



Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race™

Education Department

Diane Johnson, Education Director
1412 South Melgaard Road• Aberdeen, S.D. 57401
(605) 228 6071 djohnson@iditarod.com

June 2009

Hello!

The Teacher on the Trail™ program is a unique opportunity for one selected educator each year, to teach beyond the traditional classroom walls via Internet and to be involved in a project that reaches students around the world. Creating standards driven lessons, using research based techniques, and integrating technology as a tool for the teaching and learning are 21st Century components leading to academic success for students of all ages. Be a part of this teaching adventure!

Trade in your coat and 'teacher shoes' for extreme weather gear as you brave the arctic elements, temperatures far below zero, during the Last Great Race®. Spend about 3 ½ weeks during race time in Alaska as a member of Iditarod's educational team, as you visit schools, present programs in the community, and prepare for the teaching adventure of a lifetime.

Fly in small bush planes over rugged yet magnificently beautiful terrain from checkpoint to checkpoint during the race. As a race volunteer, help where needed as you learn first hand what goes on behind the scenes during the race. Bring the sights, sounds, and race events to classrooms so that educators can connect the race with lessons surrounding a real event, in real-time, and transition that learning to the local educational communities, as you report back to classrooms via Internet. Be a part of an academic success story that inspires students to learn and gain skills necessary to help lead them down the trail of reaching their own goals and dreams.

Represent the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race® and educators everywhere in the teaching adventure of a lifetime. Iditarod is the Last Great Race®. It is a vehicle to transport students to academic success. Be a part of this teaching and learning adventure by applying for Teacher on the Trail™. You have already taken your first steps along an adventure learning teaching trail by reading this introduction to our program. The trail before you is one filled with hard work but will lead you to an experience that as 2006 Teacher on the Trail™, Terrie Hanke said, **"Teacher on the Trail isn't a 365-day adventure. It continues for a lifetime."**


We look forward to reading your application packet. Thanks for applying!

Sincerely,
Diane Johnson
Educational Director

Jeff Peterson, Selection Committee
Sara Lamont, Selection Committee
Terri Hanke, Selection Committee
"Finney", Andrea Aufder Heyde, Selection Committee



APPLICATION INFORMATION
Teacher on Trail™



GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

You must be actively teaching in pre-school/kindergarten through grade twelve, which may include special education, library, technology, or other areas, with a minimum of five (5) years experience in the classroom during the five years prior to submitting application for TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™.

Additionally, you must be more than casually computer literate. For example the Teacher on the Trail™ will be required to post stories and lessons to the Official Iditarod website before, during, and after time on the trail. Making technology connections on the trail is sometimes a challenge, creating situations requiring you to problem solve. We do provide technology training and assistance. Skills in technology are a requirement. (Writing/Editing, PowerPoint, Excel, Digital Camera, PDF, Email, Chat, Skype, etc.)

Serving as the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ requires a substantial commitment of time as the successful TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ will be responsible for representing the Iditarod Trail Committee's ongoing educational program for a full year, beginning with the selection and ending approximately one year later after having experienced the Iditarod as the Teacher on the Trail™. The TEACHER will post lessons and information monthly from August through the race. The TEACHER will spend 3 – 4 weeks in Alaska during the race.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete the application form on the following pages. Read the guidelines and additional information. Directions for application organization, materials to include, and other items are listed for you and will provide you with a basic guideline for creating your application portfolio document.

Follow the timelines.

Proof read your document and make sure you include all requested materials.

It is further suggested: Contact Diane Johnson, Iditarod Education Director, when you make the decision to apply for TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ so that you can be made aware of any information that would assist you in your application process and/or to answer any questions.

Diane Johnson
Education Director
djohnson@iditarod.com

605 2286071



**TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™
APPLICATION**

Application Section 1:

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____ Hm. Ph. _____

City _____ State/Zip _____ Wk. Ph. _____

School _____

Teaching Area/ Grade _____

Principal _____ E-Mail _____

School Address _____ School Ph. _____

City _____ State / Zip _____

Local Media Contacts:

1. In one sentence, state your reason for applying for this position.

2. Do you have any concerns about flying in small air craft or have any kind of condition that would require you to have access to medical treatment within a few hours? Describe this condition and the normal treatment required. (Do you carry medication for this condition? Example: Diabetic)

3. Include the following information in this section of your binder:

- a. 1 or 2 photographs for publicity
- b. A short biography suitable for publication, 350 word max
- c. The signed release forms (see pages 8 – 9)

Use separate pages to answer the following questions. See page 5 for suggested packet organization.

