



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2026

Musher start order set for the 54th running of The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race®

Anchorage, Alaska – A lively crowd of over 1,100 race fans, sponsors and supporters filled up the Dena’ina Civic Convention Center for the annual Iditarod Musher’s Drawing Banquet. The banquet is the largest fundraiser for the Iditarod Trail Committee, which is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

The 54th running of the Last Great Race on Earth® includes 29 Americans (19 Alaskans, 3 mushers from Michigan, 1 from Alabama, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire and Wisconsin), 6 international mushers (4 Canadians, 1 Dane and 1 Norwegian). The field of 37 mushers is made up of 12 women and 25 men; 14 of which are rookies, 23 are veterans and 3 are past champions. Three of these 37 mushers are part of the Iditarod’s Inaugural Expedition Class. The race will run the [Northern Route](#) this year, taking mushers through Cripple, Ruby, Galena, Nulato and Kaltag. Tonight, the mushers drew for their respective starting order and the official 2026 Iditarod race start order is:

2	Adam Lindenmuth	M	Willow	AK	USA	Rookie
3	Rohn Buser	M	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
4	Travis Beals	M	Seward	AK	USA	Veteran
5	Ryan Redington	M	Knik	AK	USA	Veteran
6	Kjell Rokke*	M			SWITZERLAND	Rookie
7	Jessie Holmes	M	Brushkana	AK	USA	Veteran
8	Chad Stoddard	M	Anchorage	AK	USA	Veteran
9	Bailey Vitello	M	Nenana	AK	USA	Veteran
10	Paige Drobny	F	Cantwell	AK	USA	Veteran
11	Joseph Sabin	M	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Rookie
12	Keaton Loeblich	M	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
13	Thomas Waerner*	M	Torpa		NORWAY	Veteran
14	Jessie Royer	F	Seeley Lake	MT	USA	Veteran
15	Mille Porsild	F			DENMARK	Veteran

Iditarod Trail Committee
 2100 South Knik-Goose Bay Road • Wasilla, Alaska 99654
 907.376.5155 • www.iditarod.com



16	Matt Hall	M	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran
17	Lauro Eklund	M	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran
18	Gabe Dunham	F	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
19	Riley Dyche	M	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
20	Sydney Bahl	F	Wasilla	AK	USA	Rookie
21	Richie Beattie	M	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Rookie
22	Jason Mackey	M	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
23	Hanna Lyrek	F	Alta		NORWAY	Veteran
24	Sam Martin	M	Chelmsford	MA		Rookie
25	Sam Paperman	M	Seward	AK	USA	Rookie
26	Wade Marrs	M	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
27	Josi (Thyr) Shelley	F	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
28	Jaye Foucher	F	Wentworth	NH	USA	Rookie
29	Jesse Terry	M	Sioux Lookout	Ontario	CANADA	Rookie
30	Michelle Phillips	F	Ten Mile	YT	CANADA	Veteran
31	Sadie Lindquist	F	Moose Pass	AK	USA	Rookie
32	Jody Potts-Joseph	F	Eagle Village	AK	USA	Rookie
33	Peter Kaiser	M	Bethel	AK	USA	Veteran
34	Kevin Hansen	M	Kotzebue	AK	USA	Rookie
35	Jeff Deeter	M	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
36	Brenda Mackey	F	Fairbanks	AK	US	Rookie
37	Grayson Bruton	M	Tok	AK	USA	Veteran
37	Steve Curtis*	M		BC	CANADA	Rookie

*Expedition Musher

The Ceremonial Start of the 2026 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race will take place Saturday, March 7, at 10 a.m. in downtown Anchorage, followed by the Official Restart in Willow on Sunday, March 8, at 2 p.m. Teams will depart the start line at both locations in two-minute intervals as they begin their journey along the historic Iditarod Trail.

Fans planning to attend the restart in Willow should note that parking will be available for \$20 per vehicle (cash only). General public parking will not be permitted in the Willow Community

Iditarod Trail Committee
2100 South Knik-Goose Bay Road • Wasilla, Alaska 99654
907.376.5155 • www.iditarod.com



Center lot. Accessible parking will be located as close as possible to the Community Center entrance. On race day, watch for electronic message boards along the Parks Highway in Wasilla and near Houston High School with the latest updates on parking availability in Willow.

We encourage fans to arrive early, plan ahead, and join us in cheering on the mushers and their incredible canine athletes as they set out on The Last Great Race on Earth®.

###

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. For more information, visit: www.iditarod.com.

Media contact:

Shannon Noonan
Marketing & Communications Director
Iditarod Trail Committee
shannon.noonan@iditarod.com