

Alaska hosts epic dog sled race

The Iditarod race commemorates a 1925 dog sled relay which brought life-saving medicine to the Bering Sea town of Nome to halt a diphtheria outbreak. The race began in 1973, and is now the most famous of its kind in the world

TEAM: Must start race with 12-16 dogs and finish with at least six

FINISH: Nome

ALASKA
(U.S.)

RESTART:
Mar 2, Willow

START:
Mar 1,
Anchorage

Length:
1,790km,
10-17 days

200km
125 miles

Musher

Wheel dogs:

Pull sled out and navigate around trees or corners

Swing dogs: Run behind leader, help "swing" team on turns

Lead dogs: Run in front, must be intelligent and fast

HUSKY

Northern dog breed capable of withstanding temperatures below -45 degrees Celsius

Gangline:
Attaches dogs to sled

GULF OF ALASKA

Tugline:
Connects gangline to harness

Harness:

Helps pull weights efficiently

Booties: Protect against sharp ice

Brushbow:
Protects sled

Equipment includes arctic parka, sleeping bag, axe, food, and bag to carry sick or injured dog

Winner gets new pickup truck and around \$70,000 from total purse of \$920,000

Runner

Snow Hook: Anchors sled for short period of time

SLED

Driving bow

Basket