Section 2: Education and Professional Experiences. (Questions 4 – 5)

4. Résumé of teaching experience and education
5. Provide further information such as: examples of your involvement with local community organizations and/or clubs, fund raising, or media interaction/communications, experiences with developing local/state curriculum, training or skills in technology, and committees you have served on at local/state levels.

Section 3: Goals, Experiences, and Skills (Questions 6 – 8)

6. If selected as the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™, what would your personal/professional goals be and what do you envision as the overall goal of the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ program? (1-2 paragraphs)
7. Describe your current use of technology on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. List examples of the technology you use at school and your own personal use at home being specific to include the kinds of software and formats you are familiar with and/or training you have received. What technology do you rely on to not only deliver your curriculum, but what do you routinely use professionally and personally. Do you have a home computer for daily use? Do you use computer/Internet when you travel.
8. List examples of personal experiences you have had that demonstrate your ability to travel and stay at checkpoints, live in remote areas, and/or handle stresses associated with long workdays, extreme weather conditions, etc. Share NOT JUST WHERE but challenges or rewards from the experience.

Section 4: Response to Controversy (Question 9)

9. As you may know, amongst various groups around the country there are those that see the use of animals for sporting events as cruel and inhumane. Keeping that in mind, **how would you respond?**
* Once it is announced that you have been chosen as the finalist or the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™, animal rights activists may begin flooding the school and district offices with complaints against you and calling for your teaching of the theme or participation in the program to not be allowed.

Section 5: Classroom Instruction and Use of Iditarod (Questions 10 – 14)

10. Describe why, how long, and how you have used the Iditarod as part of your teaching curriculum.
11. Include a minimum of 3 lesson ideas or examples of activities you have facilitated. Please use the template we provide. (See page 6.) You may also include student work samples.
12. The TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ places lessons on the website for about a year. Create a guideline of suggested topics or lessons you'd plan to present should you be selected. Use the provided calendar to list your information giving us a year's glance at your vision. (See page 7)
13. Write a 1- 3-paragraph summary of a special project you have conducted or a fieldtrip experience that you have had with students. Write journal style sharing the challenges and success of the project.
14. To demonstrate what you picture a day on the trail during the race to be like, choose any checkpoint or Iditarod experience. Write 3-4 paragraphs in the form of a journal entry similar to one you might put on the website if you were selected as the Teacher and reporting to our readers via the website.

Section 6: Support

15. Letters of Recommendation/Support/Documentation. (See page 5)

Section 7: Attachments and Documents

16. Additional attachments, your choice (See page 5)
17. **Include a 3 – 5 minute video recording on CD to introduce us to you. Your recording MUST be Playable on Windows Media Player and in the mp3 format so we may up load it to our website or to Teacher Tube. Do not send your recording on DVD.**

Application Packet Format: Please create 5 identical application packets. (See Submission Information listed below.)

Use a three-ring binder or organizational system with sections and/or sub-sections for the areas of this application. Divide the application in the following manner:

- 1) SECTION 1: APPLICATION SECTION
 - a. Application (Information and questions 1-3, page 3 of the application document)
 - b. Biography suitable for publication. We will use this biography should you be selected as a finalist and/or TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™. (350 word max.)
 - c. Recent photograph. (1 or 2) You may want to include a formal school photo and a casual relaxed snapshot.
 - d. Signed release forms.
- 2) SECTION 2: EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES: QUESTIONS 4-5
- 3) SECTION 3: GOALS, EXPERIENCES, AND SKILLS: QUESTIONS 6-8
- 4) SECTION 4: RESPONSE TO CONTROVERSY: QUESTION 9
- 5) SECTION 5: CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND USE OF IDITAROD—QUESTIONS 10- 14.
- 6) SECTION 6: SUPPORT: QUESTION 15
 - a. Proof of support from your district superintendent and your principal. The support should state that you would be granted the necessary time off if you were selected as a finalist and as the Teacher on the Trail™ should you be selected. (**Finalist**, approximately 9 days, **TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™**, approximately 26.)
 - b. Other documents showing support such as, letters from city officials, your school district, or personal references.
****** No more than five [5] total references will be accepted.**
- 7) SECTION 7: -- ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS AND DOCUMENTS: include but not limited only to: Any documents that you may wish to include, such as newspaper clippings about you/your classroom, digital images, personal web pages, additional lessons, or other information you wish us to know. Also include a recording that introduces us to you—on CD for our viewing. Finalists will be asked to send to the education director a copy on CD of the bio, lesson plans, and the journal entries. Should you desire, you may submit this with your application document, 1 copy only in the original document.

