

Idita- Summer Camp Schedule

June 21 – 29, 2009

Sunday: June 21, 2009, Day 1



3:00 P.M.

Arrive at the Iditarod Headquarters in Wasilla, Alaska to begin your Idita-Camp experience! Meet the ‘camp staff’ which includes the 2010 Teacher on the Trail™ and surprise guests who will provide an introduction to the week’s events. Meet the other campers, view a video, tour HQ, and ride on a summer dog cart. Your Idita-Camp experience begins!

5:00- Depart HQ.

After a quick meal at a local café, the journey will continue to Susan Whiton and Vern Halter’s Dream a Dream Dog Farm – our Idita-Camp location.



After ‘claiming’ sleeping spots, unloading gear, and organizing belonging, campers will have a quick facility tour followed by a team building activity designed to assist campers in getting to know each other.



Day 2: Monday, June 22

6- 7:30 AM Rise and shine! Enjoy a light breakfast while you prepare for your day.

7:30: Puppy Walking, followed by training in harnessing a dog team which will take part of the campers on a summer cart ride while the rest of the campers do the dog chores. (The following mornings, groups will rotate so that each camper has opportunity to participate in all of the activities.

9:00 – 11:30: Morning Session:
Susan Whiton and Vern Halter present:
Iditarod 101! Learn what it takes to breed,
raise, train, and race these canine athletes.

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch hour and time to enjoy
life at the kennel. Spend time with dogs or
taking a short nature hike along the Dream
a Dream trails.



1:00 – 5:00

Making the Education Connection:

What does it take to connect the race to the cultural and content standards that you
must teach? How do we connect the race to science, math, and core areas of the
curriculum? How can you be a part of our 2010 science and math project? What is
the Target® Iditarod Teacher on the Trail program and how can you connect with
it? How can you get involved with the projects created by the 2010 Target® Iditarod
Teacher on the Trail™. (*There will be a mid afternoon puppy walk break.)

5:00

Option 1: Dinner and relaxing at the kennel.

Option 2: Take a journey and sight see on your own. We'll help you design your
journey!

Day 3: Tuesday, June 23



6- 7:30: Rise and shine! Enjoy a light
breakfast while you prepare for your day.

7:30: Puppy Walking, followed by training
in harnessing a dog team which will take
part of the campers on a summer cart ride
while the rest of the campers do the dog
chores.

9:00 A.M.

Susan Whiton and Vern Halter: 101
Continues.

10:30 – 11:30: Sharing Session: Campers share their teaching ideas and questions.

11:30 – 1:00: Lunch

Walk puppies! Practice harnessing a dog! Journal about your experiences.



1:00 – 5:00 P.M Session: The Iditarod Trail: All About the Checkpoints! Meet our guest, Iditarod Volunteer, Sonny Chambers. He will present a slide show designed to provide information about ‘life at checkpoints.’ What do volunteers do? What equipment do they need? What do they eat and where do they sleep? What kind of work do volunteers do and what is it like to be in a checkpoint? What do you want to know? You will discover it during this session which features pictures from the trail!

Evening Session: Campers will journey to Talkeetna, Alaska, a nearby community where they will dine at a restaurant owned and operated by Iditarod mushers Jerome Longo and Melanie Gould. This meal is a delight. Just hope they’ve saved enough Iditarod Carrot Cake for our group!

Following our meal, campers are encouraged to journey and explore.



Day 4, Wednesday, June 24

6- 7:30: Rise and shine! Enjoy a light breakfast while you prepare for your day.

7:30: Puppy Walking, followed by training in harnessing a dog team which will take part of the campers on a summer cart ride while the rest of the campers do the dog chores. Campers will have a last minute opportunity to practice their skills!

9:00 COMPETITION and Group Assessment of Skills! Show us what you learned! It is test time, campers, but have no fears! You will do just fine in our 3 part group competition! Packing up and departure from the Dream a Dream Dog Farm will follow the competition. Lunch follows!





