

Public invited to opening ceremony for Northland 300

The public is invited to send off Minnesota's top snowmobilers on Thursday, Jan. 27 at the start of the Northland 300. The opening ceremony begins at 8 a.m. at Superior Shores Resort & Conference Center in Two Harbors.

Favorable snow conditions have Northland 300 snowmobilers geared up and ready to hit the trails to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota.

Snowmobilers depart in teams upon completion of the opening ceremony, destined for Ely for two days of riding and fun, and returning to Two Harbors on Jan. 29 to celebrate

their efforts.

The opening ceremony will include the lighting of the Olympic Flame (for the first time in 2011) by Special Olympics athletes from Two Harbors and Northland 300 veteran and Special Olympics athlete Steven Eull (riding with Coach Jason Reinsch).

In the spirit of the medals awarded to Special Olympics athletes, new this year for Northland 300 participants 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 travelled 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 in excess of \$3.3 million to benefit Special Olympics Minnesota. The organization offered thanks to their sponsors and partners throughout the state of Minnesota for their continued support and friendships.

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

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