Submission information.

NOTICE: Each applicant must submit the original application packet and four (4) complete copies of their application packet, each in a separate binder that contains all the attachments. THESE COPIES are necessary because each committee member needs a copy of your entire packet for viewing, scoring, and for our discussions.

Deadlines: **PLEASE NOTICE:**
Completed Application packets must be **received in our education office no later than 5 P.M. (CST) on or before TUESDAY, December 1, 2009.**
Finalists will be notified by phone **on or before January 15, 2010.**
Remaining applicants will be notified on January 16, via email.

Mail to: **Diane Johnson**
Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc.
Education Department/TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™
1412 S. Melgaard Road
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Questions: Contact: Diane Johnson, djohnson@iditarod.com 605 228 6071

Lesson Plan Template (To request a template in word, email Diane)

Title:	
Developed by:	
Discipline / Subject:	
Topic:	
Grade Level:	
Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:	
Lesson Summary:	
Standards Addressed: (List national and/or state standards)	
Learning Objectives:	Method of Assessment for Learning:
Procedural Activities:	
Materials Students Need:	
Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:	
Other Information:	
Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities	

Notes:

Fill in the chart to show a 'rough draft' of a year at a glance of what lessons or projects you might be involved in as the Teacher on the Trail™.

Month	Lesson Theme(s) or Topic(s)	Additional Information
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		



Iditarod Trail Race

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Home Phone Number _____

Photo/Publicity Waiver

I hereby give the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. and sponsors permission to collect and use information and photographs of my participation as a Teacher on the Trail™ finalist and/or Teacher on the Trail™. I do not expect to be compensated for this usage, nor will I hold the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc., its representatives, board of directors, employees, volunteers or sponsors liable for said usage. I understand that the information in the application packet and photos may be given to print, radio and television journalists and Iditarod sponsors for publication purposes. I am aware that these photos, information, and work within my application packet (lesson plans) may also be used by the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. on the website and in the future to further educational goals/projects of the Iditarod Trail Committee or its representatives and sponsors. I have also secured permission for use of student photos used in my documents.

Signature

Date



Teacher Application Checklist and Reminder

This checklist is provided for your convenience to help make sure that you have included everything that is expected in the order it is to be placed in your application packet and that the documents reflect the program goals of the Iditarod Education Committee. Please double check that you have everything in the proper order and presented neatly. **MAKE SURE YOU SEND THE ORIGINAL AND FOUR COPIES OF YOUR APPLICATION PACKET.** Failure to do so may make your application incomplete and invalid.

Reminder: I have included the following:

- 1. Completed Application packet organized in the manner described in Application Format. Including a video recording on CD as indicated on page 5 of the application document.
- 2. Résumé of teaching experience and education. (Placed in Section 1)
- 3. Biography. (350 words max)
- 4. Recent photograph (1 or 2) for publicity.
- 5. Signed and notarized the release forms.
- 6. Proof of support and permission for time off from both district superintendent and principal.
- 7. FIVE (5) application packets to the following address:

Diane Johnson
Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc.
Education Department/TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™
1412 S. Melgaard Road
Aberdeen, SD 57401
- 8. I am aware that the application must be in the Iditarod Education Office to the address listed above address on or before December 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. CST.
- 9. My application reflects an example of a professional documentation of my abilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE SELECTION PROCESS

