

Nicole Forto December Update

Here's what we are wondering this month:

1. We noticed that you said you were training with your brother Tyler. We were wondering how old he is and is he training for the Junior Iditarod too?

My brother is 19 and the cut off age for the Junior Iditarod is 17 so he is too old now, but he is going to school to become a history teacher!

2. What do you think will be the hardest part about the Junior Iditarod?

The hardest part I think will be running on the Yenta River because there are so many different trails and so many different people on the river all at once.

3. Have you picked your team yet? Who is your best dog?

I have planned my team but it is all up in the air because there is always a chance a dog will get hurt. I'd have to say I have two perfect great dogs. One is Ringo. He is the oldest in the dog yard and our best overall leader. My first year racing he was my confidence boost that helped me make it through it all. The other is my main leader Ty-Ty. I trained her from day one and she really only likes to lead and run for me.

4. Are you getting more or less nervous as the race gets closer and closer?

The big thing about races is that you will be as nervous as nervous gets all until the race actually starts!

5. Do you know how many people have signed up so far?

As of right now I know there is one other person signed up. [Editor's Note: According to the Junior Iditarod Facebook page, there are actually six mushers in addition to Nicole signed up: Conway Seavey (veteran) from Sterling, AK, Ashley Guernsey (rookie) from Moos Pass, AK, Ben Harper (veteran) from Wasilla, AK, Kevin Harper (rookie) from Wasilla, AK, Joan Klejka (rookie) from Bethel, AK and Joshua Klejka (veteran) from Bethel, AK.]

6. Will you have lots of extra time to run your dogs over Winter Break? How far will you run? Will you run every day? Even on Christmas?

Yes, I'll be training a lot because my dad has his first race in less than 2 weeks. [Editor's Note: Robert Forto is signed up to run the Knik 200 which starts the first Saturday in January.]

7. How is training going?

Training is going great! Each dog is running harder and harder each day.

8. What do you need to do next to get ready?

We need at least one camping practice and lots and lots of training runs