



Desert Mountain Four Wheel Drive Club

By-Laws

Approved, 16 May 2023
Revised, 18 February 2026



By accepting your membership into the Desert Mountain Four Wheel Drive Club you hereby agree to the By-Laws of the club as written below.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Desert Mountain Four Wheel Drive Club, which may also be known by the acronym DMFWDC.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

DMFWDC is organized as a nonprofit club for the purpose of:

- A. Providing social, educational, and recreational activities related to off-roading for its members.
- B. Promoting and participating in safe and responsible off-roading and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) activities that adhere to the principles of Tread Lightly.
- C. Exploring, maintaining, preserving, and enjoying OHV trails with fellow members and guests.
- D. Enjoying and preserving national forests, wilderness areas, and all outdoor recreational areas.
- E. Educating members on the Tread Lightly concept and encouraging them to pack out more than they pack in.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

A. TYPES

1. There shall be three classes of membership: Single, Family, and Associate.
2. Single Membership – Shall be for one individual member who is at least 18 years old. This membership entitles the member to one vote, as required, and one door prize ticket (funds permitting) during monthly meetings, provided the member is in good standing. Members must be present to win. Good standing is defined as having dues current.
3. Family Membership – Entitles two members, 18 years of age or older, who live in the same household, to vote. This membership includes two votes and two door prize

tickets (funds permitting) during monthly meetings, provided both members are in good standing. Both members must be present to cast their votes; one member may not cast both votes.

4. Associate Membership – For members who, due to distance or other constraints, are unable to regularly participate in club business and events, but wish to maintain contact and support the club. Associate members may not vote or hold office but retain all other rights and privileges of membership.

B. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Prospective members must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid driver's license. All licensing and insurance coverage are the responsibility of the applicant.
2. Applicants must complete a membership application and submit it to any active member, who will forward it to the Executive Council (EC) at the next regular meeting.
3. Prospective members must sign the Waiver and Release of Liability and Video Release statements prior to participating in any club-sanctioned event.

C. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Members must be registered owners of an operational four-wheel-drive vehicle or side-by-side, be at least 18 years old, hold a valid driver's license, and meet New Mexico vehicle and insurance requirements.
2. Members should reside in the local area to attend meetings and events.
3. Prospective members must attend two meetings and two events prior to being voted on.
4. Prospective members will be voted on at a regular meeting after meeting all requirements. A majority vote is required for approval. If present, the applicant will step out during voting.
5. Upon approval, must pay dues based on the month of approval, new members will receive a welcome package which can be found on the website in the members area and will receive a club sticker. Dues may be prorated based on the month approved.
6. Members will receive a copy of the By-Laws and must read and agree to them, as well as sign all required waivers. Members must maintain good standing by keeping dues current.

D. MEMBER TERMINATION

1. Membership may be terminated or not renewed by a two-thirds vote of members present at any meeting. No dues will be refunded.
2. Causes for termination include (but are not limited to):

- Falsification of application information
 - Failure to pay dues
 - Actions that reflect negatively on the club
 - Violation of By-Laws
 - Driving under the influence during club events in a manner that endangers others
3. Members may voluntarily terminate membership by notifying an EC member. Termination takes effect at the next meeting. Dues are non-refundable. Members who cease participation and fail to pay dues may be removed from the roster.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

A. Single Membership dues are \$25.00 annually and include one vote and one door prize ticket (funds permitting).

B. Family Membership dues are \$35.00 annually and include two votes and two door prize tickets (both members must be present).

C. Members joining after February 1st will pay prorated dues.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Single	25.00	23.00	21.00	19.00	17.00	15.00	13.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
Family	35.00	32.00	29.00	26.00	23.00	20.00	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00

D. Dues are due in January and delinquent after March. Membership privileges are suspended until paid.

E. Associate Membership dues are \$15.00 annually.

F. Dues are non-refundable.

G. Dues support club activities, including prizes, merchandise, and events.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

A. Meetings are held monthly and may be held more often at the EC’s discretion.

B. Meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday; time and location will be determined by the EC.

C. Changes will be communicated via the website, Facebook group, text, or email.

D. At least one officer must be present. Attendance will be recorded.

E. Meetings will follow these By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Order.

F. Suggested meeting format:

1. Opening (Pledge, introductions)
2. Financial report
3. Officer/committee reports
4. Membership updates
5. Unfinished business
6. New business (including scheduling runs)
7. Open discussion
8. Door prizes
9. Adjournment

ARTICLE VI. GENERAL VOTING

A. Each member shall have one vote, with Family Memberships exercising a maximum of two votes. Members must be present to vote.

B. Proxy voting is not permitted.

C. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote. The President shall not vote on motions except to break a tie but may vote in officer elections.

D. A quorum shall consist of voting members in good standing present at any regular meeting. A majority vote of those present is sufficient for any action, including elections.

ARTICLE VII. VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

A. All vehicles operated on the public roads must be registered and insured in accordance with New Mexico state requirements.

B. Vehicles must have seat belts for all passengers.

C. Vehicles must have a roll cage or factory-installed rollover protection (hard top or equivalent).

D. Vehicles must be in safe mechanical operating condition.

E. A spare tire within two inches of the primary tire diameter is **highly recommended**.

F. Front and rear tow/recovery points are highly recommended. **Do not use ball hitches** for recovery, as they can become dangerous projectiles.

G. Communication devices (GMRS or FRS radios) are highly recommended. Members are responsible for any required licensing.

