

- Iditarod's Education Portal is your resource to lessons and projects to enhance your curriculum.
- Meet the 2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ and follow her along the trail during the race. Page 3
- The race begins March 1, 2014.

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The Last Great Teaching Race

OCTOBER 2013

IDITAROD EDUCATION

Follow the Trail to Learning at our Website!

Teachers agree. Iditarod works as a tool to help students achieve academic success. Teachers know that while involved in Iditarod based lessons, students are more engaged in classroom activities, they read more, write more, think mathematically and scientifically, and use technology as a tool.

The 2013—2014 Iditarod Education Portal is designed to bring standards aligned lessons to your classroom. New projects, interesting articles, and a focus on STEM are just some of the components in this year's program.

Students often get involved in lessons and activities long

before the race begins, learning about the mushers and the dogs, discovering facts about the race trail, and learning about the costs associated with raising, training, and racing sled dogs.

Once you are on the learning trail with us, your students

challenged to use higher level thinking skills.

[Once you are on our website](#), use the menu bar on the left side of the page to help you navigate to the lessons and project ideas you need for your curriculum or teaching area.

If you are new at using the race with your students, start small, with a focus on one or two areas of study. If you've used the race with your students before, you'll find new lesson ideas that you can incorporate in your curriculum.

[Come along! Join us at our website!](#)



will be highly engaged in the lessons and motivated to not just focus on the curriculum you are teaching, but be

2014 Winter Conference: "Make Sense of Problems and Persevere in Solving Them" February 25—28, Anchorage

In partnership with ExxonMobil, Iditarod's Education Department provides educators the opportunity to enhance classroom instruction by attending our Winter Conference for Educators.

TEACHERS are the key to success in the classroom. Iditarod

is a vehicle to help you meet the goals and educational standards students must achieve.

No matter your grade level or your teaching field, this event is designed with you in mind. Content from the conference will help you fill your sled with all you need to make sure your

students are geared up to gain academic success.

Iditarod based projects are standards based, motivational, and a key to academic success. [To learn more about the conference and experience first hand this motivational teaching tool, click here.](#)



Zuma's Paw Prints: A Dog's Point of View! Zuma, Gypsy,

Sanka W. Dog, and Libby Report the News to You



Meet Zuma, Gypsy, Sanka, and Libby at [this website link.](#)

If you haven't met these four K9 Journalists, don't delay. There is nothing like reading about Iditarod from a dog's point of view. Each K9 team member writes with a mission of sharing information to the students in a unique way. It doesn't take long for students to get to know these reporters on a personal level.

Zuma, long time Iditarod reporter provides an overview of the race for all readers by writing monthly articles. During the race, Zuma and the K9 reporters write more fre-

quently, providing updates and information that help students and adults gain a perspective on Iditarod, the mushers, checkpoints, and of course, the dogs of the Iditarod.

Libby Littles writes for the youngest readers, sharing 'little' details for students.

Gypsy writes Informative articles for the elementary and middle school reader.

Sanka writes articles for middle school students through

adult audiences.

Each teacher can choose to read all of the articles or the articles that most meet the needs of the students in the classroom. Students can read the articles on their own as a part of research about race [topics such as the Iditarod Trail.](#)

Students can write letters to reporters to gain additional information.

[To learn about Zuma's Paw Prints visit this link.](#)

IDITAROD
EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

SEND US YOUR
QUESTIONS,
COMMENTS, AND
IDEAS:

DJOHNSON@IDITAROD.COM

Send your
centerpiece
or table top
design to us
and be a
part of the
2014
Iditarod!



Classroom Idea: Skype With Us!

Each school year, Iditarod's Education Department provides Skype conferences to interested classrooms.

Our Teacher on the Trail and educational staff members conduct these calls before, during, or after the race.

Due to the high volume of requests and the flexibility of scheduling necessary for Skype calls during the race, we

provide these Skype calls to a limited amount of schools.

[If you are interested in being on our list, please contact us by email for further information.](#)

Chosen classrooms will be partnered with an Iditarod staffer and projects are designed to meet that classrooms needs.



While in Nome, 2013 Teacher on the Trail™ Linda Fenton chats with students.

Classroom Idea: Create Centerpieces

Get involved as a race 'volunteer' from your location! Enter our Table Decorating Contest and help decorate for the Musher Drawing Banquet that is held in Anchorage prior to the start of the race.

