



2026 Noquemanon Ski Marathon Race Bulletin

INFORMATION

Administrators for the race will be available at the Superior Dome all day on Friday and Saturday. Call 866-370-RACE if you have questions and look for the race committee vests. Official sources of race information are this bulletin, the Noquemanon Ski Marathon website, e-mails and e-newsletters from the Noquemanon Ski Marathon, and Noquemanon Ski Marathon owned social media pages. Race organizers may use any and all of these sources to provide information to participants. The official broadcast sponsor of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon is WLUC TV6 and Fox UP.

HEALTH/SAFETY

Cold weather safety protocols are in place for the 2026 event including a 1 hour delayed start of the 50K. Aid station and course cut-offs will be strictly enforced.

We strongly encourage every competitor to honestly assess their fitness and anticipated pace. If you have any hesitation about your ability to meet the cutoff times listed, we ask that you consider switching to a shorter race distance. With the slower snow conditions, a compressed timeline, and colder temperatures, making the cutoffs may be especially challenging—particularly for skiers who have historically been close to these limits in past years.

Weather conditions will be very cold this year, and taking preventative measures against frostbite and hypothermia is imperative for all participants regardless of the distance of the event. **Frostbite can occur in as little as 10 minutes on exposed skin at the forecasted temperatures.** Dress appropriately for very cold conditions by using multiple layers, including one or two base layers that wick moisture away from the skin. Use an additional wind-blocking layer over sensitive areas (e.g., wind briefs). **Cover all exposed skin** to prevent frostbite, including:

- Buff for ears below the hat line
- A second buff around the neck that can be pulled up over the mouth
- Face tape to protect exposed skin on the nose and cheeks

- Glasses or a face shield to protect your eyes
- Do not use eye drops of any kind in these conditions as it will freeze and cause eye injury

Wear warm ski gloves and insulated ski socks, making sure ski boots are not overly tight, as restricted circulation increases frostbite risk. If you carry fluids, use an insulated water bottle. If not, be sure to utilize the aid stations for:

- Water
- Hammer HEED
- Hammer Gels where available
- Food

Taking in fluids and calories on very cold days is extremely important, as your body works harder to stay warm. You may not “feel” thirsty, but dehydration and calorie deficits can occur quickly. Skiers often “bonk” hard on cold days because thirst and hunger cues are suppressed.

Taking these preventative measures will help ensure a safe and enjoyable ski despite cold temperatures.

Additional Safety Recommendation - It is highly recommended to carry a few chemical hand and/or foot warmers in your pockets. They are not only very effective for many hours but they are small, inexpensive, lightweight, and are invaluable in the event of an equipment malfunction or injury that forces you to stop skiing and begin walking.

Ski racing and ski events come with inherent safety risks. It is up to each participant to assess their own physical condition and risk tolerance and at all times make reasonable efforts to ensure the safety of themselves and others both on and off the trail. Both weather and reported trail conditions should be accounted for on an individual basis. The Noquemanon can experience a variety of weather and snow conditions and at times the UP experiences extreme weather that can change on the same day. ***At all times participants need to be aware of their abilities and physical condition and make appropriate personal calls on participation.*** Course conditions can change throughout the day. Lake and creek crossings can become difficult at times and there are difficult/fast descents and climbs. If warranted, a race or aid official

may have to make this decision for you if it is clear that continuation is too high of a safety risk.

Ski in control at all times. The Noquemanon has made a virtual option available to any participant that chooses not to participate in-person for any reason.

FLUORINATED WAXES

Fluorinated ski wax use, while not recommended, is permitted in all waves. Please note the Noquemanon Trail Network prohibits the application of fluorinated waxes inside the Forestville Trailhead building.

DINING SPECIALS

Downtown Marquette is excited to welcome Noquemanon Ski Marathon racers, fans and families to the area. The Marquette DDA (Downtown Development Authority) has partnered with select restaurants to offer pre-race dining specials on Friday, January 23rd. For seating and reservations, please contact restaurants directly. Racers are asked to please mention the special when placing their orders. Visit the following site for a list of participating restaurants:

<https://www.downtownmarquette.org/downtown-events/noque-pasta>

The Noquemanon Ski Marathon is an important community event that supports trail building and maintenance efforts as well as the local economy. Race organizers encourage you to support those local business that support this event.

