



July 9, 2009

TO: All Afton Trail Run Volunteers
RE: 2009 Afton Trail Run 25K and 50K

Dear Volunteers,

I want to thank you all once again, for coming together to make the 16th edition of the Afton Trail Run a great success. The Afton Trail Run has a rich and proud history of volunteerism; this is the foundation upon which the race has been built and continues to thrive. Without the support of dedicated volunteers such as yourself, the race never would have made it this far and we would not currently be in the planning stages for 2010, (the 17th edition of the race)! As volunteers, you can all take pride in knowing that with your help, we are putting on one of the most reasonably priced, professionally run, well organized, safest and highly regarded trail-races in the country. With a significant increase in popularity over the last few years, having terrific individuals like you involved with the race, has helped the ATR to retain its organic, laid-back, fun and non-commercial feel.

As has been customary since the races inception, all net proceeds from the Afton Trail Run have been donated to Afton State Park. This year we were able to make a donation of \$3,500.00. The financial donation is put in a special account to be used at the discretion of the Afton State Park management team. Having the donation directly in the hands of Afton State Park management / employees (who work at the park everyday), ensures that the proceeds are used in ways that benefit the parks trail system and in turn, trail-running at the park.

Every single volunteer's contribution to the ATR is meaningful and significant. There are however, a few people that have become fixtures at the race (sometimes allowed a year off to run). These individuals have consistently gone above and beyond what has been asked of them and have been selflessly giving of themselves to the race; before, during and after race-day, for many years. These individuals are the heart, soul and backbone of this race. I would like to specifically thank all of you that were here before I took over as race director and have stuck with me, and the race, since then. I can only hope that my contribution can have the same positive impact that your contributions have had over the years. As the years go by, I hope we can add more names to this list – as this not only ensures the health and future of the race (and its relationship with Afton State Park), but ensures that many more life-long friendships are made.

This year, within hours of the last runner finishing the race, my inbox was flooded with emails from runners who could not say enough about the organization and support they experienced at our event. This is a direct testament to your efforts. I hope that you had a fun and rewarding day volunteering for the Afton Trail Run and hope that you choose to come back to help next year. If you cannot help next year, I hope that it is because you are running the race! If you have any questions, complaints, comments, concerns, suggestions or compliments regarding the race, please feel free to contact me!

Sincerely,

John Storkamp

(On behalf of Alicia Gordon and the ENTIRE ATR TEAM.)

Race Director

Afton Trail Run

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