

## VOLUNTEER ROAD CROSSING GUIDE

### GOAL:

- **Safe** crossing of roadways for dog teams and mushers
- **Safe** viewing for spectators
- **Safe**, unobstructed travel for motorists on the roadway

### WHAT TO BRING TO THE CROSSING

- Snow shovel.
- Headlamp or flashlight or lantern.
- Warm winter clothes; dress in layers.
- Hand and/or toe warmers.
- Snacks and warm drinks – **no alcohol** at the road crossing.
- Do **NOT** bring your **PETS** to the road crossing, not even to stay in your vehicle.

### ARRIVE AT YOUR ASSIGNED ROAD CROSSING ON TIME

- Your assigned arrival time will give you time to set up the crossing and build a fire before the first dog team is scheduled to cross.
- **Park all vehicles close** to the snow bank on the **same side** of the roadway so that motorists can easily pass through.
- **Turn off headlights** of each parked vehicle to improve vision for on-coming traffic.
- **Turn on** each parked vehicle's **hazard lights** to alert oncoming traffic of your presence.
- Wear a reflective vest at all road crossings, even in daylight.
- Make sure the flashers are working on the road signs designating the crossing.
- Use your snow shovel to clear any snow banks that might create a drop-off or barrier for the dog teams.
- Add snow where there is bare ground or pavement to make a small layer for the sleds.
- Clear the trail of any chunks of ice, snow, or debris.
- Get your fire started using the wood provided and kindling materials in the plastic pail by the wood bundle.

### OVERSEEING THE ROAD CROSSING

- **WE CANNOT STOP TRAFFIC**
  - Local police or fire authorities have the jurisdiction to stop traffic at some locations. Volunteers do not have this authority.
  - Place someone as a spotter 50 feet or so up the trail from the road to spot an oncoming team and warn the musher when traffic is approaching and the team should stop.
  - Mushers will all be aware that they are to stop for traffic.

- Watch for approaching teams at all times. Call out “team coming” so that all crossing volunteers are ready.
- When the teams are passing across the roadway, form a line of people across the road to guide the teams in the right direction. This is especially helpful for the first few teams; later teams will follow where the first ones have gone.
- Stand still.
- Do not yell or try to get the dogs’ attention.
- Do not make unexpected movements, jump around, or shuffle along beside the teams.
- Calm, quiet volunteers allow the dogs to focus on the musher’s commands.
- **Do not talk to the dogs** and speak to the musher only after the lead dog has passed. Then, speak quiet words of encouragement such as “Good Luck” or “Have a good Run”.
- Use your flash light to direct the musher to the trail on the other side of the road, but **NEVER FLASH YOUR LIGHT TOWARD THE DOGS OR MUSER**. Explain this to any spectators present.
- Do **NOT** try to **feed** the dogs.

### MUSER BIB NUMBER SHEETS

- You will find a printed list of the mushers’ names and bib numbers in the bucket at your crossing,
- Use the provided marker (works in the cold) to check off each bib number when the musher has passed through the crossing.
- When the last musher has passed through your crossing, you may get ready to leave the crossing.

### PROBLEMS

- Musher asks for assistance:
  - If the musher asks for your assistance, please help. Don’t try to help unless the musher asks. Usually, the best help is to grab the lead dog’s line, **NOT** the dog, and lead the team in the correct direction.
- More than one team arrives at the crossing at the same time:
  - Ask them to line out single file and not side-by-side.
- Musher wants to scratch (drop out) or, for some other emergency
  - If there is a HAM operator at your crossing, ask them to notify Race Headquarters.
  - Or, call Headquarters; phone number will be provided by coordinator.

### HOSTING AND SUPERVISION OF SPECTATORS

- Please be pleasant to spectators who stop at your crossing.
- Explain what you are doing.
- Ask for their cooperation using a balance of courtesy and firmness to provide direction regarding where to stand, when to be quiet, etc.
- Diplomatically discourage drivers or snowmobilers who wish to travel on the trail itself. Offer directions to other viewing locations.
- You **CANNOT STOP drivers and snowmobilers** from traveling public roads and trails.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

- **Park all vehicles** close to the snow bank on the **same side** of the roadway so that motorists can easily pass through.
- **Turn off headlights** of each parked vehicle to improve vision for on-coming traffic.
- **Turn on** each parked vehicle's **hazard lights** to alert oncoming traffic of your presence.
- Wear a reflective vest at all road crossings, even in daylight.
- Make sure the flashers are working on the road signs.

## LEAVING THE ROAD CROSSING

- Put out the fire before you leave.
- Pack up any debris or trash at your crossing and take it with you for disposal.
- Leave your reflective vest in the pail and leave the pail at the crossing.