REGISTRATION & SKI EXPO

Booths will be set up Friday Jan 23rd 5:00 pm – 10 pm at the NMU Superior Dome. Check in and complete bib pick up with a photo ID, visit the exhibits and displays for ski and wax products, local area information, Noquemanon merchandise, race information, bus schedule, and more. Many of the expo exhibitors are sponsors - please thank them for their support of the Noquemanon.

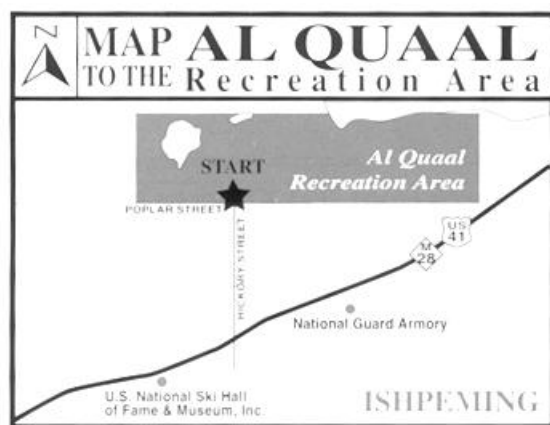
50K, 24K, and 15 mile snowshoe participants will receive a commemorative Swix Noquemanon hat with their bib and race packet.

12K participants will receive a commemorative Noquemanon T-shirt with their bib and race packet.

Race bibs will be assigned dynamically based on check-in time. Check in early to ensure access to all items (racer gift, branded bibs, etc) in case of unforeseen shortages.

RACE DAY INFORMATION

Start Area 50K – The start area for the 50K is located at Al Quaal Recreation Area in Ishpeming. Busing to the start of the 50K is strongly recommended and is for participants only. The bus ride is approximately 30 minutes. On US 41 in Ishpeming, turn north on Hickory Street and you will dead end at the Start area. Birchview School is located right outside of the starting area and will be open as a place to keep warm and stage.



Start Area 24K/15 Mile Snowshoe – The start area for the 24K is on County Road 510 in Negaunee Township. **Please note there is NO parking at the 24K start and the road is very narrow.** Participants must take the appropriate shuttle bus to the start. The bus ride is approximately 30 minutes. Busing is for participants only. Warming buses will be available at the starting area.

Start Area 12K - The start area for the 12K is the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) Forestville Trailhead located off of Forestville Road. Busing to the start of the 12K is strongly recommended and is for participants only. **Please note that there is no return busing from the Dome to Forestville at the end of the race – this is why we strongly recommend utilizing the busing to the start line.** The bus ride is approximately 15 minutes. From the NMU Superior dome take Wright St/CR 492 west to County Rd HQ/Forestville Rd. Follow the blue signs to the NTN Forestville Trailhead. The road will be sanded however it is often very icy for cars without 4WD and when stopped. The race course crosses the road so it is

likely any vehicles traveling to the trailhead will be stopped by road crossing volunteers. The Forestville Trailhead building will be open as a place to keep warm and stage – space is not unlimited in the building however and may become crowded.

Finish Area 50K/24K/15 Mile Snowshoe/12K – The finish area for all 50K, 24K, 12K events and the 15 Mile Snowshoe event is on the north side of the NMU Superior Dome.

Wave Placement - Participant number, event type, and wave placement will be printed on each bib. Bibs are color coded by wave – if you are at the start line and your bib color is different than everyone around you, you are in the wrong wave. 50K Relay skiers will begin in Classic Wave 2 (Classic leg is first) as indicated. Placement in the elite wave (wave 1) is only by a top 50 finish in the previous year's Noquemanon Ski Marathon or by racer petition. Wave 1 placement is at the discretion of the Race Director and is dependent upon available space in the wave.

