



Why start a Moose Riders Activity Group in your Moose District/Lodge?

The Moose Rider program is one of the fastest growing, active and most visible Activity Groups of the Loyal Order of Moose. Moose Riders are a great way to show your community that the Moose is a vibrant and relevant fraternal organization.

The Moose Rider program puts members “out on the street” on your behalf as community ambassadors.

Moose Riders can be a great public interface on behalf of the District/Lodge and Chapter. Moose Riders are a motorcycle activity group of a host District/Lodge and Chapter. They are ambassadors of the Loyal Order of Moose and exist at the pleasure of the Board of Officers of their District/Lodge and the Virginia Moose Riders. It is expected that they will be active and productive in all efforts; to promote the Loyal Order of Moose, to follow the General Laws of the Order, to support Mooseheart and Moosehaven, and to observe all local and state laws and regulations.

Moose Riders can help your District/Lodge to qualify for Superior grades on Moose Community Service Reports.

Moose Riders participate in hundreds of Community Service qualified events each year. They ride as, and are identified as, Moose members in a group and represent your District/Lodge and Chapter in doing so. The participation of a group of **two or more** Moose Riders **representing your District/Lodge** in runs or rallies to benefit charitable organizations is applicable to your quarterly Community Service report.

Moose Rider Activity Groups can be a great membership-building tool

Explained correctly, the Loyal Order of Moose, and Moose Rider membership can be a very attractive concept to motorcyclists and a positive alternative to joining any average “motorcycle club”. As Moose members, motorcyclists gain access to nearly 1700 Lodge facilities across the country, places where they’ll be welcomed to partake of a meal, some entertainment, and fraternal fellowship. Moose Rider membership focuses riders’ charitable support toward Mooseheart and Moosehaven as well as other Moose targeted efforts including Special Olympics, Safe Surfin’, Moose Alert/Rescue Riders, Yell and Tell, and others.

Moose Rider Activity Group events appeal to the public.

Moose Rider Activity Groups provide District/Lodges and Chapters additional “open House” or public invited opportunities to tell the Moose story to those who might not be familiar with it, and help to raise funds for the District/Lodge and Chapter at the same time.

Starting a Moose Rider 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.

Virginia Moose Rider dues are \$15 per year. Some groups start at \$15 until the Charter is filled, then increase the fee to \$20.

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 District/Lodge. It may appear as 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 vest or jackets and are not endorsed. A 3-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 District/Lodge Board of Officers, the Virginia Moose Rider Board of Officers, and Moose International. So long as the Moose Rider 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 Activity Group are as follows:

1. Motorcycle riding members in the District/Lodge and 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 District/Lodge or chapter, whether they ride a motorcycle or are simply a supporter. At the very least, you will need to have enough District/Lodge and/or Chapter members to initially fill the necessary Officer positions outlined in the Moose Rider Guidelines. Any good standing District/Lodge or Chapter member may hold position in the Moose Rider Activity Group.

2. Request permission from the Virginia Moose Riders Board of Officers to establish a Moose Rider Activity Group the Moose home. A written request or a request to be heard, in person, at a District/Lodge meeting to seek permission to start a Moose Rider group may be sent by email to the Virginia Moose Rider Board of Officers.
3. Once permission is received from the Virginia Moose Rider Board of Officers to proceed, a copy of the group's Guidelines can be obtained from the Virginia Moose Rider website.
4. A Moose Rider Board of Officers (as laid out in the guidelines) for the group must be established. An open invitation to the general membership should be extended to attend the first official meeting of the group.
5. 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 grow the District/Lodge and chapter membership and in turn, the Moose Rider Group membership; consider involvement in area motorcycle events; plan support of special events at the District/Lodge; gather orders for Moose Rider merchandise from Catalog sales; determine community service projects; or pick a local charity to include with fundraising efforts for Moose Charities, Mooseheart and Moosehaven.
6. Good standing members from other area District/Lodges and Chapters may be invited to become "honorary members" of the District/Lodges 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 District/Lodge or Chapter, and they would qualify for full voting member privileges at that time.

Participation in Rides and Events and Charitable Causes.

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 per season to benefit our children and 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.

The Moose Riders Activity Group will not discourage any member from attending any charity motorcycle event.

Any ride/event organized and conducted by another riding group that accepts the public may be brought forward and proposed for the Moose Rider Activity Group to participate in.

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

It is the right of any Officer to dismiss any Moose Rider participant from any ride if, in the Officer's judgment, the participant's drinking may be a hazard to themselves or other participants in the ride or the Officer deems that a motorcycle is in an unsafe condition for that the participant is driving in an unsafe manner.

Moose Events

1. Any member that wishes to propose a ride may do so using the following as a guide:
 - a. Inform a Group Officer to ensure the event does not conflict with other Group activities
 - b. Contact at least one Road Captain that is able and willing to act as a ride leader. Road Captains should help coordinate all District/Lodge Activity Group rides, including: mapping routes, establishing stop points, providing maps, confirming insurance compliance, informing riders of rules, etc.
 - c. The event will then be proposed at the next Moose Rider meeting for group approval and input. A ride committee will then be formed.
2. The Moose Rider committee will work with the District/Lodge Board of Officers in preparation of any planned Moose Rider event that the District/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 General Laws will seek all dispensations and additional insurance, but Moose Rider events will not be subject to any undue or extraordinary restrictions.
3. On all Moose Rider sponsored rides, the participants will be required to sign hold harmless and indemnification forms, releasing the host Moose Rider District/Lodge, Moose International, Mooseheart, Moosehaven, Moose Charities, and any charitable organization involved in the event, from any liability for injuries resulting from participation.