



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 27, 2021

Musher start order set for Iditarod 49

Wasilla, Alaska – Due to COVID-19 mitigation protocols, the Iditarod has set the starting order for the 49th running of the Last Great Race on Earth using a digital order generator to randomly select names for the official start order, taking into account the two separate draw batches based on when mushers signed up for the race.

“This draw method was just one more way to ensure musher health and safety leading up to this year’s race,” said Race Marshal Mark Nordman. “Because the traditional mushers banquet is postponed, and other in-person, pre-race meetings are virtual this year, the mushers will not physically be in same place until the actual start at Deshka Landing. It is disappointing that the mushers will be unable to get their customary time on stage to thank their supporters, but we look forward to doing this in person in 2022.”

Mushers will be recognized and profiled during the [Iditarod Pre-Race Show](#) on Thursday, March 4, at 5 p.m. AST on Iditarod.com.

The 49th Iditarod race includes 13 women and 34 men, made up of 12 rookies and 35 veterans. Four former Iditarod champions are back in the race and four countries are represented in the field. Five competing mushers have participated in 18 or more Iditarod races.

The official 2021 Iditarod race start order is:

Bib No.	Musher Name	Sex	City	State	Country	Status
2	Aaron Peck	M	Grande Prairie	AB	Canada	Veteran
3	Pete Kaiser	M	Bethel	AK	U.S.	Veteran
4	Kristy Berington	F	Knik	AK	U.S.	Veteran
5	Jeremy Traska	M	Two Rivers	AK	U.S.	Rookie
6	Richie Diehl	M	Aniak	AK	U.S.	Veteran
7	Jeff Deeter	M	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Veteran
8	Dennis Kananowicz	M	Tolsona	AK	U.S.	Veteran
9	Ramey Smyth	M	Willow	AK	U.S.	Veteran
10	Nicolas Petit	M	Girdwood	AK	U.S.	Veteran
11	Gunnar Johnson	M	Duluth	MN	U.S.	Veteran
12	Hal Hanson	M	Kenai	AK	U.S.	Rookie
13	Anna Berington	F	Knik	AK	U.S.	Veteran
14	Ryne Olson	F	Two Rivers	AK	U.S.	Veteran
15	Brenda Mackey	F	Two Rivers	AK	U.S.	Rookie
16	Riley Dyché	M	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Veteran
17	Matt Hall	M	Two Rivers	AK	U.S.	Veteran
18	Chad Stoddard	M	Anchorage	AK	U.S.	Rookie
19	Christopher Parker	M	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Rookie



20	Ryan Redington	M	Skagway	AK	U.S.	Veteran
21	Brent Sass	M	Eureka	AK	U.S.	Veteran
22	Joanna Jagow	F	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Rookie
23	Dallas Seavey	M	Talkeetna	AK	U.S.	Veteran
24	Jessie Royer	F	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Veteran
25	Wade Marrs	M	Willow	AK	U.S.	Veteran
26	Michelle Phillips	F	Tagish	YT	Canada	Veteran
27	Will Troshynski	M	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Rookie
28	Mille Porsild	F			Denmark	Veteran
29	Matt Failor	M	Willow	AK	U.S.	Veteran
30	Joshua McNeal	M	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Rookie
31	Susannah Tuminelli	F	Willow	AK	U.S.	Rookie
32	Aliy Zirkle	F	Two Rivers	AK	U.S.	Veteran
33	Travis Beals	M	Seward	AK	U.S.	Veteran
34	Martin Buser	M	Big Lake	AK	U.S.	Veteran
35	Sean Williams	M	Chugiak	AK	U.S.	Rookie
36	Aaron Burmeister	M	Nome/Nenana	AK	U.S.	Veteran
37	Cody Strathe	M	Fairbanks	AK	U.S.	Veteran
38	Lev Shvarts	M	Willow	AK	U.S.	Veteran
39	Dakota Schlosser	M	Willow	AK	U.S.	Rookie
40	Dan Kaduce	M	Chatanika	AK	U.S.	Veteran
41	Joar Leifseth Ulsom	M	Mo i Rana		Norway	Veteran
42	Paige Drobny	F	Cantwell	AK	U.S.	Veteran
43	Larry Daugherty	M	Eagle River	AK	U.S.	Veteran
44	Jessie Holmes	M	Brushkana	AK	U.S.	Veteran
45	Rick Casillo	M	Talkeetna	AK	U.S.	Veteran
46	Cindy Gallea	F	Wykoff	MN	U.S.	Veteran
47	Sean Underwood	M	Talkeetna	AK	U.S.	Rookie
48	Victoria Hardwick	F	Bethel	AK	U.S.	Veteran

Dubbed the [Iditarod Gold Trail Loop](#), the race route will follow a portion of the traditional Iditarod southern race route to the checkpoint of Iditarod, and then continue to the mining ghost town of Flat before looping back to the southern route in a course that is approximately 852 miles.

The race will start on Sunday, March 7, at Deshka Landing at 2 p.m. Fans of the race are encouraged to watch the start on television via the Iditarod's broadcast partner Alaska's News Source or free online at Iditarod.com.

###



About the Iditarod: The Iditarod Trail Committee is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the rich tradition of the Alaska sled dog and the Iditarod Trail. The organization is charged with coordinating the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, an annual long-distance sled dog race stretching from Anchorage to Nome for nearly a 1,000-mile journey through Alaska over the roughest, most breathtaking terrain in the world.

In 2021, the Iditarod will run a modified route to allow for community safety precautions. Read more about the Iditarod's [COVID-19 mitigation protocols here](#). For more information, visit: www.iditarod.com.

Media contact:

Bri Kelly, Thompson & Co. Public Relations

Email: bri@thompsonpr.com