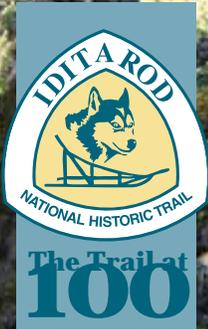


iTREC!

Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom



Connecting youth & communities along the Iditarod National Historic Trail

iTREC!

iTREC! is a yearlong professional development program that provides teachers with place-based service learning skills to help today's youth become lifelong stewards of Alaska's public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage. iTREC! teachers develop their own curriculum to increase student literacy skills and foster student understanding of and appreciation for the public lands and resources connected by over 2,400 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT). These curricula integrate hands-on study of the natural and cultural resources of communities from Seward to Nome addressing concepts in ecology, sense of place, civics, outdoor recreation and volunteerism.

This targeted investment is producing impressive results. In its first two years alone, iTREC! has trained 28 teachers who are now effectively

reaching nearly 2,000 K-12 students in 7 rural and urban communities along the trail. Within the next 5 years, the iTREC! program goal is to include all communities along the trail, expanding its reach to approximately 10,000 students.

**At the heart of iTREC!
is the belief that
students who are
immersed in the
interdisciplinary study
of their own "place"
are more eager to be
involved in the
stewardship of their
communities and
public lands.**

Committed Partnership

iTREC! is a flagship effort of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (a 501c3 nonprofit organization) which has established a robust collaboration of federal, state, school, business and community partners from Seward to Nome. Lead partners include the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Alaska Geographic. In addition to dozens of statewide and local partners, iTREC! continues to attract many innovative partners each year. This engaged partnership is the foundation of iTREC!'s tremendous success.

What Participants are Saying About iTREC!

“This workshop was a huge energizer for me. I was very excited to share ideas and to solve problems together. There was an amazing amount of synergistic energy that came from this gathering. I learned a lot and am excited to forge ahead on my trek!”



“The time and resources that were committed to this program really made me feel valued as a teacher. It was obvious that many partners were personally invested in the project and that really motivated me to be successful. I feel really well supported and that a lot of people are wanting me to succeed and willing to help me. “

“Coming to these two workshops has made me a better teacher because we are all very enthusiastic and devoted and want to make learning fun. We will never be the same!”

Results Driven

iTREC! builds upon the proven success of the Appalachian Trail to Every Classroom and the Forest to Every Classroom programs. Long-term quantitative research of these programs has shown that place-based service learning increases student achievement, community engagement, environmentally responsible behavior, and teacher retention

Determining the effectiveness of the iTREC! program over the long term is a key goal of the program. Evaluation techniques and tools are being employed that not only monitor the effectiveness of the program itself, but also allow the results to feed in to a national look at similar programs. The initial feedback gathered from teachers to date has been extremely positive.

As the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and its partners continue to offer high-quality professional development opportunities promoting place-based education and service-learning through iTREC!, teachers and community partners are developing opportunities to help build lifelong stewards of Alaska's public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage along the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Research shows that place-based education and service learning increases student achievement, community engagement, and environmentally responsible behavior.



Twenty-eight teachers from Seward to Nome are currently engaged in the iTREC! program

2010-2012 iTREC! Curriculum Projects

- Interpretive signs along the INHT
- ABC books about the INHT and communities along the trail
- Developing historical timelines and documenting oral histories
- INHT discovery quests for schools and communities
- Trail maintenance projects
- Raising awareness of the INHT through Public Service Announcements
- INHT watershed monitoring , Adopt a Stream and water quality sampling
- Developing INHT schoolyard pioneer gardens and rain gardens
- Identification and marking of the trail
- Developing INHT community visitor guides



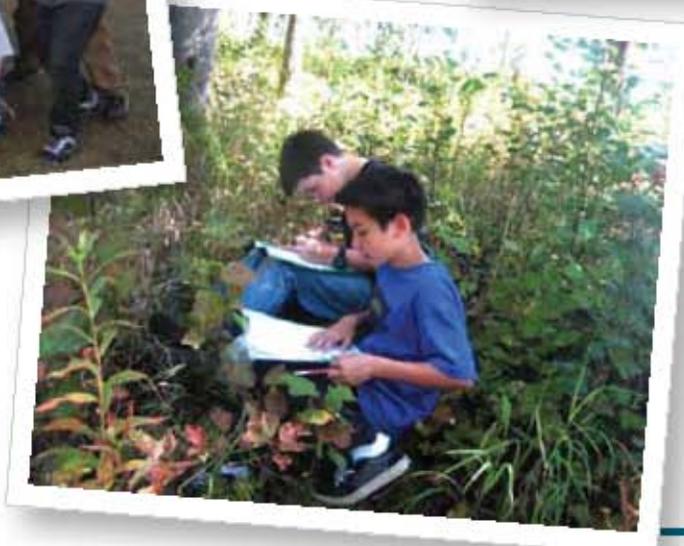
Girdwood K-8 School students weigh the impacts of development in regards to the INHT.



Kindergartners at Machetanz Elementary help re-vegetate their schoolyard by planting trees.



Inspired by place based service learning activities in their classroom, students at Tanaina Elementary started their own Eco-Club.



Researching trees along the INHT is connecting students in Wasilla with students in Galena.

iTREC! Program At-A-Glance

iTREC! is composed of 3 multi-disciplinary professional development workshops for educators, supplemented with on-going partner support and guidance:

Summer Institute (5 days)

Focus: Introduction to the Iditarod National Historic Trail, place based education, service learning and curriculum planning

Fall Workshop (3 days)

Focus: Curriculum development and evaluation

Spring Workshop (3 days)

Focus: Curriculum implementation and sustainability



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Iditarod Trail To Every Classroom Sponsors & Partners



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iTREC! - Connecting Youth & Communities Along the Iditarod Natinal Historic Trail