Each year, classrooms create a design and submit the design to our contest. Selected classrooms make and send the table decorations to us for use at the banquet. Student made projects help make the banquet a festive place.

Join the contest and be a part of Iditarod in this unique way!



The Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ Program



“Finney” The First Iditarod Teacher on the Trail

Iditarod's Teacher on the Trail™ program began in 1999. Andrea Aufder Heyde, “Finney”, had gone to the Iditarod Trail Committee and introduce the idea of creating a program that would place a

teacher along the Iditarod Trail during the race to share observations with classrooms around the world. After getting approval for the program, Finney, became the First Iditarod Teacher on the Trail. Her lessons and a journal sharing her story and observations were on the website. The 16th Teacher, Jen Reiter, is preparing for her journey.

The 2013 Teacher, Linda Fenton said about her journey, “. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach the largest classroom of excited, engaged, and motivated students. It was this teacher's dream come true.”



YOU can be the 2015 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ and fly in small bush planes along the Iditarod Trail during the Iditarod. [Find out more at this link!](#) Deadline for applications is December 2.

Apply and Become the Next Teacher on the Trail™

YOU can be the 2015 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ and fly in small bush planes along the Iditarod Trail during the Iditarod.

Most likely you've told your students that if they dream it, they can do it. It takes effort and goal setting. It takes dedication to meeting goals and maintaining a focus.

[Our application is on line at our](#)

[website. Review the document.](#)

Answer the questions. Supply the necessary information and documents. Send the application to us as instructed in the document.

On or about January 15, 3 teachers will be notified that they are finalists for the 2015 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail.

Be one of three! You can do it!



Martha Dobson, 2011 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Jen Reiter, 2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Jen Reiter's classroom has always been a very busy room filled with many learning opportunities, but this year, her students are super excited about their learning because in mid February, their teacher will be heading out on the teaching adventure of a life time!

As the 2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™, During the race, Jen will be in Alaska traveling the Iditarod Trail by small bush plane,

observing the race, and sharing her experience on the website in her journal. You don't have to wait until the race to get involved and follow Jen, however. [Jen has been sharing on the website.](#) lessons and activities that you can use with your students to bring Iditarod based learning to your students no matter the grade level or teaching area.

Jen is a 3rd grade teacher at Gil-

man School, an independent boys' school in Baltimore, Maryland. [Learn more about Jen and find lessons for all grade levels at this link.](#) During the race, follow Jen's adventure and see the race and the trail from her point of view as she travels along the Iditarod Trail.



Photo by Jeff Schultz



Important Web Links

[Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™](#)

[Zuma's Paw Prints](#)

[Books to use in the classroom](#)

[Race Map](#)

[Form -Track Mushers During Race](#)

[Musher Listing](#)

[Iditarod Website](#)

[Iditarod Education Portal](#)

[Iditarod Traveling Quilt Project](#)

Important Information:

- Iditarod begins the first Saturday in March each year and ends when the last musher reaches Nome.
- The race runs from Anchorage to Nome.
- On even years, the race follows the northern trail and on odd years, the race follows the southern trail.
- Before being able to race, dogs must pass the medical tests and be certified as fit and healthy to run the race.
- The first to arrive in Nome is the winner or champion of the Iditarod. The last to arrive in Nome is the Red Lantern.
- Joe Redington, Sr. , founder of the race, is called the Father of the Iditarod.

Why Was the Iditarod Started?

Joe Redington, Sr. is remembered as the Father of Iditarod.

Joe had two reasons for wanting to create a race from Anchorage to Nome.

Having traveled around the state of Alaska, Joe noticed that less and less dogs were found in the villages. Once the dogs were a necessary part of survival for villages. The dogs were working animals that helped villagers travel from village to village or to travel on hunting expeditions. When snow mobiles arrived in the villages, the dog sled wasn't necessary or an efficient means of travel. Airplanes could fly from village to village, too. The sled dogs were not needed and life was changing in the villages. Joe was sad to see the disappearance

of the village dogs.

Joe's experiences in Alaska had also led him to an appreciation of the Iditarod Trail, a transportation trail used by mail carriers, gold miners, and others needing to travel the Alaskan Wilderness.