50K Classic – Wave 1 is the Elite Wave (130 skiers – bibs 1-50 have front seeding), Wave 2 (130 skiers + first leg of Relay skiers)

50K Freestyle – Wave 1 is Elite Wave (100 skiers), Wave 2 (130 skiers), Wave 3 (130 skiers)

24K Classic – 4 waves (65 skiers per wave)

24K Freestyle – 5 waves (80 skiers per wave)

Touring Class – The touring class is for **classic skiers only** and is meant to be for people who are more interested in a casual skiing experience rather than a competitive race. You must have registered for this class. The touring class will start earlier than the racers – aid stations may not be available to touring class right away due to their early start. Please respect that this is a race and you should step out of the track or get to the side when a racer approaches from behind. **Single file skiing please whenever possible** as the entire course will have traffic. Show courtesy to those who are trying to pass and be aware of those behind and around you. You must move out of the way of faster skiers. Touring skiers will **not** be eligible for age category awards and will **not** be eligible for overall awards.

Clothing Bag Tags and Bag Drop – Tags will be provided at bib pickup for Saturday participants. **Tags are to be attached to your own backpack. The tag should have your bib number on it.** Participants are responsible for getting their bags/backpacks **into** the

trucks next to each start area. Bags/backpacks will be taken inside the Superior Dome where they can be claimed following the race. Race officials are not responsible for misplaced, lost, or stolen property.

Lost and Found – There will be a lost and found area at the Superior Dome on race day. Look for the information booth or call 866-370-RACE.

VIRTUAL EVENT

A virtual option is available for 50K and 24K distances. The virtual event will be contested between January 24th and Saturday February 1st. Virtual registration will count as a completed Noquemanon but the time is not considered for wave placement in future Noquemanon Ski Marathon events and virtual participants are not eligible for age group or overall awards. In person Noquemanon courses are **CLOSED** to virtual participants on January 24th. The 50K course west of the Dead River Basin is closed at all times to all skiers outside of an in-person wave on January 24th as this portion of the course is on private land.

WAVE START TIMES

All Times are Eastern Standard Time

Noquemanon Ski Marathon (Saturday Jan 24th)
****Includes revised times for 50K - 1 hour delayed start***

6:00 am: Superior Dome opens
*8:00 am: Busing to start line begins
*9:10 am: 50K Classic Touring
9:50 am: 12K Classic (Men and Women)
*10:00 am: 50K Classic Elite Wave 1
*10:10 am: 50K Classic Wave 2
(Includes Relay skiers)
10:10 am: 12K Freestyle (Men and Women)
*10:55 am: 50K Freestyle Elite Wave 1
*11:00 am: 50K Freestyle Wave 2
*11:10 am: 50K Freestyle Wave 3
11:45 am: 24K Classic Wave 1
11:55 am: 24K Classic Wave 2
12:05 pm: 24K Classic Wave 3
12:15 pm: 24K Classic Wave 4
12:30 pm: 24K Freestyle Wave 1
12:40 pm: 24K Freestyle Wave 2
12:50 pm: 24K Freestyle Wave 3
1:00 pm: 24K Freestyle Wave 4
1:10 pm: 15 Mile Snowshoe Wave

Transportation/Busing & Parking

Please reference the separate busing schedule for times and locations. Printed busing schedules are available at the Dome.

Start Line Busing - Buses from the Superior Dome to the 50K, 24K, 12K, and 15 Mile Snowshoe start lines will be available for boarding at the circular drive on the west side of the Superior Dome (off of Presque Isle Avenue). The Superior Dome will be open at 6:00 am Saturday. Buses will start running at 8:00 am. Busing will be available from the Superior Dome to the start lines AND from the finish line back to the 50K start line. The bus ride to the start line of the 50K and 24K/15 mile snowshoe is approximately 30 minutes.

Busing to the start line of the 24K Half Noque/15 Mile Snowshoe is MANDATORY and it will be strictly enforced as there is no parking at the County Road 510 start area. Busing to the start line of the 50K and 12K is strongly encouraged and will help ensure a pleasant experience for participants. Please note that buses are for race participants only – no spectators are allowed on these buses.

The NTN Forestville Trailhead has parking for spectators but no parking is allowed on Forestville Road. The safety of participants (your friends and family) depends on emergency vehicles gaining access to this area if there is a health issue or injury. Your vehicle will be immediately towed if parked along the road – signs will be placed indicating parking areas. The road will be sanded however it is often very icy for cars without 4WD depending on conditions.