1:30

Meet Jona and Jon Van Zyle.

Jon is the official artist for Iditarod and has run Iditarod. Jona is an artist and a musher. She and Jon will introduce you to their ‘family’ of kennel dogs on this tour of their kennel and art gallery.

The rest of the day is for your journey and discovery!

Day 5, Thursday, June 25: Anchorage Alaska

8:00 A.M. Depart the parking lot of the Grand View Inns and Suites for a day in Anchorage.

A.M.

The Alaska Native Heritage Center

<http://www.alaskanative.net>

Exit at Muldoon Road NORTH, off the Glenn Highway. Take the first right, where the tan Alaska Native Heritage Center sign is located. The ANHC driveway is approximately one-mile long. Parking is free.



P.M.

Anchorage Museum of History and Art

121 W 7th Ave

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 343-4326

<http://www.anchoragemuseum.org>

Evening; On your own- Campers explore Anchorage and surrounding areas.

Day 6, June 26: Grand View Inn and Suites: Lower Level Conference Room
Special Speaker Day: (Speakers and specific times to be announced at a later date.)

A highlight of our day will be a presentation by Dr. Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM, Iditarod’s Chief Veterinarian. His presentation will show pictures of the Iditarod Trail, the race, and dogs! Learn how the veterinarian staff makes sure that the Iditarod canine athletes are at the most healthy condition possible. Learn about dog care and the amazing Iditarod.

Watch for information about our complete list of speakers which will include authors, mushers, and other Iditarod speakers.



Day 7, Saturday, June 27

Our Iditarod 'camp' continues at the annual Iditarod Volunteer Picnic and Musher Sign Up for the 2010 Iditarod. Meet the mushers, enjoy a great meal, and be witness to the moment in history when these 2010 mushers put their signatures on paper as they sign up to be part of the next LAST GREAT RACE, IDITAROD. Bring the camera!

Day 8: Sunday, June 28: Exploring Alaska:

Team up and Explore! You will be 'on your own' grouped with other campers to complete a scavenger hunt and explore local tourist areas in this Idita-Camp Challenge! Details provided to the campers. Consider this our version of the 'Last Great Race—Which team will complete our RACE and return with the required items?

Day 9: Alaska National Guard Team Building Training: Stay on Track

Location, Ft. Richardson

What does it take to guide youth to make positive choices that lead to healthy living? What traits and attributes do students need to develop and how do we as educators provide the guidance they need? How do we develop leaders and build a strong team? What is the Iditarod Connection?

Discover the keys to success of the Alaska National Guard's E-3 Camp.

"E3 summer camp will consist of a ropes challenge course, which is a great opportunity to not only learn outdoor skills, but also individual and collective team building skills and leadership styles. The camp will also include land navigation, first aide, leadership activities, and team activities."

[Lean more, click here!](#)

This schedule is a ROUGH DRAFT and will be updated in May 2009.

To learn more about our Idita-Summer Camp, visit the following blog which was designed for and used by the 2007 Summer Conference Campers!

[Click here to visit the 2007 Camp blog](#)

[Click here to visit the 2008 Camp blog](#)

For answers to your questions or additional information, contact Diane Johnson via email, [click here](#), or call 605.228.6071

Additional Information:

Conference fee (\$685) includes attendance at all sessions, speakers through out the week. A light breakfast and light lunch during the days we are at the Dream a Dream Dog Farm is also included. You will also receive lesson ideas and other materials. Lodging 3 nights paid to Dream a Dream Dog Farm \$45 per night on June 23.

University credit if available for attendance and course work completed during this Idita-camp experience.

Campers are responsible for travel, lodging, meals, and other personal expenses for this experience. Lodging at the Dream a Dream will be \$45 per night per person. Most stay at the Grand View for the rest of the portion however you are free to make your own arrangements. Grand View will offer a small discount. We have a discount code and rooms have been blocked through May 20th 2009.

