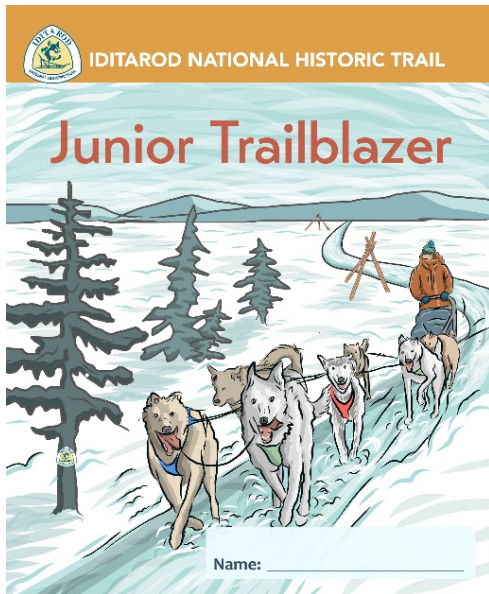


The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA), aka Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc, is a statewide non-profit organization chartered to advance the knowledge of the historic Iditarod Trail. The Alliance reviews projects along the trail, awards grants, and collaborates with partners in the protection, improvement, repair and marking of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Fiscal Year 2024 had many accomplishments, including:

- The IHTA began the undertaking of establishing an Executive Director position. This first paid position will provide full time support consistent with the mission, policies and financial objectives established by the IHTA Board. This position will be posted and hired in FY2025!

- The IHTA partially funded a new statue in Seward to honor Lee Poleske, long time IHTA Board Member, member of the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, and trail historian. Friends and colleagues honored Lee in June 2024 with a community gathering and the unveiling of his memorial statue along mile zero of the INHT in Seward (right).



- IHTA Oral History Project
This project continued in FY2024 with Phase II interviews to document the establishment of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The Phase I and Phase II interviews are available on the project website at: <https://jukebox.uaf.edu/iditarodtrail>.
- Children’s Activity Book
The INHT children’s activity booklet, “Junior Trailblazer” (left), a collaborative effort with the IHTA, U.S. Forest Service and BLM, was distributed by the IHTA in FY2024. A Jr Trailblazer patch and stickers (below) were also fabricated, printed, and distributed in conjunction with the booklet.

- iTREC! (Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom)
 - This is the fifteenth year of this successful program. FY2024 was used to strategize with our partners on the future of this important program post-COVID.
 - Work continues on the layout and design of an iTREC! Educator’s Resource Guide.



- Review of Projects along the INHT
The Alliance provided advise, comments and technical assistance to the State of Alaska, BLM, USFS and others for projects, area plan reviews, and the development of stipulations in Section 106 Programmatic Agreements mitigating adverse impacts to the INHT.



- Establishment of the Historic Iditarod Trail Fund
The IHTA opened a non-endowed fund with the Alaska Community Foundation to provide a sustained source of funds to support the work of the IHTA. Donations can be made directly to the Historic Iditarod Trail Fund at <https://alaskacf.org/funds/>

- Outreach Events Included



- The IHTA participated in the Iditarod Dog Sled Race Re-Start at Willow, providing information on the historic trail. The Alliance also provided merchandise for the Nome Kennel Club and material on the history of the INHT to each of the checkpoint communities north of the Alaska Range. Trail markers were supplied to the Iditarod Trail Committee to erect as needed along the trail (left).
- The IHTA partnered with the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers and the Resurrection Bay Historical Society on a weekly showing of the movie “Iditarod National Historic Trail – a History” at the Seward Public Library, free to the public.
- The IHTA distributed a bimonthly newsletter, *Tripod*, via email and mail. The newsletter contains news and updates on the INHT.

- Nome Kennel Club

- The Nome Kennel Club erected tripod trail markers along the trail between Nome and Topkok. The markers were damaged or knocked down by typhoon Merbok (right).
- Repairs were made to the Topkok Shelter Cabin to repair damage from typhoon Merbok (top).

- Additional Projects with Work Continuing in FY 2025
 - A map poster of the trail system with historical photos and information is being developed.
 - The grant awarded to the State of Alaska for updates to the AHRs (Alaska Heritage Resource Survey) for sites along the INHT corridor continues.