H. Each vehicle should be self-sufficient. Recommended items include, but are not limited to:

- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Cell phone
- Food and water sufficient for all occupants for the day

I. Additional recommended items:

- Spill kit
- Flashlight
- Jumper cables
- Extra food and water (just in case)
- Compass or GPS
- Functional winch
- Tow straps
- Tools
- Spare parts

ARTICLE VIII. TRAIL RUN RULES AND ETIQUETTE

A. All members, including officers, must follow the direction of the Trail Leader and designated assistants during trail runs. Members may not demand route changes or unscheduled stops. Participants must join only at the designated time and location unless otherwise approved.

B. All trail runs must be conducted safely and in an orderly manner. Runs on private property require landowner permission and may require liability waivers.

C. The Trail Leader will appoint a Tail Gunner. The Tail Gunner ensures all gates are closed and maintains communication with the Trail Leader. Maintain visual contact with the vehicle behind you. If contact is lost, stop and notify the group via radio.

D. In the event of a breakdown, the Trail Leader will determine the best course of action. Repairs should be attempted if feasible; otherwise, the vehicle should be removed from the trail. Vehicles should not be left overnight unless absolutely necessary. All recovery costs are the responsibility of the owner. No member should be left alone.

E. Members are responsible for their guests. All occupants must wear seat belts. Vehicles may be inspected and may be disqualified if deemed unsafe. All participants must comply with New Mexico laws.

F. Members and guests must follow Tread Lightly principles. Stay on designated trails and pack out all trash.

G. Firearms may be carried in accordance with applicable laws. Safe handling is mandatory at all times. Shooting is only permitted at designated times and locations approved by the Trail Leader.

H. Consumption of alcohol or intoxicating substances during trail runs is strongly discouraged. All applicable laws must be followed. The club does not condone impaired operation of vehicles.

I. Pets must be under control at all times. Repeated safety issues will be addressed individually.

J. No person under 18 may drive during events without written parental or guardian consent and must comply with New Mexico laws.

K. All participants must sign required waivers. A parent or guardian must sign for minors.

L. Safety is the top priority—when in doubt, consult the Trail Leader.

M. Trail ratings are subjective. Members should confirm trail suitability with the Trail Leader if unsure.

ARTICLE IX. SANCTIONED EVENT RULES AND CONDUCT

A. Events approved at monthly meetings are considered sanctioned. An event lead will be appointed by the EC. Participants must sign required waivers when applicable.

B. Events must be conducted safely and may require landowner permission and liability waivers.

C. Individuals under 18 may not drive without parental permission and must comply with New Mexico OHV laws.

ARTICLE X. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE XI. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- A. The **Executive Council (EC)** consists of at least three elected officers.
- B. The EC shall meet as needed.
- C. Vacancies should be filled promptly by a vote of members. If necessary, the President may appoint an interim replacement.
- D. EC decisions affecting members must be approved by a vote at a regular meeting.
- E. EC members may vote at meetings, except the President, who only votes to break ties.
- F. Qualified candidates must be members in good standing for at least six months.
- G. The EC will review the By-Laws annually.

ARTICLE XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. Candidates must be members in good standing for at least six months.
- B. Terms are one year.
- C. Members may hold only one office, except Secretary may be combined with any other position
- D. Elections occur in December. Nominations occur in November. Nominees must accept nomination in advance or be present.

ARTICLE XIII. OFFICERS

Officers include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the immediate past President (serving one additional year on the EC).

ARTICLE XIV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS / TRAIL LEADS

- A. The President presides over meetings and oversees club operations. The President and Treasurer may authorize financial transactions and must not be related.
- B. The Vice President assists and assumes duties in the President's absence.
- C. The Secretary maintains records, membership lists, and archives.
- D. The Treasurer manages funds, maintains records, and reports financial activity.

E. Trail Leaders:

- Appoint a Tail Gunner
- Ensure waivers are completed
- Conduct a driver's meeting
- Communicate safety rules, radio channels, and expectations

ARTICLE XV. RECALL / REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

A. Officers missing two consecutive meetings without notice may be removed.

B. Officers may be recalled by a two-thirds vote with prior written notice.

ARTICLE XVI. COMMITTEES

Committees may be established as needed by the President.

ARTICLE XVII. FINANCES

A. BANK ACCOUNT (if established)

- The Treasurer maintains the account
- Two signatures required on checks
- Authorized signers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
- No related signers
- Treasurer may hold a debit card
- Receipts must be documented
- Unauthorized purchases are the responsibility of the purchaser

B. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

- Must be approved by the EC
- Receipts required
- Over \$100 requires member approval
- No compensation for services rendered

ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments require a two-thirds vote of members present. Members may propose changes, which will be reviewed by the EC before voting.

ARTICLE XIX. WAIVERS

All members must sign liability and video release forms.

ARTICLE XX. INFORMATION MEDIA

A. The club uses a website, private Facebook group, email, and YouTube channel for communication and content.

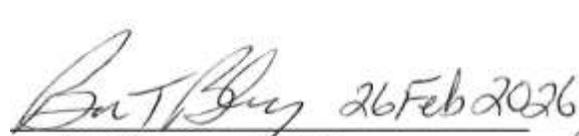
B. Email is the official communication method.

C. Online content should reflect a positive, professional image of the club.

ARTICLE XXI. DISSOLUTION

If dissolved, all debts will be paid and remaining assets distributed to a qualified nonprofit organization selected by the EC.

DMFWDC By-Laws voted on and approved: 25 Feb 2026 via email.



President Signature and Date



Vice President Signature and Date