

SUPERIOR 100|50|26.2

Thursday September 11th, 2014

RE: 2014 Superior "Fall" Trail Race Volunteer Thank You

Dear Friends (aka Volunteers),

A frequent quip from the RD... *"your doing such good work, next year we are going to double your pay!"*, without fail, the recipient produces a cognizant grin. As this group knows, the best work we engage in is the work we don't get paid for, its the work that gets done out of the goodness of our hearts deep in the woods - its the work that pays in the currency of brotherhood, joy and gratitude, on the principal that by giving, we ultimately receive. "We ask a lot our of our volunteers - likely more than other races" I made this clear at this years 100 mile pre-race meeting. For this one I pick up the phone or send a message, "we need you here, can you make it?" In turn, we work as hard as we can to support our volunteers with the planning, protocol, knowledge, systems and tools to do the job unimpeded and at the highest level - based on the feedback from runners, I believe that it is working as intended. Right or wrong, the size and scope of Superior demands "return / year after year volunteer commitments", this is how it works best - as in life, the things that take the largest commitment, the most time, the biggest effort invariably yield the greatest results - this fits Superior to a T. The shifts are long, the weight is heavy, the responsibility great, the demands high and without fail, those we entrust rise to the occasion and perform beyond expectation. I frequently regret the relative anonymity of our volunteers and my overt presence as the director as I get to be the primary recipient of congratulations and gratitude that is given in response to your efforts - this year, it has been almost overwhelming, both during the event as runners finished and since via email, Facebook etc. I believe that this is feedback that other top races get, but given perhaps ten-fold in our direction - again a testament to your work, your commitment and the ownership you have all taken of your volunteer jobs and this event as a whole. Below is just one note, an example of what together we accomplished again this year.

"Thanks for what I can only describe as a world class event this past weekend. From start to finish, that's hands down the best run event I've ever been a part of. For my first 50, I couldn't possibly have had a better experience. Registration was a breeze, the aid stations were top notch, and I can't tell you the number of times I wondered to myself if I had managed to stay on course, only for a flag to pop up on my left hand side just seconds later. I would imagine I speak on behalf of all the runners, crew, and spectators in thanking you for the countless hours you put in to organizing and operating such an awesome event.

I encourage you to take a minute to jump on our Facebook page and our website, (the "testimonial" section) to read the things participants have to say, direct feedback of what this event means to them. I have been to a lot of events in a lot of places; as a runner, director and volunteer - in my mind none carry the weight, levity, community and joy of this one. It goes without saying, we are not saving the world by simply putting on a footrace but we are spreading joy, creating an envelope for greatness with and amongst great people - who with their success likely will go out into the "real world" and have a positive effect on it.

Again, thank you all for a great year, we invite you back next year to continue to be a part of this unique event; as a volunteer, a runner, a crew-person, a pacer or at a minimum a spectator - we are all a part of this and it just would not be the same without you. Should you have any questions comments, concerns, compliments or complaints, please do not hesitate to reach out, I am always available via email, for a chat or a run.

Sincerely,



Race Director
Superior Trail Race