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**Olympian makes historic ride**[Print Page](#)

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Despite temperatures of 20 below zero, Steven Eull completed the Northland 300 and says he wants to ride again next year.

A fundraiser for Special Olympics, the Northland 300 is a 300-mile snowmobile ride from Two Harbors to Ely and back, this year held Jan. 22 to 25. Eull, 22, of Mahtomedi, was the first Special Olympian ever to participate. Eull has Down syndrome and rode with his Special Olympics ski coach Jason Reinsch.

During the opening ceremony on Jan. 22, Eull lit the "flame of hope." The 89 riders, accompanied by support team, then completed the first 150 miles of their journey. Jan. 23 was a "free day" for socializing, including a '70s-themed party.

With frigid temperatures on Jan. 24, there was some discussion that maybe Eull should skip the second half of the ride. But Eull said he was a "tough cookie" and insisted on braving the cold.

"Jason, are you proud of me?" Eull asked just before reaching the finish line.

"Of course I am buddy," Reinsch replied.

The Northland 300 was his favorite of the many Special Olympics events he has participated in, Eull said. According to his mother, Patty Eull, many of the ride participants really enjoyed having Steven there — as a reminder of whom they were riding for, and as proof that Special Olympians can accomplish anything the rest of us can.

With help from friends and teammates, Eull and Reinsch were the eighth-highest fundraisers. They collected \$8,400, half of which went to Special Olympics Minnesota and the other half went to Eull's Area 12 Flames team. In total, the event raised nearly \$205,000.

— *Kristine Goodrich*



Steven Eull (second from left) and Jason Reinsch (in driver's seat) celebrate with sponsors from Hitching Post Motorsports.

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[x] Close Window