- **Pre-Race Activities and Interview:** From all applicants, the selection committee will choose up to three (3) finalists. If chosen as a finalist, you will be required to travel to Alaska before your interview begins on Monday, March 1, 2010 to complete your application process. The process includes items as: interviews, observations during the week, the 'challenge', conference presentations, opportunities to volunteer at the race, and participation in activities/events.
- **Personal Interview:** Each finalist will have a private personal interview with the committee on Monday, March 1, 2009. Each finalist will be asked the same list of questions to maintain the fairness of the process.
- **Observations:** Once you have been notified you are a finalist, your interview officially begins. You will be assigned a specific contact person who is a member of the selection committee. Through this individual you will be given any necessary directions and information for the rest of the competition and selection process. It should be further noted that by design, we will leave some information open ended not giving you specific requirements or details, both during the pre Alaska visit time period and while you are in Alaska with us. We are observing you as an individual, looking for specific skills, and expecting you to be involved in obvious activities, or handle certain situations without our complete direction or our guidance. Once you arrive in Alaska, you will be observed throughout the week and considered under observation during your stay in Alaska. Feedback from conference attendees and others who we have been assigned to be observing, will be discussed and go into our decision making process. Those observations are an important part of our process because we are looking to identify an educator who recognizes that this program seeks a teacher who can best represent education and Iditarod.
- **Conference Presentation:** You will be required to make a presentation at the Teacher Conference regarding your use of the Iditarod in your classroom. Your presentation should reflect best practices in teaching and learning. You will be supplied with some guidelines, but your presentation should reflect your demonstration of introducing us to the skills you have that would present you as a teacher we would select for TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™. During the week, you will be an assistant and a volunteer in various aspects of the conference and aspects of Iditarod as part of your interview process. We will be observing skills in technology, knowledge of best practices of education, leadership, teamwork, volunteerism, energy, endurance, as well as other skills.
- **The Challenge:** Each finalist will be given an assignment/project to test and challenge the skills and 'trail- ready'. Some of the skills committee members will observe during this portion of our process include but are not limited to: problem solving, creativity, common sense, observation skills, journal writing, lesson design, leadership, cooperation, stress management, time management, flexibility, resourcefulness, dedication, professionalism, dependability, tolerance/diversity, best practices of teaching, and technology skills. The finalist will receive directions for this assignment after arriving in Alaska. Directions will be given in stages that may include open-ended opportunities. The "Challenge" will allow finalists to demonstrate individual strengths and skills in identified areas. This and other parts of the interview process will be placed on the website.
- **The Schedule:** Your schedule will include but not be limited to a variety of activities that we plan and announce in advance to you. There may be by our design, activities that we request your presence at, giving you a limited notice to attend. (Example: media interviews) Skills used in these situations are important to our selection process. Plan on long hours each day.
- **Length of Stay:** To allow you to see the restart and behind the scenes activities once the race is underway, please plan to spend Monday after the start of the race involved in Iditarod activities. Monday will conclude your formal interview in Alaska. We will assist you in designing a plan for that time period so that you are involved in activities beneficial to one in competition for TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ selection.

- **Expenses:** Finalists are responsible for their own expenses for this trip. However, the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) will provide tickets to the Pre-Race Banquet as well as the Teacher Conference. **We will provide ground transportation to our events.**

THE APPLICATION PROCESS: Ensuring A Fair Selection Process

In order to ensure a fair selection process, we ask that applicants and/or finalists:

- Prior to your arrival in Alaska, please contact only the contact person that has been assigned to be in communication with you. This is our way to assist you and make sure you get the first hand information that is of most value to you.
- We consider getting to know you a gift. Although the thought is appreciated, it is not allowed for you to provide us with any gifts even though we realize that teachers enjoy doing this.
- We encourage you to participate only in activities that appear fair to all finalists and that you do not participate in any activity that may be perceived as having an unfair advantage in the selection process. For this reason, contacting us to volunteer to help at the Jr. Iditarod or any other Iditarod project, should you be in Anchorage several days before your interview, could place you under early observation, which would present a questionable situation that might not be viewed as fair to you or others. However, if you were in the area and were there as an observer, that would be considered a different situation. It isn't possible for all finalists to stay the exact same length of time, and we want to try to design our observations of each of you during the same time period as much as possible.
- Send all of your application materials at one time, making your application a complete document when it arrives at the Iditarod Education Office. References mailed directly to us after your application is submitted, create communication situations we want to avoid. Our committee members are located in a variety of places, making it difficult to get a late document to everyone. Your application will be considered 'complete' when it arrives.
- Make sure your physical condition will allow you to enjoy three to four weeks of "rough" living should you be selected as our teacher. The wilderness of the lower 48 is nothing like the wilderness and wildness of Alaska. You will be required to hike long distances, carry all of your own gear, be out of doors for long periods of time often in extreme weather conditions, sleep on the floor, and work more than a full day's schedule, while maintaining a healthy life style as an example to others. Apply only if you would meet those requirements.
- Apply for this job with the support of your school authorities. An animal rights group, raising concerns about your involvement, may organize a publicity attack against you and/or your school. You will need your school district and community support.
- Flying in small aircraft is an adventure and it may frighten you. Flying over the Alaska Range or desolate wilderness can be very intimidating. Be sure you are prepared for this. Consider not applying if you would be unable to handle flying in small aircrafts.

