



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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NORTHLAND 300 ABOUT TO EMBARK IN SETTING HISTORY (PART 1 IN A 2 PART SERIES)

Northland 300 snowmobilers are ready to blaze the trails on January 21-25, 2009. For the first time ever in the history of Special Olympics Minnesota and the Northland 300, an athlete and a coach will be participating in the Northland 300. They are excited! Special Olympic Athlete Steven Eull and Coach Jason Reinsch have turned in their registrations, attended the 1st Driver/Support Meeting, and are out raising funds for a cause they truly believe in. Steven's Mom Patsy has also climbed on board and will be part of the Northland 300's Support Team.

Steven Eull is a Special Olympic athlete who loves winter. He is very excited to be riding on the back of his coach's snowmobile to participate in the 2009 Northland 300. Steven was born with Down syndrome. He has been involved in Special Olympics Minnesota since he was 8 years old. He is a member of the Area 12 Flames team and competes in softball, swimming, track & field, bowling, golf, and downhill & slalom skiing. He also is part of the Athlete Leadership program where he has been trained to be a Global Messenger, speaking at public events.



Jason is a certified coach and has been coaching Steven for 11 years. Jason has wanted to participate in the Northland 300 for the past three years but has not found time in his busy schedule until this year. This will truly be a fun and exciting challenge for Jason.

Patsy is very active in her son's life. She is excited for Steven to be embarking in this new adventure. Patsy is also a certified coach and coaches the Area 12 Flames team in the Twin Cities. In 2006, Patsy received the KARE11 "Eleven Who Care Award" for her outstanding contributions and efforts to the athletes of her Special Olympics' team the Flames.

This will truly be a historical moment for Special Olympics and the Northland 300 ... stay tuned for details on how Steven and Jason are preparing for the 2009 Northland 300 and for their personal interviews.

The 2009 Northland 300 will take place on January 21-25th from Two Harbors to Ely and back. Follow Steven's adventure during this time at www.northland300.org.

Special Olympics Minnesota provides year round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities that contribute to life-long physical fitness, personal growth and achievements.

For additional information, visit www.northland300.org or www.specialolympicsminnesota.org or contact Kathy Karkula at 612-604-1272 or karkulak@somn.org.