

Riders coming Jan. 27

Minnesota's most enthusiastic snowmobilers will be in Two Harbors later this month for the opening ceremony for the Northland 300. It begins at 8 a.m. Jan. 27 at Superior Shores Resort & Conference Center.

The ride raises money for Special Olympics Minnesota. The 23rd annual event runs Jan. 26-30.

Snowmobilers depart in teams after the opening ceremony, destined for Ely for two days of riding and returning to Two Harbors Jan. 29 to celebrate their efforts.

The public is welcome at the ceremony to witness the inaugural lighting of the 2011 Olympic Flame by Special Olympics Athletes from Two Harbors and three-year ride veteran Steven Eull (riding with

coach Jason Reinsch).

In the spirit of the medals awarded to Special Olympics athletes, new this year for Northland 300 will be the "Gold Medal Team Award" for the team that meets specific criteria for riding with the greatest team spirit and camaraderie.

Since 1989, Northland 300 participants have traveled more than 609,000 miles on North Shore trails (including Two Harbors, Lutsen, Eveleth, Ely and surrounding areas), have patronized local businesses along the way, and have raised more than \$3.3 million to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota.

Special Olympics Minnesota provides year-round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities that contribute to lifelong physical fitness, personal growth and achievements.

For more information, visit northland300.org or specialolympicsminnesota.org or contact Kathy Karkula at (612) 604-1272 or karkulak@somn.org.

