



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE BARNEBIRKIE SUCCESSFUL!

The Fifth District of the Sons of Norway will be assisting with the children's cross country ski race for ages 3-13 in Hayward, WI, on February 22, 2024. District members volunteer to work in the registration area before the race, and they pass out cookies at the end of the course. Members also meet and greet adult skiers later in the day at the EXPO CENTER held inside Hayward High School. It is exciting to interact with skiers from across the world at this international event.

I am kindly asking our members to consider baking for this event. Please refrain from the use of nuts in any of the cookies you make due to allergy concerns in our youth participants. The kiddos enjoy all kinds of cookies, but the most popular are chocolate chip varieties. They also enjoy frosted sugar cookies. Some racers like homemade raisin oatmeal cookies, too! Baking one of your family's favorites is certain to be a winner!

After the cookies are distributed in the Celebration Tent, the excess is moved to Hayward High School where the classic skiers come to obtain their timing chips and bibs. These skiers look forward to seeing our smiling faces, but mostly, they enjoy the homemade cookies made by our Sons of Norway members! Adults savor spice cookies and healthy varieties: molasses, Snickerdoodles, ginger, peppercake, and cardamom. Our district goal each year is 1,000 dozen cookies-yes, you read that correctly! Oreo cookies are also popular.

I will be leaving for the Barnebirkie on Wednesday, February 21st (sooner if inclement weather is forecast). Additional cars will be heading north to help deliver the cookies and volunteers will help in a variety of locations. You may also deliver cookies to District Secretary Darlene Arneson or drop them off at Open House Imports in Mt. Horeb. I am also available to pick up your donations and have met members from lodges in northern Illinois previously. *Thank you for your support in helping to make the Barnebirkie a memorable event for the littlest skiers of all.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY... The youth registration tent is staffed, but we need help at the Celebration Tent at the end of the race. Volunteers *must* register at the American Birkebeiner Foundation website.

Become a Birkie Volunteer | American Birkebeiner (birkie.com/volunteer) The password for the Celebration (cookie) Tent is **finishbarne2024**. I look forward to volunteering with you!

SNOW UPDATE-There is little snow in Sawyer County at this writing, but volunteers are making snow during the colder winter night temperatures. They hope to have a 1.5-mile track open later this week. You can check the trail conditions by visiting the American Birkebeiner website, select ski, then *trail report*.

Tusen takk,

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

District 5 President

608-219-4464

cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com