



What is it?

The Chicago Urban Iditarod, affectionately known as the **Chiditarod**, is an annual shopping cart race through the Wicker Park and Ukrainian Village Chicago neighborhoods, which is now in its 8th year. The date of the event was chosen to coincide with the kickoff of the Alaskan Iditarod. There are some basic similarities between the races, but there is plenty more whimsy involved in this urban setting. Instead of sleds, we use shopping carts. Instead of dogs, we have teams of five humans: four pullers and one musher, all in costumes they have designed for themselves and their cart. Also, each team is required to start with their cart full of food for donation. The event draws together 800+ people, both participants and spectators, and has collected more than **68,000 pounds**** of food and more than **\$40,000** in direct donations since its 2006 inception.

When is it?

The race is always on the first Saturday in March. This year, it will take place on Saturday, March 2nd, 2013. Pre-registration is required. Online registration is open from January 15th until two weeks prior to the race. Registration is limited to 150 teams, and the earlier you register, the cheaper your registration fee! The race begins at 12:30 pm sharp with a raucous send off from the band Environmental Encroachment.

Why should you participate?

Whether you're coming as a racer, a volunteer, or a spectator, this is the most fun way to spend a wintry Saturday in March! The Chiditarod unites many Chicago communities including cyclists, artists, activists, students, children, adults, business folk, and everyone in-between. Join us as we give mad respect to the diverse people who come together to participate and create this most **EPIC** event!

Traditionally, the checkpoints and end location have been kept secret, but with the urge to spur on more awards and competition in both advance food-drive and fundraising efforts, we will be publicizing ALL checkpoints for the first time ever! This will give both checkpoints, as well as racers the opportunity to compete for supreme bragging rights. Creativity is another essential ingredient for this event. In the past, trophies and prizes have been awarded for Best Art Cart, Most Epic Fundraiser, Most Food and Best Bribe to name just a few. We've been told that that the pageantry of participating and/or watching the Chiditarod is unrivaled!

At the end of the day, we are a charitable event, helping Chicago communities that are in need of immediate hunger relief and sustainable food empowerment. We lay claim to being "*Probably the World's Largest Mobile Food Drive*" as our philanthropic efforts help address urban food and hunger challenges by partnering with food pantries and urban farming and food education organizations. In 2012, we smashed our prior food drive record by with an unbelievable total of 21,677** lbs of food collected for the **Greater Chicago Food Depository**, a partnership that we are excited to continue in 2013.

Sign Me Up!

Gather your team of five! Register! Get a cart! Trick it out! Get acquainted with sabotage rules & fund-raising opportunities including our first ever all-team fundraising event. Prepare for a huge dose of **EPIC**, all we ask of you in return is to **BE EPIC** and bring at least **55 lbs** of non-perishable to be collected at the race. The latest information, rules, prize categories, spectator information, fundraising opportunities, racer and volunteer registration can all be found on the Chiditarod website: <http://www.chiditarod.org>.

One part food drive, one part pub-crawl, one part costumed shopping cart race, all parts radtacular!

Announcement list: <http://groups.google.com/group/chiditarod>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TheChiditarod>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/chiditarod>

Website: <http://chiditarod.org>

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*** Correction: Information supplied to us in 2012 to convert cash donations to GCFD from one of our teams (Area 3 Allstars) into food poundage is not consistent with how GCFD currently reports food donations in 2013. The conversion rate provided in 2012 was \$1 = 2.33 lbs of food; the rate provided in 2013 is \$1 = 1.8 lbs of food. Therefore the totals in 2012 of 27,378 lbs of food have been updated to more accurately reflect 12,164 lbs of physical food poundage collected on race day and \$5,285.09 of funds contributed by Chiditarod team Area 3 All-Stars (equating to 9,513 lbs of food) for a new grand total race day contribution of 21,677 lbs. Monetary donations to the Cottage Grove Heights Community Garden remain unchanged. We regret any confusion, and we are deeply grateful to all of our donors and participants. We strive for the utmost transparency with all calculations. We will be reporting 2013's totals using GCFD's stated method, which is expressed as "meals served".*