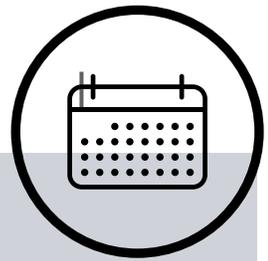




MUSH ON!

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM A TEAM OF DOGS



MARCH 2026 VOL. 6, NO. 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March:
7 Ceremonial Start
8 Iditarod Re-start
22 Finisher's Banquet - Nome

July:
21-24 Summer Conference
Poland Spring, ME
(Just outside of Portland)

EDU PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Junior Iditarod

The 49th Junior Iditarod is in the books. Our Teacher on the Trail, Kari Wright, was at the Yentna checkpoint in the -35 degree Fahrenheit temps checking in the 10 junior mushers to their halfway point. As you can see, it was a cold race!

This year's winner was 14 year old Stanley Robinson. The amazing thing about Stanley is that he was also Rookie of the Year. His sister, Emily, is a 4 year past champion so Stanley had a lot to live up to. He beat the 2nd place finisher Isaac Redington by 40 minutes, and he beat Red Lantern winner, Torleif Bentzen, by 7 hours.

The Junior Iditarod is always the week-end before the Iditarod starts so they are the "kick-off" to the big race. You can get more information about the Junior [here](#).



Junior Iditarod winner Stanley Robinson

WHAT'S NEXT IN EDU? Musher Grams

Musher grams are one of the Iditarod traditions that race fans love! Over the years, thousands of messages have been sent to checkpoints to cheer on mushers or wish them good trail.

Musher grams are sent through a call center and a new online platform, giving you the ability to send a message to your musher of choice on the trail! When the messages arrive at a checkpoint, our volunteers will print them off and deliver them to the mushers.

Although we can't guarantee every musher gram is delivered, our volunteers do their very best to get the special messages from race fans to the mushers!

Click here to send yours:
<https://iditarod.com/mushergrams/>

KARI'S CORNER TEACHER ON THE TRAIL



Here we go Trail Teachers! The week we've all been waiting for has finally arrived! The mushers are prepared, the dogs are trained, and we teachers are beyond excited to bring this incredible adventure to our classrooms! I am so honored to be your connection between the race and the students. This year the theme will be "Letter of the Day...the Iditarod Way!" Beginning with the letter A and mushing all the way to the letter Z, each day will bring you not only events, experiences, interactions, and perspectives from the trail, but lesson ideas and activities that begin with that letter as well. So keep an eye out for everything from bush planes and biographies for "B" to web sites and word problems for "W". So let's get out there together and "race through the alphabet...one letter at a time"! Click [here](#) for Kari's lessons.



K9 Reporter - Zuma
Educators Conference



Bow, WOW, WOW! There are a lot of teachers around here this week. Teachers from all over are learning from presenters how to use Iditarod in their classrooms. Some past Teachers on the Trail are here sharing classroom ideas, Race Director Mark Nordman was here explaining how this race is put together, and Jeff Schultz gave the teachers a valuable photography lesson. That was just the first morning!

Wednesday is always Field Trip day so teachers came here to Iditarod Headquarters to witness vet checks and, hopefully, get to see their favorite musher. From here they went to Martin Buser's Happy Trail Kennels where they were treated to a talk by Martin and lots of dog pets and kisses in the dog yard.

The week isn't over yet for these teachers before they head back to their classrooms. There are more presentations, the Musher Banquet, Ceremonial Start and Re-Start. Join us next year for conference fun.

If You Mush Know
Lynne Witte

What are vets checking for at the checkpoints?

Basically the veterinarians use the acronym **HAW&L** to check over the canine athletes as they arrive at checkpoints.

- H - Heart and Hydration**
- A- Appetite and Attitude**
- W - Weight**
- L - Lungs and Legs**

Everything is written down in the musher's Vet Book which is a mandatory item. No vet book? Your race is done!



Iditarod[®] EDU

EDITORS:
 Linda Fenton
 Terrie Hanke
 Jim Deprez

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
 Linda Fenton
 Kari Wright
 Lynne Witte

PHOTOGRAPHY:
 all by iditarod.com unless otherwise credited

ARTWORK:
 Jon VanZyle

Newsletter feedback, questions, or suggestions?
 email: linda.fenton@iditarod.com

Follow Iditarod EDU on [Facebook](#)





VOCABULARY WORD OF THE MONTH

Dog Handler

Getting 16 excited dogs to the starting line can be a challenging task. Dog handlers are used to help the mushers hold the dogs back.



5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1
RACERS ARE OFF TO NOME!

Dog teams are leaving the starting chute on Sunday, March 8 from Willow Lake. Each team will have 16 dogs to start the race and those 16 dogs will each need a dog handler. There is a lot of noise - barking and howling - when a team is getting ready to start, but as soon as they begin to run, all is quiet.

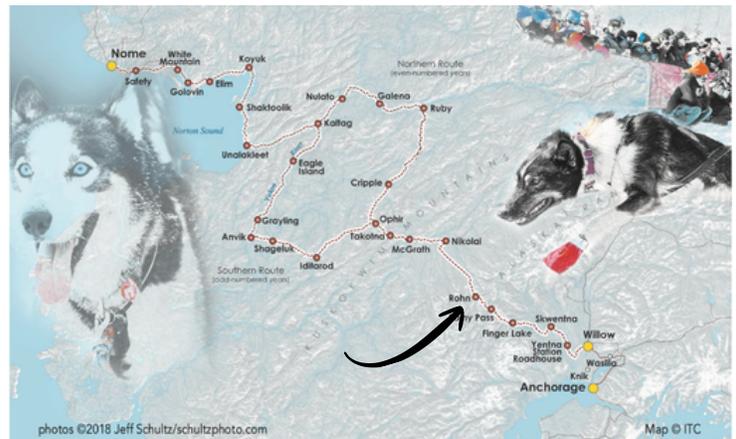
Teams leave the chute at 2 minute intervals so the first team, wearing Bib #2 (Bib #1 is reserved for the "Honorary Musher") will start at 2:00 PM AK time. Bib #36 will leave at 3:10. How is that fair?!? Each musher is required to take a 24 hour layover - this is where the time is made up. Bib #36 will take exactly 24 hours, Bib #35 will take 24 hours PLUS 2 minutes . . . Bib #2 will take 24 hours PLUS 1 hour and 10 minutes. Now the teams are on even time. When all the teams have taken their 24 hour layover, that's when we know who is truly in the lead.

Checkpoint of the Month

Rohn

Population: 0

This spot, along with Rainy Pass, boasts spectacular scenery. Welcome to Rohn Roadhouse, the grand entrance to the flat, frosty interior! Here, mushers brace for the chill as they glide along the South Fork of the Kuskokwim and Tatina Rivers. Once a bustling hub for dog teams hauling mail, the original roadhouse has vanished, but fear not! The checkpoint lives on in a charming 1930s cabin.



photos ©2018 Jeff Schultz/schultzphoto.com

Map © ITC

Rohn



This isn't fake!

This dog paw has what looks like a tattoo of a dog paw on one of its pads! Create your own tattoo on the dogpaws below.

