



Trip Leaders Guidelines

Planning the Trip

Before setting out on a trip, it is important that some basic planning is completed to ensure that the event is conducted in such a way to ensure that it is both enjoyable and safe for everyone. Selection of the route is the most important consideration. The Trip Leader should endeavour to be conversant with factors such as hazards, points of interest, campsites and expected weather conditions etc.

Consideration should be give to the following:

1. Type – determine the trip type eg, day trip, weekend, outback trip etc
2. Destination – determine the destination and/or areas to be traveled
3. Duration – determine the trip duration and likely stop-overs
4. Route – Plan route (tracks) to include alternate routes in case of adverse conditions
5. Trip Rating – rate the trip to the highest expected standard and be prepared enroute to make changes to suit weather or track conditions. It should be noted that four wheel driving is unpredictable by its very nature and variation from the expected degree of difficulty is very possible. The following rates should be used as a guide:

Description of Ratings:

GREEN Scenic/Social – Sealed roads and some good unsealed roads or tracks. No four wheel driving experience required. Road tyres are acceptable.

GREEN Easy – Little or no Four Wheel Driving experience required. Road tyres are acceptable. Front and rear recovery points at Trip Leaders discretion. Expected track classification to be encountered.

BLUE Medium – Low range may be needed with a snatch strap recovery possible. All terrain tyres preferred. Front and rear recovery points (rated), basic recovery gear (Snatch strap, 2 rated shackles and gloves), and appropriate driver training. Expected track classification to be encountered .

BLACK Hard – Steep terrain or rutted tracks. Snatch strap and / or winching recovery may be required. All terrain tyres acceptable, mud terrain tyres preferred, road tyres are not acceptable. Front and rear recovery points (rated), basic recovery gear (snatch strap, 2 rated shackles and gloves), and appropriate driver training. Winch and full recovery gear is preferred. Expected track classification to be encountered

RED Extreme – very steep, deeply rutted tracks or rock hopping will be encountered. Front and rear recovery points (rated), full recovery gear (snatch strap, rated shackles, tree trunk protector, winch extension, drag chain and gloves), and appropriate driver training. Winching will be expected and an electric or motorized winch is compulsory on all vehicles. (Long travel suspension, diff locks, winch, aggressive tyres essential) Warning: Vehicle damage may occur. Expected track classification to be encountered

Track Classification

A track grading classification scale has been developed to assist in advising Trip Leaders and participants on 4WD trips of the type of tracks that they can expect to encounter.

Trip Leaders should inform participants of the range of track ratings expected to be encountered on the planned route.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

GRADES ARE ASSESSED ASSUMING FINE WEATHER CONDITIONS. RAIN MAY CHANGE A GRADING DRAMATICALLY.

The following classifications will assist in determining on overall Trip Rate:

Rating	Description
GREEN	All Wheel Drive, High Range, Road Tyres
BLUE	Mainly High Range but Low Range required, Road Tyres
BLACK	Significant Low Range, Standard 4WD Ground Clearance, All Terrain Tyres, Should have appropriate 4WD Driver Training or Experience
RED/EXTREME	Low Range. High Ground Clearance. Mud Terrain Tyres. Winch/Recovery Equipment. Should have appropriate 4WD driver training. Experienced Drivers Only.

Participants – decide on the number of 4WD vehicles, and the number of participants appropriate for the nature of the trip. It is recommended that no more than 30 participants are included on four wheel drive trips. This is primarily an environmental issued and for groups later than 30, then extra consideration should be given to minimize the environmental impact of the group at rest areas, camping grounds and during vehicle recoveries.

Equipment – assess if any special equipment will be required i.e. hand winch, chain saw, appropriate first aid kits etc. It is highly recommended that a fire extinguisher should be installed in every vehicle in a visible and easily accessible location

Vehicle Requirements – depending on trip duration and locations, you may need to remind vehicle owners of their responsibility to ensure their vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately set up for the trip. Vehicles are required to have a front and rear recovery point fitted.

Permits – check if permits are required for the area or areas that you may pass through

Season – decide on the time of year to run the trip

Supplies – consider, fuel, food, water, clothing, camping requirements, accommodation

Convoy Communications – determine minimum radio requirements for the trip in accordance with club policy

Emergency Plans – develop an emergency plan in response to potential incidents such as bush fires, personal injury, mechanical or vehicle damage, alternative routes, Total Fire Bans etc.