Finish Line Busing – Participants in the 50K can take a return bus from the finish line back to Birchview Elementary School (50K start area) if needed. Return buses will run on a regular interval. The first wave of relay skiers will finish at the CR 510 trailhead and start of the 24K Half Noque – these skiers can take one of the return busses staging from this area. Warming buses will be provided in case no return bus is available at the time the relay skier finished. All Participants can take advantage of the ski valet, showers/locker rooms, and sauna at the NMU PEIF Building (this is the building connected to the Superior Dome) before taking a return bus to the start area of the 50K. There is no return busing to the Forestville Trailhead (12K start line) from the finish line.

Before and After the Race Transportation -- Busing to select hotels is available. Please refer to the bus schedule.

ON THE COURSE

FIS Cross Country Rules for Classical Technique – All FIS skiers will have to follow all FIS rules including uniform marking rules. Skis may be marked at the starting line. Classical technique includes the diagonal techniques, the double poling techniques, herringbone techniques without a gliding phase, downhill techniques and turning techniques. Single or double skating is not allowed. Turning techniques comprise of steps and pushes in order to change directions. Where there is a set track, turning techniques with pushing are not allowed. This will also apply to competitors skiing outside of the set track. **Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.**

Jury Notice and Protests – A jury meeting will take place at 3:45 pm on Saturday Jan 24th. All protests must be submitted at least 15 minutes prior to 3:45pm to the Race Director. Protests after this deadline will may not be considered. The jury will consist of Race Director Jason Rolling, Timing Official Sam Graci, Technical Delegate Jim Tervo, and Assistant Director of Race Paul Johnston.


Food and First Aid Stations – 7 Aid stations are located throughout the 50K course with an 8th inside the Superior Dome. They will contain Hammer HEED Energy Drink, water, and food (varies based on availability). Hammer Energy Gels will be available at some aid stations.

Ski Poles - Ski poles will be available at some aid stations based on availability. Aid stations are manned by volunteers donating their time to the event. Be kind!

Conduct – Any participant that engages in unsporting behavior towards another participant, or a volunteer, may be DNF'd and banned from future events. Rude or abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

For safety reasons, earbuds/headphones are not allowed on the course – participants need to be aware of their surroundings and be able to hear others.

Timing Chip – We use Chip Timing Technology. **The chips will be adhered to your race bib using a foam tape.** Please do not remove foam tape or chip from bib.

 **Course Aid** – The Marquette County Search and Rescue, Hiawatha Amateur Radio Operators, National Ski Patrol, and the Marquette Twp Fire Dept will be on the course for your safety. If you need

medical assistance, or notice another participant that does, please take note of the bib number and last K marker seen and let someone at an aid station along the route know. Aid stations have access to emergency personnel and communications. First aid will also be available at the finish line inside the NMU Superior Dome. Assess your realistic ability at each aid station to reach the next aid station in 6 to 8K's. If you are not confident you can reach the next aid station and/or you are experiencing complications due to cold weather stop at the aid station and notify the aid officials at the aid station. They will call in your DNF and extract you from the course and deliver you to the Superior Dome while attempting to limit your exposure to the cold. If aid officials - who are trained to do so - determine you are not in a condition to continue, they will require you to stop and extract you from the course. This is for your safety and you will be required to comply with their instructions. You will not be allowed to continue "on your own" due to current cold weather protocols that are in place.

While cell phone service is not available along all of the course there are places that do and we encourage participants to carry a cell phone in case of an emergency and no help is within a visible distance (dial 911).

COURSE CUT-OFF TIMES & LOCATIONS

Participants who are not on pace to reach each aid station and/or cut-off location by the designated time and/or are not on pace to finish at the Superior Dome by 4:30pm will be required to stop by race/aid officials. Cut-offs will be strictly enforced. Additionally, if aid officials - who are trained to do so - determine you are not in a condition to continue, they will require you to stop and they will extract you from the course. Each cut-off location is a planned extraction point. (*All times are Eastern Standard Time*)

All participants must finish by 4:30 pm. A race official, or Search and Rescue personnel, is required to stop you (for safety reasons) and you will need to remove your race bib. These participants will not be permitted to continue on the course. Our officials will arrange a ride back to the Superior Dome. No participants are allowed on the course after the final cutoff.

The trail entry points will be closed at each of the listed locations and cut-off times. No one except safety and course officials are permitted past these entry points once the trail is closed after the cut-off.

