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FOX 21 News

TWO HARBORS - Snowmobilers hit the trails on Thursday for a good cause: the three day, Northland 300, benefitting the Special Olympics Minnesota.

The trip began with an opening ceremony and torch lighting in Two Harbors with the final destination in Ely.

This marks the 23rd year of the Northland 300. Since its start, volunteers have raised more than \$3.3 million to benefit the Special Olympics. Teams and riders donate money, and volunteer their time for the event.

And, it's these volunteers, that make the Special Olympics possible.

"They come and there is so much heart in our snowmobilers. Anybody can snowmobile, anybody can, but snowmobiling with your heart to raise money to do this, to represent Special Olympics, that takes a special snowmobiler and we got them," said Kathy Karkula with Special Olympics Minnesota.

For the nearly 61 riders participating this year, they say helping athletes with special needs, makes the ride worthwhile.

"It helps you realize what you can do for others and make their world bigger than it might have been so that's important," said participant Bob Parker.

The snowmobilers will make the return trip back to Two Harbors on Saturday.

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