Joe Redington, Sr.
Father of the Iditarod

Joe had two reasons for wanting to create the Iditarod.

1. To keep sled dogs a part of Alaska's culture.
2. To preserve the Iditarod Trail with the hopes of it being recognized as a historic National Trail.

The 2014 Iditarod will mark the 42nd year Iditarod has been held. Joe's two reasons for starting the race are fully recognized today.

It should be noted that in your research, you will find incorrect information stating that Iditarod is held to commemorate the Serum Run. This race was not started because of the Serum Run, an important historic event in Alaska's history.



DOGS

[Tips on Dog Care](#)

To read an article by Dr. Stu Nelson about important tips on dog care., [click here!](#)

To read an article about the protocol for dog care at checkpoints, [click here!](#)

To read more about dog care, [click here!](#)

What do you need to know about you and your dog? [Click here!](#)

What does Sanka. W. Dog have to say about dog care? [Click here!](#)

[Dogs are Top Priority in the Iditarod](#)

The dogs must pass medical exams before they are allowed to race in Iditarod. It is necessary for mushers to develop a training program for the dogs that includes the best nutrition possible for the dogs, appropriate exercise and training, while maintaining top dog care practices. Only healthy dogs race to Nome.

Veterinarians are along the trail to make sure that the dogs maintain their good health and are fit to continue racing. [Learn more at this website link.](#)

[Need Iditarod Teaching materials?](#)
[Click here to view our products.](#)

Join Us For Summer Camp for Teachers

Summer camp is not just for kids!

When it comes to Iditarod, summer camp is for teachers!

The 2014 Summer Camp will be held June 21 - 30, in Wasilla and Willow Alaska.

Each year, Iditarod holds an educational camp for teachers that provides an opportunity for campers to learn about using the race as a teaching tool and to gain first hand knowledge of raising, training, and racing sled dogs. Campers also attend the annual volunteer picnic and musher sign up event which provides an opportunity for campers to meet mushers, dogs, volunteers, and Iditarod staff.

Campers spend 3 days on location staying at Vern Halter's Dream and Dream Dog Farm. While at this kennel, teachers have the opportunity

to experience the power of the Alaskan Husky as they meet dogs, see how they are trained, and learn about harnessing a team. A bonus is the fact that summer is puppy time in Alaska! Teachers start the day walking with the young pups who are already starting to train as future sled dogs.



Summer Camp 2013 - Learning about the power behind Iditarod as a teaching tool....

Sessions and speakers at the Dream a Dream and throughout the week help an educator gain perspective on all aspects of Iditarod. Fieldtrips are designed to further build the level of knowledge and allow the camper to develop a better understanding about the culture of Alaska.

From listening to huskies howl in the early morning or whenever they'd like, to viewing the mountains, and to meeting other like minded friends, this camp is an experience like none other!

Campers can take up to 6 university credits during the 9 day experience at Summer Camp for Teachers. **To learn more about summer camp and view registration materials, [visit this link.](#) This is the ultimate experience! Join us!**

What an incredible school year this will be because you are about to embark on an Iditarod adventure in learning with your students!



Each year, tens of thousands of students, led by educators who like you, understand that no matter what grade, instructional area, standards you are teaching, or new programs your school district has initiated, Iditarod in the classroom makes an academic difference for the students that you teach! Iditarod is successfully used as a vehicle of instruction for students in all 50 states and in many other countries. Students in all grade levels and even university classes are involved in Iditarod instruction. Teachers in both private schools, public schools, and in after school programs, residential treatment programs, scouting, day care, and other programs, get involved and use our website. This alone stands as testimonial to the value of using the race with students.

Iditarod can be integrated into most curriculum areas. Students involved in our lessons read more, write more, think mathematically and scientifically, problem solve, use technology as a tool to learning, set goals and work towards them, and tend to have a better attitude towards being in school and becoming a life long learner.

Iditarod works because of the dogs, the Alaskan wilderness, challenges from nature, and because it is fun. Iditarod works because it is engaging and students find it applicable in the real world.

Follow our [Teacher on the Trail™](#). Read [Zuma's Paw Prints!](#) [Send us an email](#) and share your teaching ideas! Let's lead students to academic success!

[Stay on the trail with us! What you find at our education portal today is JUST the start of the Last Great Teaching Race!](#) Check back often and enjoy the school year!

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