Cut-off #1 – Aid Station 2 (Deer Lake Rd):

At 12:26 pm all 50K skiers will need to be past the Deer Lake Rd Aid station (Aid station #2) approximately 8.5K from the start line.

Cut-off #2 – Aid Station 3 (South Camp Rd):

At 1:47 pm all 50K skiers will need to be past the South Camp Rd Aid station (Aid station #3) approximately 18K from the start line.

Cut-off #3 – North Basin Dr

At 2:00 pm all 50K skiers will need to be past North Basin Drive - approximately 21K's from the start line.

Cut-off #4 – Aid Station 4 (CR 510)

At 2:42 pm all 50K skiers will need to be past the CR 510 Aid station (Aid station #4) approximately 25K from the start line.

Cut-off #5 – Aid Station 5 (Bismark Creek)

At 3:41 pm ***all 50K/24K/15 Mile Snowshoe participants*** will need to be past the Bismark Creek Aid station (Aid station #5) approximately 17K from the finish line.

Cut-off #6 – Aid Station 6 (Forestville Trailhead):

At 4:30 pm the race will be over for all participants and Aid station 6 will be used as a final extraction point for anyone that will not make it to the finish line by 4:30pm.

The finish line announcer will only be present until 4:30pm.

Drop Outs – If you are not able to complete the race for whatever reason, you are required to notify the nearest First Aid Personnel or aid station. Your bib number will be relayed to the finish line and timer. The Race Director, at the finish line, will have a listing of dropouts/DNF's. Please inform your family or friends to check with the Race Director at the finish area if they are concerned about you and they will check the DNF's.

If a participant leaves the course and does not inform an official, race organizers will (after contacting phone and e-mail addresses provided at registration) have to assume the participant is lost and will send Search and Rescue. The participant will be responsible for any cost incurred for search activities.

Finish Line – Your bib number will be recorded electronically after crossing a timing point at the finish line with chip timing technology. The NMU Superior Dome has the bag drop, aid station, showers, sauna, ski valet, ski expo, and results. Showers and saunas

are in the adjoined PEIF building. Overall top 3 of classic marathon (50K) male and female winners should stay near the finish for overall finish photo and interview.

Live timing – your friends and family can log on to www.superiortiming.com to view live timing results that include when you pass timing points on the course.

POST RACE

Ski Valet - At the completion of the race, inside the Superior Dome, is a free ski valet. You can turn in your skis and poles or snowshoes to the valet, while enjoying post race activities. The ski valet will close at 4:00pm.

Post Race Activities – An aid station is inside the Superior Dome. Warm up and rehydrate with Water, HEED, and other beverages. The aid station is for skiers and volunteers only. Beverage service featuring Blackrocks Brewery 51K IPA, the official beer sponsor of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon, will be available for purchase.

Participants will have the ability to get results printed at the NMU Superior Dome and print race certificates on our web site after the race. Certificates will be a keepsake showing your finish time and split times.

The locker rooms, hot showers, and saunas will be open until 6 pm and located in the NMU PEIF building which is connected directly to the Superior Dome – follow the signs.

Results – Live stream result postings will take place periodically at the NMU Superior Dome and race receipts will be available. Screens will also be set up throughout the Dome so that participants can check results. The final results will be available by 5 pm. Race results can be found at www.superiortiming.com and www.noquemanon.com

Photo and video services - Marquette photographer Andy Gregg will be taking photos which will be available to view at www.marquettephoto.com. Nick Jensen of FloLine Media will be out on course taking video footage.

Awards Ceremony – SATURDAY EVENTS: The Marathon (50K) and Half Marathon (24K)/15 Mile Snowshoe/12K awards ceremony honors the overall top three winners. The awards ceremony will be held at the Superior Dome at approximately 5:00pm. Age category winners of each race will not be presented on stage but will be able to pick up their awards at the

awards table once results are finalized. Age category winners will need to present their finish receipt, available at the results table in the dome, to the awards table to pick up their award. ****Please get your personal finish receipt prior to approaching the awards table if you want to claim your award.**

Blackrocks Brewery is the **Official Beer sponsor** of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon. Participants 21 years of age or older can enjoy a 51K IPA available at the bar during the awards ceremony.

Raffle - There will be raffles of great merchandise and prizes during the awards ceremony. You must be present to win!

