



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inaugural Expedition Musher Completes the Iditarod Trail

Nome, Alaska – The first-ever Expedition Musher, Kjell Inge Rokke, completed the historic Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Trail on March 16, 2026, marking a milestone for the newly created Expedition Class.

The Expedition Class was designed to allow select mushers to travel the Iditarod Trail alongside the 2026 competitive field under a non-competitive designation. Expedition participants are not included in official race standings, are not eligible for prize money or Special Awards, and are not competing for the Iditarod Championship.

Expedition mushers operate under Race Official oversight, adhering to strict dog care and safety standards. They may receive outside assistance, swap dogs, and take flexible rest periods — all permitted under this special designation. Every dog is subject to pre-race and on-trail veterinary protocols, with final authority resting with the official Iditarod veterinarians.

“Kjell Inge Røkke has made history as the first Expedition Musher to complete the Iditarod Trail to Nome,” said Iditarod CEO Rob Urbach. “We congratulate him on an impressive accomplishment. The Expedition Class allows participants to experience the trail while preserving the integrity of the competitive race and the welfare of the dogs, and we are proud to see this new chapter begin.

The successful completion of the trail by the inaugural Expedition Musher represents a historic milestone for the program and a celebration of the Iditarod’s spirit of adventure, teamwork, and dog care.

The Iditarod Trail Committee congratulates Kjell Inge Rokke for completing the journey and making history as the first Iditarod Expedition Musher to complete the Iditarod Trail.

Click [here](#) for more information on the Expedition Class and the 2026 Iditarod or visit iditarod.com.

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