

# SUPERIOR 100|50|26.2

Tuesday September 12th, 2017

RE: 2017 Superior "Fall" Trail Race 100MI, 50MI & 26.2MI Volunteer Thank You

Dear Friends,

Impossible. That was the word that I got hung up on this year - it kept swirling in my mind as we planned for, set up, executed and cleaned up after this year's Superior Fall Trail Race. It would be impossible for Cheri and I to do this alone. It would be impossible to do this with race-weekend-volunteers only. It would be impossible to do this with 3 or 4 hour volunteer shifts. It would be impossible without you. Quite simply, it is just too big. Between all of our combined fingers and toes, Cheri and I cannot count how many key leaders we work with to make the event a reality. From the advance team that takes an entire week off of work - spending their precious vacation days with us, to the HAM Radio team that coordinates over two dozen of their own volunteers, those that cook meals for other volunteers leading up to race day, the die-hard equipment / supply crew, the aid station captains that return year after year recruiting many of their own people, our incredible medical volunteers, the marking and sweeping crew that have made long-term commitments to perform the task, the bleary-eyed runner tracking team, the packet-pickup team, the skilled timing squad, the amazing finish line coordinators and crew, those that come to help clean up the mess at our home on the Monday after... and it goes on and on from there. I would never dream of blackmailing, extorting or holding our volunteers hostage but I will tell you this with complete candor, the amount of hours and level of detail that it takes to produce this event takes Cheri and I close to the brink each and every year, it did the same to all of the directors that came before us and is the reason that the event has changed hands several times, but the plain and simple fact is that this race simply, actually (without an ounce of hyperbole) would be impossible without your year-to-year commitment – you are the Superior Trail Race, without you – no race.

Then, there are those that would say that *"it is just a race"*, and question why we would we put this much effort into it in the first place. Brian is a young guy that has run and volunteered in the past and I think he very eloquently sums up what all this effort is for and why it is certainly, definitely, unequivocally, without an ounce of doubt in my mind - worth it.

*"This past weekend I was given the opportunity to volunteer, then crew and later pace for a friend at the Superior 100 Mile Trail race in Lutsen Minnesota. I have participated in similar events in the past so I had a general idea of what to expect. However, what I got was far beyond anything I could have wished for. I was witness to the true human spirit as hundreds of individuals toed the line in an attempt to accomplish what very few people even think about attempting. Additionally, those individuals are backed by hundreds more that are giving their time, energy, food, equipment...at a moment's notice, all in an effort to assist in the goals of those running. Many requests are made of those volunteering, crewing and pacing and those needs are filled without a moment's hesitation. Getting this chance to immerse myself in all aspects of the event was extremely rewarding. Dozens of people welcomed me in like family and shared their personal stories as though I had known them for years. The actual event may have only lasted for 38 hours, but what all those involved received will last a lifetime."*

As you all know, I fight tirelessly each and every year to get you to come back and volunteer, our legacy, success and reputation has been built by those that come back year in and year out, providing veteran leadership. At the same time, our future is brighter than ever with new volunteers stepping up in ever increasing numbers, with ever increasing frequency and with what seems to me a clearer, deeper and more intuitive understanding of the importance of doing so than when I got involved in volunteering at events. The consistency that comes from having both groups back year after year results in skills and tradition being handed down and applied as we work together on this grand project that we call Superior. None of us do it for the accolades but make no mistake our reputation is second to none, the word is out – there is something very special here and the credit lands squarely with you. Wear it and own it, being involved in making this event happen is a big deal, a badge of honor and represents the highest level of attainment that one can rise to in the trail and ultra community – you all either are, or are emerging as "trail people" – that is a big deal.

We invite you all back next year to continue to be a part of this tradition. Cheri and I have already committed to next year and have spoken with many of you who have given their commitment as well. As always, 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 - if you need something just ask and I will do my best.

Sincerely,



Race Director  
Superior Trail Race