

Traveling Iditarod Quilt

The project:

Participants at the 2005 Iditarod Teacher's Conference held in Wasilla, Alaska, June 20 – 25, recognized that teaching students life skills or "trail values" are essential daily tasks that face each classroom instructor, regardless of the location of the classroom or the age of the students. All educators know that there are certain "words" with powerful definitions that connect us all in the quest for helping students become responsible citizens and successful adults. Different character education programs used by schools today have listed those words. Participants at the workshop discovered that those words are easily identified when learning about mushers, dogs, survival along the Iditarod Trail, and other areas studied while integrating Iditarod into curriculums.



The traveling quilt project was created to serve as a visual representation of all of the important skills leading to successful living. By integrating Iditarod into character education in the classrooms, those skills can be demonstrated, taught, and reinforced. Participants at the workshop each created a quilt square as part of a character education message or wish for successful living. Special guests at the workshop were asked to autograph quilt squares. At the Iditarod volunteer and musher sign picnic, mushers signing up to run Iditarod 2006 autographed quilt squares.



Photo by June Price

Jon Van Zyle, Gary Paulsen, Vi Redington, and Iditarod Musher and Yukon Quest Champion, Vern Halter, are but a few of the special guests who signed the quilt.

TOTT 06, Terrie Hanke, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, took the squares home with her and was responsible for turning the individual squares into the quilt.

Stay on the "Quilt's Trail" and catch glimpses of the special messages on the quilt as it journeys the trail from classroom to classroom, visiting schools and communities through out the 2005 – 2006 school year. As the quilt reaches destinations, "Quilt's Journey" will be posted.

Read about the quilt and participate in classroom activities about the journey!