

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory

31st Annual St. Louis County Birdathon

Saturday, May 20, 2017

PARTICIPATION RULES

The Birdathon is fun event for participants of all ages and abilities to enjoy watching and listening to birds throughout the day, as well as an important fundraising 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. **Unofficial** participants are welcome to participate in the day’s events and the compilation brunch; however, they are ineligible to win a prize.
- Official teams may enter their results and be eligible for prizes in **one category** only: 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
- Species will also be tallied for awards in **each** subcategory: 1) Waterfowl, 2) Shorebirds, 3) Warblers, 4) Raptors
- Official teams may enter their results and be eligible for prizes in **one category** only; however, official teams may 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 electronic playbacks to lure in birds is not allowed (pishing is ok). 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). If there’s trouble with email, please call it in by no later than 8:00 A.M. (218.428.6209) on Sun. May 21 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*

Category Rules

These events will take place during the 24-hr. period of May 20, 2017.

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 members of a youth team must be under 18 years old and have an adult leader. The leader may help the team but two youth members of the team must identify each sighting.

Most Species Photographed:

- Digital images must be submitted via a flash drive by 9:30 A.M. at the compilation brunch on May 21. We will share a slideshow of images at the brunch.

Township:

- There are 73 townships located in St. Louis County, in which you can pick only one to bird in to compete in this category.

Most \$\$ Raised:

- The prize for Most \$\$ Raised will be awarded to the individual who raises the most money for Hawk Ridge. If a team collectively raises pledges, the team may need to decide which team member will receive the grand prize. Prize will be awarded by 7/1, so get your pledges in!

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
- 4) Raptors