



# Dune School 101



**First let's familiarize you - "the operator" with some of the "Dune" vocabulary!**

**ORV** - Off Road Vehicle

**OHM** - Off-Highway Motorcycle

**ATV** - All-Terrain Vehicle

**DUNE READY VOUCHER** - A Dune Ready Voucher allows vehicles with a license plate from public highways (trucks, jeeps, etc.) to go straight into the sand dune ORV area.

**PARKING LOT VOUCHER** - Parking Lot Vouchers are for those who require a staging or parking area for their tow vehicle and/or trailer.

**SPARK ARRESTER** - A spark arrester is a device intended to prevent combustible materials, usually sparks or other tiny flaming debris, from escaping into areas of the dunes where they might start fires.

## What are Hours of Operation?

The hours of operation are based on a non-peak and peak season operation.

April 1st - May 15th 9am - 8 pm (7:30 pm)

May 16th - Labor Day 9am - 10 pm (9:30 pm)

Day after Labor Day - October 31st 9am - 8 pm (7:30 pm) **Please note: the gate closes a half an hour prior to closing time.**

## What do I need for my ORV to enter the sand dunes?

You will need an ORV sticker, a voucher, a state park sticker, a 10 foot orange safety flag, spark arrester, and deflated tires. Refer to the top ten "Know your Dune Safety" tips for what to wear. You will need either a valid driver's license or an approved ORV Safety Certificate to operate any vehicle. You may need to be under direct visual supervision depending on your age. Please seek out the [Michigan.gov/dnr](http://Michigan.gov/dnr) website for more information.

## What are the requirements for my safety flag?

If the vehicle has a steering wheel and seat belts, the flag needs to be mounted to the front of the vehicle. If you straddle the vehicle, the flag is mounted on the back. The flag consists of a rectangular, 50 square inch, safety orange flag reaching 10 foot in height. Flags and mounting brackets are available at most local shops.

## What are the requirements for a spark arrester?

It must be stamped as a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) approved exhaust system which prevents the escape of carbon deposits from your motor. Without them there is greater risk of fire on the road, through the woods, entering the dunes, within the dune grass areas, and any where you drive. They also help your muffler meet the 94 DBh sound limits.

## What PSI should my tires be?

Setting full-sized vehicle tires at 15 to 18 psi is adequate to help with traction in the sand.

## What are the operator's age requirements?

Children between the ages of 12 and 16 must possess an approved ORV Safety Certificate and must be accompanied by an adult at all times on the dunes. The direct visual supervision of an adult must be from a distance no greater than 50 feet so a parent or guardian will need to be riding along side the youth. An ORV safety certificate holder can only operate an ATV or an OHM. Children or adults may not drive a road ready vehicle without a valid driver's license.

## What is the purpose of a voucher system?

The purpose of the voucher is to hold the ORV user's place in line by staggering arrival times to two hour blocks to reduce excessive lines. For example you may get a dune ready voucher from 9am to 11am; you can then enter at that time only. Once you enter the dunes based on your arrival time you then may come and go any time during that day, however, lines may be excessive dependent on traffic. You must be 18 or older and you may get two Dune Ready Vouchers for each day starting on Friday or one Parking Lot Voucher per day. All Vouchers must be validated at the ORV Voucher Center Office with a special stamp.

## What vehicle needs to present the voucher?

The lead vehicle needs the voucher, any vehicles on or in trailers, in tow, or in the back of pickup trucks, etc. does not.

## When and where can I get a voucher?

- The Voucher Center is located on Fox Rd. between 24th Avenue and Ridge Rd on the south side of the road.

Voucher Center distribution normally begins every Friday at 12 noon until 11 pm, unless a Holiday is involved. Times are subject to change without notice due to demand.

- Dune Ready Vouchers are distributed from 12 noon to 11 pm beginning on Friday's or earlier in the week depending on holiday dates. Vouchers can also be acquired all day Saturday and Sunday. You may pick up Dune Ready Vouchers for both Saturday, Sunday, and/or the Holidays on Friday.

- Parking Lot Vouchers are given out the evening before you intend to use them starting at 9 pm Friday night or the night before a Holiday. The Parking Lot Vouchers need to be picked up one day at a time unlike the Dune Ready Voucher. Please keep in mind that the parking lot only has limited spots. Most patrons line up prior to the 9 pm distribution time. If you are unable to acquire a Parking Lot Voucher the evening before, you will be put on a priority list for the following morning for any vacancies that may occur.