This is an introductory slide to show how many folks in the room actually use ATV’s (most of them).

Ask the class to name some industries that use ATV’s. There will be a list pop up but the students can likely name industries not on the list.

The first picture is a wedding cake topper to illustrate that ATV’s are, indeed, everywhere! The second picture is a wildland firefighting ATV.

This slide introduces a bit of history concerning ATV’s. Military usage got things started with the Army GP Vehicle or ‘jeep’. The German vehicle in the second picture is pretty odd but was used for the same purpose. These kinds of vehicles were used along side motorcycles.

The Army mule in the third picture was still in use until very recently for moving smaller amounts of supplies.

This slide is some history but the important picture is the second one showing the blue Honda three-wheeler. This machine eventually led to the four-wheelers everyone loves today!

Take some time to discuss the US Gov’t.’s ban of three-wheelers and why they did it (too many injuries). Point out to the class that this could happen again with four-wheelers. A lot of the class will not believe this can happen. Point out that no one thought three-wheelers would be banned, either (I know, I was there).
Now we get into the safety part of the lesson. Our 8th graders will make sure you know how unsafe, and therefore cool, they are on four wheelers. Just play along and don’t let them tell too many stories.

Stress to the group that before anything protective gear such as helmets are used, COMMON SENSE can prevent serious accidents and injuries. Point out that it is better to avoid an accident than to survive one!

This slide asks the class several questions related to the banning of three-wheelers and the reason behind it.

As the questions pop up, make sure you allow the class to discuss each one before moving on.

The whole point to this slide and the previous slide is that if injury numbers run too high the US government can ban four wheelers whether our 8th graders think it’s possible or not!

This slide begins the list of safety rules. The class won’t enjoy these rules because its cool to be unsafe but make sure to go over each one. You can ask for discussion or ask the class to explain what they think each rule means. Make them THINK!

The picture at the end show a little girl on a small four wheeler. She has a helmet (good) and is on a machine that fits her (good). However she has no eye protection (bad) or any other protective equipment (bad).

This slide finishes up the safety rules. See the first paragraph above.

The photo at the end show two cute kids on a four wheeler. They are on a youth-sized machine (good) however, they have no protective equipment what so ever (very bad) and there are two people on the four wheeler (bad).
Now we change gears (no pun intended) and talk about keeping our ATV’s in good working order.

Point out that properly maintaining our ATV can help us have a safe ride AND vice versa. For some reason, 8th graders also think that doing maintenance on an ATV (changing oil, filters, etc.) is also un-cool.

Point out that these machines (which parents have bought) are very expensive. You owe it to your parents to make sure your four wheeler lasts as long as possible.

This slide and the following two slides talk about some of the systems on an ATV that should be checked periodically in order for the machine to 1) operate safely, and 2) last a long time.

Just go over these points and, if you don’t know much about mechanics, get the class to discuss them. There will usually be at least one ‘gearhead’ in the class who actually knows a bit about how an ATV works.

This slide introduces the class to some of the environmental aspects of ATV usage. Read the statement and have the class think about it for a minute before answering.

Most will react without thought and condemn the statement. Discuss that the statement talks about public land not private land and that all of us have seen examples of erosion and garbage left by off-roaders.

The point is to be responsible riders, another thing that is ‘uncool’ for the 8th grade crowd to admit.
ATV Safety

So what can be done to try to avoid losing riding privileges on public land?

- Be Responsible!
- Travel only in areas open to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use.
- Minimize wheel spin. Do not block, avoid roosting around the apex of the turn when climbing or braking, and ensure both sides of the trail are cleared.
- Slow down when sight lines are poor. Cross streams only at designated crossing points, where you can see the other bank. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Buddy up with two or three riders, reducing vulnerability if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.

This slide does give some specifics for sharing the trail with horses. Not all horses are used to loud engines and fast moving machines. Racing by or around riders on horseback can spook horses and cause serious accidents and even death.

Please be considerate of horses. They are our original ATV’s!

This is my ‘just for fun’ slide.

This is also for fun and for a huge COOL factor. This is DTV Shredder. It’s the brainchild of a couple of MIT grads looking to make an adventure/sport machine. Now the military is buying them.

Look them up online and watch the YouTube videos. These things are cool!