KIDAROD™

BY YMCA OF THE NORTH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026 • 2–6 P.M.

FISH LAKE REGIONAL PARK • 14900 BASS LAKE RD, MAPLE GROVE, MN 55311

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE KIDAROD?

It's just like the famous Alaska sled dog race, the Iditarod — only different. We'll have racers cover a beautiful winter adventure course with natural & human made obstacles, and all that mother nature has to offer mixed in. It's all about outdoor fun & finishing!

Q: HOW LONG IS THE RACE?

The full course is almost 2 miles long and may be changed on race day depending on weather conditions. Fun, yes, but safety first.

Q: HOW DO START SESSIONS WORK?

At registration, you'll choose your preferred 20-minute starting session. Please plan to arrive at the park a few minutes prior to your scheduled start to check in and get your starting instructions.

Q: IS THERE A MASS START?

No. We start 2–4 racers per minute to space participants out. Sessions are 20 minutes each, and our objective is to have you start in your 20-minute race session.

Q: WHAT IS THE KIDAROD AGE RANGE?

- Kids Ages 5-6: Racing with a registered partner age 13 and up
- Kids Ages 7-17: Racing solo, or with other registered kid(s) and/or adults
- Adults Racing w/ Kids ages 5-17

Note: All age racers must be registered

Q: CAN SIBLINGS/FRIENDS RACE TOGETHER?

Yes. Friends and family groups may race the course together. All groups should be signed up for the same session.

Q: WHAT ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER?

We've seen it all: cold temps in the teens, record warm temps in the 60s, and a huge blizzard — and each race was awesome. So be Minnesota tough and ready to adapt for anything! Safety is our first concern — we've never cancelled the Kidarod due to cold weather, but may change the course if necessary.

Q: WHAT SHOULD RACERS WEAR?

It's always smart to dress in layers for extra warmth on a chilly day, especially before starting, and so you can peel off a layer once you warm-up during the race. Most racers get warm during the event if they are overly bundled up. Footwear: we've had everything from a cold packed trail to deep snow to a melting track. Be prepared for wet, muddy, or fresh snow conditions. Boots are best for this race, and tennis shoes are not recommended as they can become wet and slippery.

Tip: Have dry clothes ready for after the race in case you get wet, sweat a lot or even get muddy during the race.

Q: WILL THERE REALLY BE HUSKY SLED DOGS?

YES. We will have beautiful sled dog teams on hand for great photos and lots of hugs.

Q: WILL YOU SEND OUT RACE WEEK UPDATES?

Yes. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the most current updates and make sure to add YMCA of the North to your safe senders list to receive email updates. We'll never sell or share your email address.

For more information about Registering or Volunteering, CLICK HERE.