

# SUPERIOR 100|50|26.2

Thursday September 17th, 2015

**RE:** 2015 Superior "Fall" Trail Race 100MI, 50MI & 26.2MI Volunteer Thank You

Dear Friends (aka Volunteers),

At 11:15 PM Saturday night, the doors to my 16' trailer and the 26' commercial rental truck were finally closed, their sticky contents packed not-so-neatly inside. The Caribou Highlands patio was quickly transformed back to your average recreation area for vacationing families from the coliseum of victorious warriors that it had been just hours before. The final sleep-deprived volunteers that remained were slumped into folding chairs around a large banquet table; elated, giddy and exhausted. After a dozen or so inappropriately bad jokes and raucous punch-drunk laughter it was finally dead quiet, then someone sheepishly spoke up with that surfer / stoner inflection that you hear in the movies; "ahh... dude, what just happened"? Everyone busted out laughing again. Well, a lot had happened but at its core, several days of extremely hard work culminated in runners accomplishing their goal of crossing the finish line of one of the most historic and challenging trail-races in the country. The hills, roots and rocks ironically creating a level playing field where old and young, female and male from all walks of life are all measured in one straightforward way - forward progress. Participants broadened their realization of what was possible for themselves and a lot of fantastic people called "volunteers" collaborated to make it all possible. I have said it a many times, hosting and running ultramarathons is not saving the world and does not by default make us saints - but the personal actualization that can come from overcoming such extreme challenges has the ability, if properly channeled, to make us better as we head back out to do our "works" in the "real world" - that I believe is the true value of these races.

To pull off an event at this level would be a great achievement even for a team of professionals that worked together each and every day - instead as volunteers we bring our individual talents to the table once per year and to have it play out as it does is staggering, it has the feel of magic. This phenomenon should really be broken down, analyzed and studied as I think any fortune 500 company could learn a thing or two about teamwork from our crew. Sometimes a hardship but overall a blessing is that the nature of and economics of these events (aside from a very select few throughout the country) dictates that these races will remain relatively small "amateur" affairs - their success hinging squarely on volunteer participation. I often ask myself why and how it all does work so well? Ultimately I believe that when people come together for a common goal and set egos aside they do incredible things - that is what I experience here each and every year. It humbles me and fills me with gratitude for what we have - it is truly something special to be a part of.

A runner who shot me an email within a day of the race framed what is special about Superior as well as anyone could, capturing the essence of OUR event and the envelope for greatness that your love and dedication for the race, the trail and for other runners produces year in and year out.

*[ I wanted to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate the "tone" of the races that I have been a part of. The "looking out for the other runners" attitude that you encourage and the focus on the generosity of the volunteers really makes the race "other focused". Thank you for that. I had a blast! ~ Gratefully, Mary ]*

Again, thank you all for a great year, we invite you back next year to continue to be a part of this tradition; 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