

NOBLE PAWS SYNOPSIS

Noble Paws is a nonprofit that teaches people experiencing disabilities or at-risk behavior how to run their own dog team. We have over 20 sled dogs in our kennel that are available to help train participants in all aspects of training, managing and maintaining a team of sled dogs.

We have three programs that serve a variety of participants.

MUSHING SCHOOL

Mushing school is a weekend training that gives people with disabilities first-hand experience working with a team of sled dogs. Depending on a participant's ability, this could be as simple as riding in the sled or as advanced as independently running their own team. Here are some of the skills taught in Mushing School:

- Sled dog positions and roles within the team
- Steering, stopping and general control of a dog sled
- Lead dog commands and communication
- Moving dogs from one position in the team to another
- Harnessing the dogs
- Care and feeding of the dogs

RACE TEAM

The Noble Paws Race Team is available to qualified at-risk participants. Participants in this program commit to six months of training, beginning in October. Participants are trained on how to handle the dogs and drive a sled.

Race season begins in January and all participants that demonstrate the ability to independently run their own team are invited to join in the competitive race season.

All Race Team participants have a role and are interdependent on each others ability to meet expectations. In other words, everyone: cleans the dog yard, trains the dogs, handles dogs during races, etc. Participants are assigned specific responsibilities throughout the year and are given the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity. The success of this program is dependent on all members of the team working together.

On non-race weekends, Race Team participants assist with the Noble Paws Mushing School.

VETERAN ADVENTURE

Our veterans program is a five day intensive training. The first three days of the program teach participants how to run their own dog team. This program culminates with a two-day/one-night trip into the backcountry.

For more information visit NoblePaws.org, email: steve@noblepaws.org or call 907-314-0721.