

## Which ATV Is "Right"

Whether you are just getting into the sport of ATV'ing, or if you have been in it for quite some time, you are, no doubt, aware of the vast selection of ATV's from which to choose.

We recommend that you first decide what you will use the quad for the most. There are currently three "basic" categories that ATV's are manufactured in. They are:

**Sport** - These ATV's are typically built for more aggressive driving. They are typically better in rough terrain at "speed", maneuvering at "speed" & jumping.

**Sport Utility** - These ATV's are attempting to bridge the gap between "Sport" & "Utility" models. Be careful here. When you attempt to have the "best of both worlds", remember you are giving up something on "both sides". The most common error we see is the person who mostly uses their "sport utility" for "work" and then goes out for a trail drive with their buddies on their sport ATV's. They start wanting the "sport" portion of their "sport utility" to keep up with the sport ATV's. They over drive the ATV and commonly end up having an incident.

**Utility** - These ATV's are typically built for doing work. Better at plowing, pulling, slow speed maneuvering and can be more "stable".

Once you have decided which "category" of ATV you want, the next will be to look at the physical size of the ATV. Remember "more" is not always better nor is "less" always better. The manufacturers of ATV's have established age to engine size "recommendations":

ATV's engine size under 70cc - Age 6 and older

ATV's engine size from 70cc - 90cc - Age 12 and older

ATV's engine size greater than 90cc - Age 16 and older

*Dealers are restricted, by the manufacturers, to only sell ATV's, according to the above guidelines. The only effective way we know of, to avoid "confrontation" with your dealer, is to not discuss youth operation of the ATV. You are not breaking any laws, by choosing an ATV for your youth, that is outside of the manufacturers recommendations.*

While these recommendations are a good place to start, in Michigan, anyone can drive any ATV they wish. When it comes to "youthful" operators, and for all operators for that matter, there is much more to consider than simply the age of the person relative to the ATV's engine size. A person too large for the ATV can be just as dangerous as a person too small for the ATV. Take into consideration the following items:

### **The operators mental capacities:**

Be sure the person operating the ATV has the ability to make decisions and act on those decisions as well as "interpret" or "see" potential problems and avoid them successfully.

### **The operators physical strength:**

Be sure the operator has the necessary "strength" to maneuver the vehicle they are driving. Even a full grown adult can sometimes struggle to maneuver a full size 4 x 4 ATV.

### **The operators ability to reach all controls:**

Be sure the operator can physically reach and effectively use all of the controls that are operated, both by the hand's and feet, while seated, turning the handlebars full to the Left and full to the Right.

### **The operators proper inseam clearance:**

Be sure the inseam clearance of the operator is greater than the rated suspension travel on the ATV. The inseam clearance is measured between the operators "inseam" and the top of the "seat" of the ATV, while standing on the footrests of the ATV. The rated suspension travel can be found in your owners manual.

We trust this information will help you in finding the "right" ATV for you, your child or even when you are considering who you will allow to "use" your ATV.