

St. Louis County Birdathon

May 16th, 2009

PARTICIPATION RULES

The Birdathon should be a fun event whereby participants of all ages and abilities can enjoy watching and listening to the birds. However, the Birdathon is also an important fund raising event to help support the education and research programs at Hawk Ridge. With this in mind, the following participation rules have been established to ensure a fun and fair event. All team leaders should inform each team member of the rules. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

General Rules:

- To be an “official” participant in the birdathon, each person must solicit at least \$30 worth of pledges **or** contribute a \$30 participation fee, or a combination thereof.
- An **official team** is one for which all members are official participants. Only official team members are qualified to win an awarded prize for a given category.
- An entire team may consist of **unofficial** participants, and they are welcome to participate in the day’s events and the compilation brunch; however, in addition to being ineligible to win a prize, their **species will not be added to the composite** list in any category.
- Separate composite species lists will be generated for **each** category: 1) St. Louis County Big Day list, 2) Big Sit list, 3) Non-motorized list, 4) Youth list, 5) Most Species Photographed list, 6) Township list
- Separate species lists will also be generated for **each** subcategory: 1) Waterfowl, 2) Shorebirds, 3) Warblers
- Official teams may enter their results and be eligible for prizes in **one category** only. However, official teams can be eligible for more than one prize in the subcategories.
- If two or more people are on a team, in order to count a new species, the species must be heard or seen by **at least** two people.
- Team members must **remain within sight and hearing distance** of each other to count a new bird species to the list. Meaning team members should not be dropped off along a road or trail while other team members drive or walk ahead to search another area, even if they are in sight of one another.
- The use of **playbacks should be avoided**. Enjoy the birds you find with your eyes and ears!
- If no team participant can attend the brunch, the team leader needs to submit their bird list by email no later than 6:00 A.M. (birdathon@hawkridge.org) or by phone by 8:00 A.M. (218.428.6209) on Sun. May 17 to qualify for a prize.
- Each individual should solicit the necessary pledges and/or contribute their participation fee no later than the day of the compilation. Pledges made in good faith will suffice to qualify a participant, even if the sponsors fail to fulfill their pledges later.
- Remember to **have fun** and enjoy time spent watching the birds!

**Category rules continued on next page*

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Category Rules

These events will take place during the 24-hr. period of May 16, 2009.

St. Louis County Big Day:

- All species must be found within St. Louis County. Document locations of rarities to share with folks at the compilation brunch.

Big Sit:

- Participants may only add new species to the count list while the team members are within a designated 12-foot diameter circle.

Non-motorized:

- New species may only be added to the list while all team members are “non-motorized”...hike, bike, paddle, horseback, skiing (well, it IS the Northland!).

Youth:

- All participants locating and identifying birds for the team must be less than 18 yr. of age to qualify for the winning prize.

Most Species Photographed:

- A CD of dated/numbered images must be submitted by 9:30 A.M. at the compilation brunch on May 17. We will share a slideshow of images at the brunch.

Township:

- There are 73 townships located in St. Louis County. Keep in mind that St. Louis County is the largest county in Minnesota and the largest county east of the Mississippi (size of CT, DE, RI combined!), so choosing a township to focus on may be the better choice for you.

Most \$\$ Raised:

- The prize for Most \$\$ Raised will be awarded to the individual who raises the most money for Hawk Ridge. The prize will be awarded on July 31, so get your pledges in fast!

Subcategory Rules

Tally up the most species in one or more of these subcategory groups for an extra prize!

- 1) Waterfowl
- 2) Shorebirds
- 3) Warblers