

February

2025

**It's a Jeep thing...
you wouldn't
understand.**

We are a Not-for-Profit Organization designed to coordinate and support off-road events, to foster pride and friendship within the Jeep community, to preserve proper use of public lands, to actively participate in related programs such as Tread Lightly, and to offer volunteering efforts to other non-profit, charitable, and public/government organizations. This chapter was started to better serve the Branson/Springfield and surrounding areas. Memberships are open to any family or individual that owns a Jeep vehicle.

Ozarks Jeep Thing

**Ozarks Jeep Thing Serving Springfield,
Branson, and Surrounding Areas**

[OJT Website](#)



Upcoming Adventures

[Pizza My Heart](#) – Saturday 2/15/25
\$10 dollar buffett w/ drink and back road shenanigans.

[Kansas Rocks](#) - Saturday 2/22/25
\$25 per vehichle and \$5 for passengers 12 and older. Offroad adventures with TWO Badge of Honor Trails.

[J&D Offroad Park](#) - Saturday 3/1/25
\$30 per vehichle. Fun for all with optional lunch afterwords.

For more events, see the Events Tab on the OJT website.

February Vendor of the Month

Big O Tires

10% off at the Ozark location
only.

Ask for Jared.



Memberships

Good news! All memberships have been successfully carried over from the old site to our shiny, mud-free new home. 🙌

To check your membership details, follow these steps:

1. Click the drop-down menu next to your name on the site.
2. Select “My Account”.
3. Then, click “My Subscriptions”.

Pro Tip: Don’t forget to check your email junk folder—it’s where important emails like to hide. To ensure you don’t miss out on updates, add these email addresses to your address book:

- ozarksjeepthing@wixsiteautomations.com
- notifications@wix-groups.com

Merch Corner

Visit the shop here: [Shop](#)

- Merch sales have officially closed. Pick-up will be during the March meeting. Merch below is still available!
- OJT Logo Beanies \$18
- The 2025 Wall Calendar (\$20) is available for purchase as a “print on demand” item.
- 20th Anniversary Metal Badges are available in limited quantity for \$10.

Next Meeting March 4th

@ Skybox Lounge 1271 E Montclair St, Springfield, MO 65804

The March meeting is also our annual meeting. We will be voting on the Vice President, Treasurer and the if we want to transition to a 501(c)(3). More information on what that transition looks like is on the next page.

Fun Fact: Did you know that the iconic seven-slot grille on Jeep vehicles was inspired by the design of the original World War II military Jeeps?



501(c)(7) (social club) to a 501(c)(3) (charitable organization)

Summary

Transitioning from a 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(3) involves a fundamental shift in the organization's purpose, governance, and operational practices. The change means moving from a member-focused social club to a public benefit organization with increased regulatory oversight, stricter operational guidelines, and opportunities for broader fundraising through tax-deductible donations.

Purpose and Activities

- **501(c)(7):** Designed for social, recreational, or other club purposes that benefit its members. The primary focus is on providing a space for members rather than serving the general public.
- **501(c)(3):** Must be organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or similar purposes that benefit the public. Activities must align with one or more of these approved purposes.

Tax Deductibility and Funding

- **501(c)(7):** Contributions are generally not tax-deductible, and the organization relies on member dues and similar revenue.
- **501(c)(3):** Contributions are typically tax-deductible for donors, which can open up opportunities for fundraising from a broader audience, including grants and public donations.

Governance and Operational Structure

- **501(c)(7):** May have a governance structure focused on member benefits and participation with less stringent reporting requirements.
- **501(c)(3):** Requires a formal governance structure that includes a board of directors with defined roles and responsibilities. The organization must follow strict recordkeeping and operational guidelines to ensure that its activities serve the public interest.

Restrictions on Activities

- **501(c)(7):** Limited primarily to activities that benefit the club's members.
- **501(c)(3):** Subject to strict rules regarding political activities and lobbying. The organization cannot participate in political campaigns for or against candidates, and lobbying activities must remain within limited bounds.

Application Process and Compliance

- **501(c)(7):** Generally, has a simpler application and operational compliance process.
- **501(c)(3):** Requires a detailed application process (typically filing IRS Form 1023 or Form 1023-EZ) that includes:
 - A comprehensive description of the organization's purpose, programs, and activities.
 - Detailed financial information and projections.
 - Documentation of the governance structure and bylaws.
- **Ongoing Compliance:** 501(c)(3) organizations must adhere to annual reporting requirements (such as filing IRS Form 990), maintain meticulous records, and ensure that all activities continue to align with the stated public benefit mission.

Mission and Public Benefit

- **501(c)(7):** Focus is on member satisfaction and benefits.
- **501(c)(3):** The mission must be clearly defined to serve the public interest. This includes demonstrating how the organization's activities provide a public benefit rather than merely serving private interests.

Photo Corner

Recent photos from our adventures submitted to FB by OJT members.