Deadline Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. (CST) December 1, 2009, and must be considered complete. An incomplete application may exclude the applicant from consideration. You will be notified when your application arrives. **It is suggested that you email the Education Director (djohnson@iditarod.com) when your application has been sent to 1412 S. Melgaard Road, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Furthermore, it is suggested that prior to beginning the process of applying, you contact the Director for any additional information and/or updates that may be valuable to you.**

Finalist Notification The finalists will be notified via phone **on or before** January 15, 2010. A letter will be sent to those applicants who are not selected. The committee will attempt to provide feedback to applicants not chosen as well as to finalists not selected as TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™.

Announcement of Teacher on the Trail™ The successful TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™, as well as the other two finalists, will be notified via telephone on or before April 2 each year.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FINALISTS FOR TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™

Race Week:

- When you are notified that you have been selected as a finalist, you will be expected to make travel arrangements as quickly as possible and notify the contact person that is assigned to communicate with you of all of your travel arrangements and contact numbers. Arrive at least the day before your personal interview to allow for flight delays and so you are prepared.
- A designee appointed by the committee, Jeff Peterson, (your contact person) will contact you and assist with information that you will need for your presentation at the Teacher Conference in March and provide assistance with such information as: lodging, attire, travel arrangements, and technology. This person is your only direct ITC line to the information you need for your journey. Please do not contact the education director or other committee members unless you are directed to do so by your immediate contact person or in case of an emergency. Your interview officially begins once your contact with us begins! Good luck and enjoy each step of this interview process and competition for Teacher on the Trail.™
- All expenses for this trip are the finalist's responsibility except that there will be no charge to attend the Teacher Conference and the Pre-Race Banquet. You will be invited to attend other functions as they come up and you may be asked to make appearances for sponsors.
- If the selected educator for any reason is not able to meet the obligations of a finalist or as Teacher on the Trail, the educational committee will reconvene to discuss options that may or may not include the remaining applicants/finalists. An executive decision will be determined after said meeting.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARTICIPATION AS TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™

Expenses: The ITC will underwrite the following expenses:

- Airfare to and from Anchorage and ground transport to Wasilla for the **Summer Teacher Conference**. (You are welcome to stay for a longer period at your own expense if you would like to do a little sightseeing. Travel dates will be worked out for your flight.) Should the conference be cancelled for any reason, the summer trip would also be cancelled.
- Housing and a food allowance for the week of the conference.
- Airfare to and from Anchorage for the Iditarod Race.
- Food and hotel accommodations until you leave for the trail.
- Transportation to scheduled events and appearances prior to leaving for the trail.
- Transportation and accommodations for the Jr. Iditarod. (Trail conditions permitting.)
- Tickets to the Teachers Conference, Anchorage Pre-Race Musher's Banquet, and the Nome Finishers Banquet.
- Transportation along the trail to Nome, AK including meals and a place to roll out your sleeping bag for the night wherever you are. (Meals are 'served' at the checkpoint for volunteers.)
- Transportation from Nome to Anchorage and accommodations for 1-2 nights in Anchorage prior to your return home.