Car Rental:

Campers generally rent a car or share car rental costs with other campers to provide transportation to tourist sites after conference hours. Those interested in sharing car pool expenses should indicate interest when registering for the conference.

Lodging:

Sunday – Wednesday morning, Dream a Dream Dog Farm. www.vernhalter.com

View the above website to view pictures of the facility. We will make your Dream a Dream lodging arrangements. (Let us know if you've a 'good reason' to have one of the beds, but the foam pads and cots are pretty comfortable. The dog howl from the dog yard makes for it all! No worries!)

At the Dream a Dream Dog Farm, 'campers' share living space, sleeping foam pads on the floor, a few beds, fold out couch, etc. The facility has two --one bedroom apartments, bathroom/showers, and most of the comforts of home including Internet connections. This is 'roughing' it in some ways, but our past campers didn't complain about the arrangements. You will be comfortable and you will enjoy the experience of staying at the kennel!



ADDITIONAL LODGING INFORMATION

Lodging recommendation for days before or after the conference and days after our stay at the Dream a Dream Dog Farm:

[Alaska Grand View Inn & Suites](#)

"The Alaska Grand View Inn & Suites is located in the beautiful Mat-Su Valley, 40 minutes north of Anchorage. One of the newest hotels in Wasilla, the Grand View offers a wide range of facilities including a full size indoor swimming pool, and features 79 comfortable suites. At the Grand View, you'll not only have a grand view, but a great stay!"

(907) 357-7666 or (866) 710-7666

A BLOCK OF ROOMS HAS BEEN RESERVED for days surrounding our conference event. When inquiring about staying at the Grand View, ask about the rooms. These rooms will be released in May, so make your reservations early. Contact Diane for the 'code'.

Goals and Objectives of Our Camp and Conference:

Our goal of the Idita-Summer Camp experience is to provide an opportunity for educators to gain skills in using research based strategies and best practices of teaching and learning to connect Iditarod to classroom teaching by aligning the theme with the cultural and content standards. We meet this goal by providing educators with an authentic learning opportunity to immerse themselves in the Iditarod and Alaska experience.

We encourage Idita- Campers (ages adult – 100!) to formalize their own professional and personal goals and share them with us prior to their stay at our camp to maximize the opportunity to meet goals.

Our summer conference is also an opportunity to learn about our Teacher on the Trail program. Many educators interested in applying for this position find attending our conference a benefit as they build their knowledge and lessons for their application process and professional portfolio.

Our ultimate goal is to help you meet your goals as you discover what we already know: Iditarod is the Last Great Race and an incredible part of Alaska's past and present. It is also an incredible teaching tool that captures the essence of adventure learning and authentic learning. Iditarod is a teaching tool that has been used in all grade levels pre-K- through university level and can be aligned with objectives and standards in all curriculum areas.

www.iditarod.com and Iditarod Insider are teaching tools that are used by schools in Alaska, across the United States, and far beyond the borders of Canada and Mexico. Iditarod has been used as a theme on all continents, serving as a topic of study that connects thousands and thousands of students at the same time each year despite the thousands of miles from classroom to classroom. Iditarod comes within the walls of the classroom and the home school learning environment, empowering students to practice basic skills, to learn more, read more, and realize that dreams and goals can become reality if you are willing to learn, put forth your best effort, and strive for success.

We welcome Exxon Mobil as a partner in our quest to deliver enriched curriculum via Iditarod as a Teaching Tool to classrooms in Alaska and around the world. Helping teachers be better teachers and students academically successful are at the forefront of our Iditarod Educational Program.

Learn more about Exxon Mobil's Educational Goals by [clicking here.](#)

You can learn more about Iditarod's TeachingTools:
For Teachers menu tab— <http://iditarodblogs.com/teachers/> of www.iditarod.com

Follow our Target® Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™ and become involved in our teaching projects. <http://iditarodblogs.com/tott/>

Subscribe to Iditarod Insider. <http://www.iditarod.com//insider/index.html>

**Empower your students to be the best they can!
Attend our conferences for educators!**