



Earth Riders (ER)	The Question	Earth Riders Trails Association, Inc. (ERTA)
	Is the group logo different?	
Yes!	Can I be a member?	No, ERTA is a memberless 501c3 corporation registered in the State of Missouri
Yes!	Can I donate money?	Yes!
No	Is it tax deductible?	Yes! (501c3)
No	Do they organize Trail work?	Yes!
Yes!	Do they organize rides?	No
Yes! (social and officers)	Do they have meetings?	Yes! (organizational/business)
No	Do they make agreements with land managers?	Yes!
Yes!	Do they have sponsors?	Yes! (or at least Events with Sponsors)
www.earthriders.com	Do they have a website?	www.earnyourdirt.org
Officers elected by the membership	How is the group run?	Officers appointed by an Advisor Board, which is made up of local Trail Managers, Trail Stewards and other trail advocates.
Provide local mountain bikers an outlet to organize and congregate for the purpose of riding, discussing mtb related issues and supporting the efforts of local trail advocate groups like ERTA.	What's the purpose?	To provide an officially recognized entity with which governments and land managers can enter into formal contracts with to provide singletrack trail opportunities to individuals and clubs like ER. Also, a federally recognized corporation able to accept tax deductible donations to help fund those trail opportunities.
Yes! Usually monthly gatherings, informal rides and annual events like Bonk-toberfest!	Do they organize events?	Yes! Organize trail work days, MTB singletrack Summit and local IMBA Trail Care Crew visits.

<p>Hold social events, hold monthly meetings, fund website expenses, fund discussion forum expenses, donate to local advocacy groups (like ERTA) and help support the efforts of groups like the Midwest Mountain Bike Patrol.</p>	<p>What do they do with their money?</p>	<p>Build trails, provide signage for trails, purchase/operate(fuel)/maintain trail building equipment, map trails, fund website expenses, prepare and provide formal proposals to government entities (both written and verbal) and provide educational opportunities to both government entities and individual users.</p>
<p>Earth Riders can still continue to provide the types of activities that most members enjoy and count on as part of their membership without having to be concerned with meeting IRS regulations for a not-for-profit organization.</p>	<p>Why can't just one organization do both functions?</p>	<p>At the time ERTA was formed, the best (legal) advice we received was to not mix business with pleasure for liability and accounting considerations.</p>