

What's happening with the Birkie Ski Patrol this year?

- Stage 2 Covid mitigation precautions, especially at the start and finish areas, eliminate the possibility of running all the normal races in a single day.
- We are only allowed to register 80 skiers and have 20 volunteers per "event"
- To get enough registrations to make the Birkie viable, we are running a 31 k "event" and a 50 k "event" each day from Friday to Sunday.
- The Ole's tour has been cancelled for this year and two 13 k races will be run on Monday.
- To maximize the use of limited volunteers, we are using a 30 k "loop" route running 31 k and 50 k races simultaneously but with little interaction between the 2 races.
- The use of completely different start areas, allows us to have 40 volunteers instead of 20 because they would be considered two separate "events".
- The 40 volunteers include registration, volunteer chiefs, emergency evacuation, food stations, start / finish line and patrollers.
- Consequently, we will probably have a limit of 10 patrol volunteers on the 31 k and 50 k courses at one time. (last year we had 45!)
- There is less trail to patrol but the volunteers still have to cover 40 km of trail so they have to be mobile.
- The limited number of patrollers means we cannot afford to have volunteers out on the course at junctions directing, encouraging or warning skiers about hills or sharp corners.
- That means ALL patrol volunteers must be willing to ski distances of 10 to 50 k.
- For you dedicated volunteers that faithfully take a spot on the course to be a first aider or cheer on the skiers, don't take this personally. Every volunteer is just as special but this year we just can't include everyone.

These are the jobs we need done over the 4 days of events. You can volunteer as many days as you want. Just think, you could enjoy as much as 180 km of skiing over 4 days!

1. **9** "pre-skiers" to ski 10 - 20 k with a small pack, handsaw, and headlamp starting around 7:30 am. Once you've done the skiing you must leave the event area unless you have signed up for 2 jobs
2. **6** "sweeps" for the 31 k races
3. **6** "sweeps" for the 50 k races
4. **4** "sweeps" for the 13 k races
5. **17** "rovers" who are able ski anywhere from 10 - 40 k with a larger pack with first aid for your level of training, warm clothing and shelter