

**UP SLED DOG ASSOCIATION
MIDNIGHT RUN
FEBRUARY 17-19, 2011**



ROAD CROSSINGS

Your purpose is to oversee the road crossing so that Dog Sled Teams remain safe, traffic is controlled, and spectators are properly hosted and supervised.

Setting Up

Unless you are already familiar with your assigned road crossing, please go there in advance so that you know what to expect. Find a place to build a small fire for keeping warm, heating drinks and snacks, and making the road crossing visible to passing teams. Be clear about where the Trail goes. Make plans and talk together as a group of volunteers, so that everyone understands what to do. Clear the trail of any large ice chunks or debris. Bring shovels to clear any snowbanks that might create a barrier or add snow where there is any bare ground.

Times

Please be on time and ready. There will be up to 80 teams in all, 40 in the UP 200 between 8 pm and midnight for all road crossings, and 40 in the Midnight Run between 10 pm and 1 am at Sand River and Whitefish Roads. Watch for official snowmobilers, identified by red bibs, who will lead and follow the teams, marking the beginning and end of the races. ***It is also possible to know when the last team has passed through by downloading the names and bib numbers of the mushers from our website, www.up200.org, and checking them off as they go. Do this on the day of the race, not before, as teams may be added or dropped, and bib numbers aren't known until the evening before.***

Overseeing the Crossing

Dog Teams would like to pass through without stopping, but **we cannot stop traffic**. Place someone 50-75 feet up the trail from the road so that they can warn mushers when there is traffic approaching and they can stop. Mushers will all be aware that they are to stop for traffic. Watch for approaching teams at all times. Call out "Team coming!" so that everyone is ready. When teams are passing, form a line of people across the road to guide teams in the right direction. This is especially important for the first few teams, as later ones will follow where the first ones have gone. Stand still! Don't shuffle along as teams pass. Tell spectators how they can be helpful and invite them to join you while they are there.

Supporting Dog Teams

Give the mushers and their dogs your highest respect. Don't distract the dogs by unexpected movements or talking. **Stay in one spot and don't shuffle along in order to keep teams on the trail.** Don't say anything to the dogs or the musher until after the lead dog has passed. Quiet words of encouragement and light applause are best.

Flashlights

Flashlights may be helpful in directing the way where the trail is not obvious, but **THEY MUST NEVER BE FLASHED TOWARD THE DOGS OR MUSHERS.** Please inform your volunteers and help spectators to understand, too.

Problems

If a musher is having a problem and asks for your assistance, please help. Don't intervene unless a musher asks. The best help is usually to grab the lead dog's line, not the dog, and lead the team in the right direction. If a musher wants to scratch (drop out) at your crossing, or there is some other emergency, please call Headquarters at 906-225-9170.

Hosting and Supervision

You represent our organization and the way you treat people is important. Please host people who come to your crossing, telling them what is happening and enlisting them in what you are doing. Give directions and correct misbehavior, if necessary, using the right balance of courtesy and firmness. Diplomatically discourage drivers or snowmobilers who wish to travel on the trail itself, and direct them to other viewing locations. If they insist, you cannot stop them from traveling public roads and trails. Realize, too, that local residents may need to pass through.

Traffic Safety

Please give special attention to the safety of all. Vehicles of volunteers and spectators should be parked alongside roads. Do not permit any unoccupied vehicles or vehicles without lights to remain in the traffic right of way.

Debris

Please clean up the area of your crossing as you are ready to leave, taking all debris with you.