- You will be provided with cold weather outdoor gear: outerwear (parka/pants), boots, mittens, hat, and a set of top quality long underwear.
- Use of a laptop computer for the race, unless you prefer to use your own. The laptop is returned to the ITC when you return to Anchorage after the race.
- Use of a digital camera for use on the Iditarod website if you do not have one of your own. The camera is returned to the ITC when you return to Anchorage after the race.
- Use of the official TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ sleeping bag. (2000 TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ Diane Johnson has started a tradition of each TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ creating a special patch to be sewn on the sleeping bag to show their participation.) The bag is returned to the ITC when you return to Anchorage after the race.
- If the selected educator for any reason is not able to meet the obligations, the educational committee will reconvene to discuss options that may or may not include the remaining finalists. An executive decision will be determined after said meeting.

Pre-Race: Between the time you are chosen as the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ and the end of the Iditarod (a period of time of approximately one year) you will be expected to:

- Attend the Summer Teacher Conference in Wasilla, Alaska. Receive website training and begin journal entries to be posted on the website.
- Promote the race and your involvement within your school, district, and state.
- Have a presence on the Official Iditarod website (www.iditarod.com). (A standards driven curriculum -- Lessons/Activities/Journal) You will submit journal entries and lessons monthly from August– February, according to a schedule developed between you and the education director. Lessons posted each month are a requirement.
- Submit lesson ideas to the Teacher's packets, websites, and publications as directed.
- Make public appearances in your home state as well as when in Alaska. Prior to the start of the race you will make presentations at several schools, you may present in the villages during the race, and in Nome as time and schedules permit.
- Develop a plan for reporting from the Iditarod Trail (daily during race). You 'daily' reports will begin once you arrive in Alaska prior to the race.
- Work directly with the Education Director and The Iditarod Trail Committee.
- Represent educators and Iditarod as the Teacher on the Trail™.

Guidelines

- **Prior to the announcement of your selection as the Teacher on the Trail™ you will be required to sign a binding document indicating that you are in agreement with the following conditions and guidelines:**
 - The Iditarod Trail Committee reserves the right to indefinitely use any and all lessons plans and/or journal entries created by you for use on the Iditarod website during your year as TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™, which may include, but not be limited to, publication in Iditarod educational materials.
 - Once selected as the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ you become, in the minds of the general public, a representative of the Iditarod and are expected to conduct yourself in a

professional manner. You are expected to demonstrate good manners and conduct acceptable to community/society demonstrating good citizenship, morally acceptable behavior, and be recognized as a good role model to students and adults, promoting healthy life styles. You are expected to conduct yourself as though you are in front of a classroom full of students and parents 24 hours a day during the race event period. Everyone will be watching you, including media.

- You **MUST** be computer literate. This means that, at a minimum, you have to be able to use a word processing program, email, chat, photo editing software, and be able to use PDF to create documents.
- You will prepare a plan for the delivery of your journal from the trail. (View past TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ samples on the web site.) From the trail, you will post journal messages and lessons connections for educators to use with your journal. (story starters, discussion topics, or formal lessons)
- Prior to the race, you will speak in local schools in the Wasilla and Anchorage area. During the race, you will be sharing/presenting in schools along the trail, giving you an opportunity to teach the students along the trail.
- You will be expected to communicate in a professional manner both verbally and written. (Demonstrate grammar skills and proper spelling in written communications – emails – postings- etc. USE SPELL CHECK ON EVERY DOCUMENT.)
- You understand that www.iditarod.com is the property of ITC and that the information posted on the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ page(s) is not your personal site. **You may not** maintain a separate Iditarod website during your year as TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ with the same or different information in relationship to the Iditarod or your position as TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™.
- When using your title of *Teacher on the Trail*™ or TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™™ in written form, you must always use the trademark symbol ™ with it. This title is in the process of being federally trademarked by the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. The official title is: Target® (year) Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. Please stress that to the media in interviews.
- You will be asked to pose for photos, without compensation, which may promote a commercial interest associated with the Iditarod race. For example, the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ may also be asked to promote the TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ corporate sponsors, by attending receptions, press briefings, school visits, and Iditarod events.
- You may be asked to speak before the media and sponsors for the Iditarod Educational Programs. You should plan on having a quick speech /talking points prepared for such occasions.
- When soliciting local underwriters to offset some of the expenses you will incur should you be chosen as a finalist/TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™, **you may not convey the right to usage of the Iditarod name or marks in any fashion to such underwriters.**

Accommodations on the Trail

Accommodations on the trail might and often do consist of a place on the floor of the checkpoint where you can roll out your sleeping bag. Food is shipped to the trail for the volunteers and you will be eating with them. We are simply not in a position to accommodate special diets or accommodations. If you require a special diet, you will need to make arrangements to mail or ship what you need to the checkpoints at your own expense. The ITC will assist you with this wherever possible.

