose International**. So long as the Moose Rider Lodge activity group adheres to the letter of the Moose Rider Guidelines and Rules therein, the activity group has a legitimate right to exist. The fundamentals for starting a recognized Moose Rider Lodge Activity Group are as follows:

Motorcycle riding members in the Lodge or affiliated Chapter must determine if there are enough good standing members to support the formation of a Moose Rider Activity Group. Even though Moose Riders is an activity group 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, you will need to have enough Lodge and/or Chapter members to initially fill the necessary Officer positions outlined in the Moose Rider Guidelines. Any good standing Lodge or Chapter member may hold any position in its Moose Rider activity group.

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

Once permission is received from the Lodge's Board of Officers to proceed, a 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 Charter Moose Rider members may elect Charter Officers. An open invitation to the general membership should be extended to attend the first official meeting of the group.

Meetings may be as simple or involved as desired, but **must follow the procedure laid out in the Guidelines**. They may be used to plan future rides; plan how to help grow the Lodge and Chapter

membership and in turn, the Moose Rider unit membership; consider involvement in area motorcycle events; plan support of special events at the Lodge; gather orders for Moose Rider merchandise from Catalog Sales; determine community service projects, and pick a local charity to include with fundraising efforts for Moose Charities, Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

Good standing members from other area Lodges or Chapters may be invited to become "honorary members" of the Lodge's Moose Rider Activity Group. This means they will be included in mailings and notices, be invited to ride and attend or volunteer with group events and be allowed to attend meetings. However, they are not allowed to vote on Moose Rider business. They may choose to transfer to the host Moose Rider Lodge or Chapter, and they would qualify for full voting member privileges at that time.

PLEASE SEE THE "RULES & GUIDELINES" FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions contact Bud Balliet PMA Moose Riders Chairman at mooseriders@pamoose.org or your Regional Chairman