

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau
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PHOTO ATTACHED: ApostleIslandsSledDogRace-PRESS.jpg
CUTLINE: A musher competing in the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race speeds out of the chute at the start of the two-day event held annual in Bayfield, Wis. This year's race will be held February 2 and 3.



Bayfield to host 24th Annual Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race

Bayfield, Wis.—Wisconsin's smallest city is set to welcome mushers and spectators to one of the largest sled dog races in the Midwest on Saturday and Sunday, February 2 and 3, 2019.

The Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race, now in its 24th year, draws racers from across the US and Canada. Multiple races take place over the course of the weekend, with the teams completing a loop through the forests of the Bayfield Peninsula each day.

“If you are looking for a chance to get outside and see a special winter event, this is a great opportunity”, said Jeremy Oswald, Events Manager for the Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau. “There is so much excitement and activity at the start of the race, from the revved up dogs to the unique trailers that have been created to cart them around. This is an event to walk around and be part of. Once all the teams have headed out on the trail it’s fun to stop by the spectator site on Butterfield Road and see how all that excitement at the start turns into ‘dogged’ determination after some time on the course. Our HAM radio operators are also out along the entire course, calling in the mushers progress to the main info tent at the start.”

The event consists of five individual races, including a 10-dog 80-mile race; an 8-dog 60-mile race; a 40-mile Sportsmen's Race; a 6-8 mile Family/Rec Race (Saturday only); and a 6-mile Youth Race (Sunday only), with a combined purse of more than \$3000 distributed to the winners in different categories. Registration for the races is open through Wednesday, January 30, with the bib draw taking place on Thursday, January 31.

Races begin at 10am on both Saturday and Sunday at the Echo Valley Gravel Pit, which is located 11 miles north of downtown Bayfield on Highway 13 (at fire number 30675 State Highway 13). The location serves as the start/finish line for each race and is an excellent place to cheer the teams on as they head out on to the trail. There will be a warming fire, information tent, merchandise sales, and concessions at the Echo Valley Gravel Pit.

There is an additional spectator site at the corner of Star Route Road and Butterfield Road where the race course crosses the road following Bayfield County’s Sand River Trail System. This site also features a warming fire, porta-potty, and viewing area.

In addition to the actual race, there are several special events taking place in Bayfield as part of the event. On Friday, February 1, a welcome event called Meet the Mushers Lasagna Dinner will begin at 6pm at the Lakeside Pavilion. At 7pm is the mandatory roll call for all the weekend's racers, and the public is encouraged to attend and see what goes on behind the scenes of a sled dog race. On Saturday at 5pm, the Bayfield Inn will host a Musher Mixer and Taco Dinner. Saturday's race results will be available there and visitors are invited to mingle with the mushers as they find out their times. Beginning at 7pm at the Madeline Island Ferry Terminal, Stephen Ballou will talk about his time on Antarctica working with a team that was collecting meteorites along the vast icescape. On Sunday afternoon after the race, the final Awards Ceremony will take place at the Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion. The doors open at 3pm, with the awards to be presented at approximately 4pm.

Directories with maps and race information will be available at the Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau (117 South First St.), at local businesses, and online at

bayfield.org beginning on February 1. The public is welcome at all events. Race organizers kindly request that spectators leave their pets at home. For more information about the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race, visit bayfield.org or call 715-779-3335.

Sponsors of the 2019 Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race include:

Master Musher level: The Bayfield Inn, CF Design, Lake Effect Builders, LLC, Legendary Waters Resort and Casino, Silverwaves Jewelry, Seagull Bay Motel, Steger Mukluks, Winfield Inn & Gardens, Wisconsin ARES/RACES

Trail Support level: Bent Paddle Brewing Company, Racey's Tasty Dog Treats, Redpaw Dog Food, Windseeker Realty

Doggy Biscuit level: Apostle Islands Realty, Bayfield County Tourism, Bayfield Winery, Copper Crow Distillery, Madeline Island Ferry Line, Memorial Medical Center, Superieur Petrol, LLC, Superior Charters & Yacht Sales.

Sled Dog Friend: Bayfield Wine and Spirits, Blue Water Realty, R.G.T. Transit Services, Xcel Energy

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