Travel on the Trail

From the first checkpoint on, you will be at the disposal of the Iditarod Air Force (IAF) or any flight service determined by Iditarod and you will travel to the checkpoints that the pilots are servicing on any given day. This will be on a space available basis. No matter where you go, you will ultimately wind up in Nome and be able to share in the thrill of seeing mushers and their dog teams cross under the famous burlled arch.

Please read the entire application packet.

Keep a copy of the above pages for a list of your responsibilities should you be chosen as a finalist or the Teacher on the Trail™.

Do you have questions? Don't delay. Get answers and begin the journey with us!

Email: Diane Johnson, Iditarod Education Director: djohnson@iditarod.com

The Video: Additional Thoughts for you to consider

The video is your opportunity to introduce yourself to us in a way that we may not be able to see in a written document. Although the video is not the most important part of the application document, it may reveal you in a way that scores you the additional points necessary to be selected as a finalist.

When planning your video, consider the kinds of skills we seek in our teacher and reflect on ways to convey that message to us. Remember, our selected teacher must have good oral communication skills, so a presentation where we don't hear your voice, doesn't help us.

The content and style of your video is totally up to your own creative endeavor. It can be formal, informal, recorded from a variety of locations or just one, showing you at home and/or at school, or showing us what doesn't come through on the written page of the document. It is your opportunity to showcase who you are and get our attention. We recognize that not all schools/teachers have recording studios --- home video is fine. We do not score the 'video' but we score the 'who' we get to know.

***Please send the recording on a CD and not a DVD. It is also good advice to try your CD in several different computers prior to sending it to us to make sure your recording plays easily and without error.**

Your Application:

The committee scores each application document using a rubric. The individual with the strongest set of scores overall will rank the highest and make our selection. Our applicants are highly qualified teachers using best teaching practices. Pay close attention to detail and get our attention. Often our applicants score within points of each other.

Applicants and finalists will receive feedback from the committee, showing rubric scores and summary. We cannot return your application back to you, so save a copy.



Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race™

Education Department

Diane Johnson, Education Director
1412 South Melgaard Road • Aberdeen, S.D. 57401
(605) 228 6071

www.iditarod.com • djohnson@iditarod.com

Thanks for reading our application packet!

The application document and process is lengthy. Perhaps it seems 1,049 miles long, just like the Iditarod Trail. However, we know that the hard work and effort needed to put your document together is an example of the willingness educators have to go beyond the 'norm' to meet the educational needs of the students. Your application document provides us with a glimpse of what you do to help students in your classroom be successful, serving as a documentation of your skills as an educator and your goals as a life long learner.

Teaching is hard work. Teaching and learning can also be an adventure. Being a part of the Teacher on the Trail™ program is an opportunity to be involved in experiential learning while delivering curriculum using 21st century techniques via the Internet, impacting thousands and thousands of learners. It is hard work for a full year, not a prize won. Be a part of that impact!

We do hope you take this journey with us and send us your application packet. If you still aren't sure about applying, contact me for further information.

We are looking for highly qualified educators, who inspire students to be academically successful, who are willing to be creating curriculum, lessons, and activities that are content and standards driven, and who demonstrate best practices of teaching and learning. We are looking for educators who have the energy and stamina to work hard for a full year, endure the hardships of working while observing the Iditarod, and become a member of our educational teaching and reaching team. Iditarod is the Last Great Teaching Race!

We are looking for educators who dare to expand their classroom walls, teach to the world, with one foot in their home state and one foot on the Iditarod Trail.

We are looking for educators who are eager to put on that winter gear and wear a musher hat, day after day, not worrying about when they'll have their next shower or have a day off from work. We are looking for someone with a spirit for adventure and a vision.

We are looking for an educator who is willing to be a part of a teaching adventure of a lifetime.

We are looking for you!

Happy 'Learning' Trails!

Diane Johnson

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