Skier Survey – In order to help us continually improve your Noque experience, please take some time to fill out our survey which will be provided in post race communications.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

50K – Only the 50K Classic race features cash prizes. All 50K podium winners are to stay at the finish line for race photos. Cash prizes awarded at awards ceremony at the NMU Superior Dome. Top prize (men's and women's division) 1st place is \$1,000, 2nd place is \$500 and 3rd place is \$250. Overall winners will also receive the mega large, beautifully engraved Noquemanon Moen Cowbells. **Please note that only Wave 1 skiers are eligible for Overall Awards in the 50K Classic & Freestyle.**

50K Relay - There will be three Team Relay divisions. Overall Male, Overall Female, and Mixed

24K - The top three men's and women's 24K racers in the classic and freestyle races will also receive a beautifully engraved Noquemanon Moen cowbell. *Overall winners can come from any wave.*

15 Mile Snowshoe - The overall and top three men's and women's 15 mile racers will also receive a beautifully engraved Noquemanon Moen cowbell. Separate categories for women and men are divided as follows: 24 and under, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65 and over.

12K - Bells go to the top three finishers in each age group for both Classic and freestyle techniques in both Male and Female categories as follows: 14 and under, 15-18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+

Age Group Awards - Engraved Noquemanon Moen cowbells will also be presented to the top three finishers of each 50K, 24K & 15 Mile Snowshoe race in each age category. Separate categories for women and men are divided as follows: 15 and under, 16-17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, and 80 and over. *Overall top three winners will not be eligible for the age category prizes.*

Age group awards will need to be picked up at the awards table inside the Superior Dome.

25 Year Legacy Skiers - Special awards will be presented to skiers that have participated in 25 editions of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon. Please contact registration at registration@noquemanon.com to identify yourself as a 25 year skier in order to receive your award. This is on the honor system.

20 Year Legacy Skiers – Special awards will be presented to skiers that have participated in 20 editions of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon. Please contact registration at registration@noquemanon.com to identify yourself as a 20 year skier in order to receive your award. This is on the honor system.

10 & 15-Year Gifts – Awards will be presented to skiers that have participated in 10 and 15 editions of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon. Please contact registration at registration@noquemanon.com to identify yourself as a 10 or 15 year skier in order to receive your award. This is on the honor system.

Founder Bibs – Skiers who have skied in all editions of the Noquemanon Ski Marathon will be issued a special Founder bib. Please contact registration at registration@noquemanon.com to ensure you receive the correct bib. Founder status will need to be verified by the timing team before providing a Founder bib.

Special Thanks

Title Sponsor – Carson Wealth

Major Sponsors – Honor Credit Union, Eagle Mine, Donckers/Delft Bistro

12K Sponsor – Upper Peninsula Health Plan

Videography – FloLine Media

Volunteer Sponsor – Active Physical Therapy

Official Beer Sponsor – Blackrocks Brewery

Rundman Jacobson Jr. Noquemanon – Meijer.
A generous gift in memory of Cheri Rundman has made the Jr Noque free for all youth.

Our Landowners - without whom we could not hold this event: Karen and Al Koskey, American Transmission Company, Lowell Anderson, Blue Heron Bluffs Condominium Association, Blue Heron Bluffs 2, City of Ishpeming, City of Marquette, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc, Christopher Brooks, Dead River Campers Association, Dead River Storage, David and Linda Denofre, Frozen Acres Farm LLC/Jim and Terri Storti, Megan and Shannah Erath, Noquemanon Trail Network, Jesse DeAngelis, Great Lakes Forrest 2 Inc and Manulife Financial Corporation, Holli Forest Products Inc, Ishpeming School District – Birchview School, Longyear Realty Corporation and JML Heirs LLC, LS&I Railroad, Marquette Board of Light & Power, Marquette County Road Commission, Northern Michigan University, Brad and Elizabeth Heinzman, Peggy and Karl Weber, Shelley Saxwold, Hoponaussu OZ LLC, UPPCO, WE Energies, Lyme Great Lakes Timberland LLC

A complete sponsor list is available on the race website at www.noquemanon.com. Thank you sponsors!

The Noquemanon Ski Marathon and associated events are a fundraising event for the Noquemanon Trail Network (known as the "NTN") which is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.