



Interest Project Patch Requirements

## Mush On!

As with any IPP, seven activities must be completed: two Skill Builders, one Career Exploration, one Technology, and one Service Project, and two activities from any category that you choose.

### Skill Builders-

1. Learn what is involved with the upkeep of a dog kennel. Learn what the dogs eat, how they are housed, veterinarian bills, what it costs to keep a sled dog. Learn how to act around the dogs, how to harness a dog, how to ride a sled, and if possible, drive the sled yourself.
2. Learn the parts of a dogsled and mushing vocabulary.
3. Make a model of a dog sled.

### Career Exploration-

1. Interview a dog musher. Learn how sled dogs are trained, which dogs are best for each type of sledding, how and when they are disciplined and when they are retired. Learn what happens on the train: what the dogs eat, what the musher wears, what is carried on the sled and what first aid might be needed by the dogs.
2. Find and draw 2 maps of different trails or races for dog sledding.

### Technology-

1. Find information on the best dogs to use for dog sledding. What traits make them good choices?
2. Research the history of dog sledding.
3. Read a book about mushing. Examples are “Dogsong”, by Gary Paulen, or “Call of the Wild” by Jack London. Or, watch a movie about dog sledding.
4. Log on to [www.sleddogcentral.com](http://www.sleddogcentral.com) and browse the web site.

### Service Projects-

1. Form a cheering team for a dog sledding team. Attend their next event and cheer for your team.
2. Make posters, or other forms of advertisements, to help promote a dog sledding event.
3. Help out at a local dog kennel or humane society.
4. Volunteer at the Cannon Valley Classic dog sled race. This race takes place the last full weekend in January in Cannon Falls, weather permitting.