

## Teacher on the Trail

[www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com), Education World, OnWEAC

Andrea Auf der Heyde of Bloomington, Indiana, initiated the Teacher on the Trail Program in 1998. She created the program because of the focus her school placed on skills like perseverance, effort, organization, patience, initiative, sense of humor, cooperation, flexibility, problem-solving, curiosity, common sense, courage and caring.

### Qualifying for the Iditarod Teacher on the Trail is no easy task. Here are a few requirements:

A teacher must be actively teaching with 5 years previous experience. You and your school authorities must be able to handle a publicity attack organized by an animal rights group. Teacher on the Trail must be able to fly in small airplanes over the vast Alaska Wilderness. You must develop lesson plans for several grade levels for use on the Iditarod Website. You must demonstrate good citizenship, morally acceptable behavior and be recognized as a good role model promoting a healthy lifestyle.

If you are one of the top 3 finalists, after the application process, you will fly yourself to Alaska for a private personal interview with the Teacher on the Trail Committee. These 3 finalists are tested for skills of observation, creative writing and technology. They, also, will make a presentation at the summer teacher's conference in Alaska regarding their use of the Iditarod in their classroom. The Iditarod Teacher on the Trail must be physically fit, make public appearances throughout the year representing the Iditarod and attend the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

### Teachers on the Iditarod Trail Honor Roll!

1999	Andrea Auf der Heyde "Finney"	Bloomington, In.	2004	Jeff Peterson	Golden Valley, MN
2000	Diane Johnson	Aberdeen SD.	2005	Lynne Gordon	Wilmington, Ma.
2001	Diane Nye	Elizabeth, Co.	2006	Terrie Hanke	Eau Claire, Wi.
2002	Kim Harrick	Eureka, Mo.			
2003	Cassandra Wilson	Portland, Or.			

### Meet a few of the teachers:



**Cassandra Wilson 2003**

*"When you bring life experiences into the classroom, kids immediately are engaged."*



**Terrie Hanke 2006**

*"Iditarod has become a teaching tool and symbol for the character traits students and athletes must develop to be successful."*



**Jeff Peterson 2004**

*"I hope students learn how important it is to dream, and how difficult and rewarding it is to follow that dream."*

These teachers are an inspiration! There is nothing more thrilling than working with dogs, working in the wilderness and being a part of one of the greatest athletic adventures in the world, the Iditarod Sled Dog Race!

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[www.mushhusky.com](http://www.mushhusky.com)

[mushhusky@acsalaska.net](mailto:mushhusky@acsalaska.net)