

iTREC!

*Iditarod Trail to
Every Classroom*



Connecting youth & communities along the Iditarod National Historic Trail

Sponsors & Partners

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

Chugach National Forest

Bureau of Land Management

Alaska Geographic

Alaska Airlines

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Anchorage School District

Mat-Su Borough School District

State of AK - Dept. of Natural

Resources

Iditarod Trail Committee

As the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and its partners continue to offer high-quality professional development opportunities promoting place-based education and service-learning through iTREC!, teachers and community partners are developing opportunities to help build lifelong stewards of Alaska's public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage along the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

For More Information about the iTREC! program, please contact:

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What is iTREC!

iTREC! is a yearlong professional development program that provides teachers with place-based service learning skills to help today's youth become lifelong stewards of Alaska's public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage. iTREC! educators develop their own curriculum to increase student literacy skills and foster student understanding of and appreciation for the public lands and resources connected by over 2,400 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT). These curricula integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of communities from Seward to Nome addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, civics, outdoor recreation and volunteerism.

This targeted investment is producing impressive results. In its first seven years alone, iTREC! has trained 96 teachers who are now effectively reaching over 8,000 K-12 students in 10 rural and urban communities along the trail. Within the next 5 years, the iTREC! program goal is to include all communities along the trail, expanding its reach to over 12,000 students.

At the heart of iTREC! is the belief that students who are immersed in the interdisciplinary study of their own "place" are more eager to be involved in the stewardship of their communities and public lands.

iTREC! Goals

Through the iTREC! program, the Iditarod National Historic Trail will be used to:

- Foster awareness of and a personal connection to the trail
- Connect rural and urban communities along the INHT
- Engage youth and communities in active outdoor experiences
- Build lifelong stewards of Alaska's public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage
- Provide exposure to career and youth employment opportunities

iTREC! Results

✧ Cumulative reach for the first 7 years of the program is approximately **8,000 students.**

✧ Currently working with **10 communities** along the INHT:

Seward
Cordova
Girdwood
Anchorage
Wasilla
Palmer
Galena
Ruby
Nome
Holy Cross

✧ **96 teachers** from these communities are actively participating in the program:

77 elementary school
12 middle/high school
7 combined schools

✧ iTREC! curricula are being developed in **11 subject focus areas:**

geography, history, social studies, science, art, journalism, special education, PE, career guidance, business technology, multi-subject (general instruction)

✧ Preliminary evaluation results show a direct link between iTREC! and an increase in both physical activity and environmental awareness in students.

Program Overview

iTREC! is composed of 3 multi-disciplinary professional development workshops for educators, supplemented with on-going partner support and guidance:

Summer Institute (5 days)

Focus: Introduction to the Iditarod National Historic Trail, place based education, service learning and curriculum planning

Fall Workshop (3 days)

Focus: Curriculum development and evaluation

Spring Workshop (3 days)

Focus: Curriculum implementation and sustainability



Participant Feedback:

"I am so excited about the group of wonderful, innovative, dedicated individuals and groups of people who are dedicated to educating our future. This partnership & sharing of ideas & information would not happen without the iTREC! program. I can't wait to share with my peers and students so they can increase their history knowledge and community involvement."

"The time and resources that were committed to this program really made me feel valued as a teacher. It was obvious that many partners were personally invested in the project and that really motivated me to be successful. I feel really well supported and that a lot of people are wanting me to succeed and willing to help me. "

"Coming to these workshops has made me a better teacher because we are all very enthusiastic and devoted and want to make learning fun. We will never be the same!"