



Dear Classroom Teacher:

Welcome and thank you for your interest in tracking the ***SnowStar 2007 Barrenlands Traverse***. The response from schools has surpassed our expectations! We currently have students from a wide range of grade levels, from all over Alaska, Canada, and some lower 48 states that have signed up to follow the expedition. A list of participating classes and contact information is available on our website (<http://www.barrenlands.org/>).

There are 4 ways for classrooms to participate in this exciting journey:

- Create a classroom map display for tracking the expedition (map & flags enclosed).
- Participate in the classroom poster exchange (instructions enclosed)
- Use our web-based "Explore Topics" to incorporate northern theme topics into your classroom.
- Have us visit your classroom (by arrangement)

Our physical arctic journey starts March 16th and ends about May 5th, but the real journey, which is one of discovery, can start now and for you and some of your students it may prove to be a life-long journey. For those of us traveling the route it is. We are glad to have your company on the trip!

Matthew Sturm

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Dave Andersen

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Base Camp Manager
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Teacher Information Packet: Four (4) Options for Participating

Your main point of contact is:

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Expedition Base Camp Manager
P.O. Box 82350
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USA Phone (907)378-0726
Email resnorth@eagle.ptialaska.net

1. Creating a Map Display for Expedition Tracking

Materials Supplied:

Large Wall Map
Push Pins
Flags

Flag Stand
Instructions

Tracking our progress is a great way to teach students about maps, political geography, latitude and longitude, and share in our trip. Please use the enclosed map and flags to create your classroom display. The planned expedition route has been marked on the map. Push-pins have been provided for students to mark our daily positions, though a Sharpie will work as well. Flags of the countries, states, and territories we will be traveling through have been provided. Our website is:

www.barrenlands.org

This is the primary means of getting updated information on expedition position (latitude and longitude or geographic feature) and travel progress. The website is specifically geared to students and contains photos and background information on expedition purpose and goals, gear and equipment, crew members, and an interactive route map. Students can click on certain map features to find out more about that location. Our hope is that by simply having items on display in the classroom and following our progress on the website, it will provide opportunities for teachers and students to discuss the fascinating history, landscape, people, and places of the North American Arctic.

You can read our daily dispatches ([Trail Tales](#)) on the website. Prior to the start of the traverse, these will be sporadic, but once underway they will be daily. The updates will tell where we are,

what we are doing, and will include weather, science, and cultural information. Throughout the trip, our Base Camp Manager, Dave Andersen, will be available by phone and email in Fairbanks. Dave has been over much of the route on previous expeditions and is available to answer your questions. Contact information is provided above.

Confluence Option: For classes that have a particular interest in learning about latitude and longitude, we are offering to sponsor a “confluence visit” on their behalf. A “confluence” is a spot on the earth where major lines of latitude and longitude meet. There is a global effort underway to collect photographs of every near-land confluence on the Earth’s surface. The expedition will have an opportunity to record “first visits” to some very remote confluences. There are about 5 confluences we think we can potentially visit. If a classroom shows particular interest in this aspect of the trip we are offering to try to “bag” a confluence on their behalf and dedicate it to that classroom. For more information about the global confluence project visit www.confluence.org

2. Optional Poster Exchange Project

One of the goals of the *SnowSTAR 2007 Barrenlands Traverse* is to connect Northern kids and classrooms with other kids and classrooms in distant locations so they can discover similarities and differences in the places they live and the lives they lead. With this goal in mind, classrooms are invited to create a display poster describing their school, their class and their community.

To avoid the delay and expense associated with mailing, we are hoping to accomplish the distribution of posters electronically using high quality digital photographs of each poster. Posters will be re-created digitally, printed in large format, and carried on the expedition to share with schools along the way. In this way, classes may retain their own original poster as part of their own classroom display, yet share it with other schools. All participating classes will receive an exchange poster from another participating school. If you want to participate, but do not have access to a suitable digital camera, let us know. We will work with you to find a solution.

Poster Guidelines:

Theme: The poster theme is: “**Our School, Our Community, Ourselves.**”

Size: Finished poster should be approximately 24”x 32” and may be oriented horizontally or vertically. We suggest using poster board, cardboard, or foam-core as your poster platform.

Content Tips and Suggestions: We want to keep this as simple for teachers as possible. We basically want your poster to tell us something about **who you are and where you live**. Some posters may focus on describing their school or their class, some may focus on describing their community, and others will find ways to include all three. What you choose to emphasize and how you organize it is up to you. Each poster should include: **Community Name, Teacher’s Name, and Grade Level in large (1-2”) lettering.**

Content ideas: Use postcards, student drawings or magazine cut-outs to illustrate your poster. Consider having students write a paragraph about what makes their community special or unique. What things would they show a visitor to their community? Include your national and state/provincial flags if you like. Or have students draw a picture of their school. Consider taking

a class photo* in front of your Expedition route map. Have students list some of the things they are studying in class. Have students list or draw pictures of things they like to do when they are not in school.

Keep in mind that your finished poster will be photographed—high contrast, bright colors and large images will photograph best. Attach your graphics with glue rather than tape. High gloss items such as tape can reflect photo-flash. If you have a detailed section of your poster you feel may not show up on your overall photo you may take a separate close-up photograph of that section and we can include it as an inset.

***NOTE:** To safeguard students, many schools have adopted policies prohibiting identified photos of individual students from appearing on the internet. As it is possible that some posters may appear on our website, we request that no individual students be identified in poster photos. Group or class photos are preferred.

Digital Submission Process and Deadlines: Take a full-frame digital photo of your poster in good light using your camera's highest resolution setting (5 megapixel resolution or better is preferred) and send it via email to the Base Camp Manager (resnorth@eagle.ptialaska.net). Your digital submission needs to be sent to the Base Camp Manager by March 1, 2007. Posters received by the deadline will be reproduced digitally and carried on the expedition to share with schools along the way. Each class that submits a poster will receive an exchange poster from another school.

Here is an example from a poster exchange that took place in 1993 (pre-digital camera era). It shows 1) that the posters are simple to make, and 2) that tape and small writing don't photograph well. Still, it is a nice poster and one that other classes enjoyed reading.



3. Optional “Explore Topics” and Northern Theme Curriculum Ideas

We are aware that teachers at all grade levels have a full schedule of curriculum of requirements to attend to, and that the amount of class time teachers can dedicate to a special project like this may be limited. We also recognize that tracking the expedition offers some unique opportunities for northern themes to be integrated into lesson plans in ways that may interest students. With this in mind, we have provided a list of **Explore Topics**, relevant to the expedition. For each **Explore Topic** we provide some basic background information, search terms, or research questions, and suggest possible ways to use that topic in the classroom. On our website you will find the following topics:

Indigenous People
The Hudson’s Bay Company
Maps and Navigation
Math, Metrics, and Miles
Animals of the North

The Early Explorers
Northern Rivers and Watersheds
The Northern Treeline
Snow Science
Oil, Diamonds & Gold—The North’s Mineral Wealth

We will be adding new topics between now and the start of the trip in March. Try one, try them all, suggest a topic you are interested in. Feel free to come up with your own ways to use the Barrenlands Traverse in your classroom.

4. Classroom Visits:

We have extensive experience in visiting classrooms and sharing science and Northern experiences with kids. For schools located in Fairbanks and along the expedition route we will make every effort to arrange a classroom visit to talk about any aspect of the expedition. If you are interested in a classroom visit please contact us using contact information on the website.





United States



Alaska



Yukon



Canada



Northwest



Nunavut

Stand

Flags of Arctic North America