Alaskan Checkpoints

Information about Checkpoint and Community Services is approximate and based on the best information we have to date. For all nine remote communities (outside the start and finish), population numbers vary between zero and 600, with the exception of Dawson City.

Note: The dates listed for racing teams are based on the estimated time for the first team to arrive and the last team to depart each checkpoint. See the Race Approximation Schedule.

Note: The Alaskan checkpoints are Fairbanks, Two Rivers, Mile 101, Central and Circle City. Your trip will end at Circle City, as there are no roads open past that point in the winter. You will then need to drive back to Fairbanks and to Dawson City (via Whitehorse) to meet up with the teams for their 36-hour layover.

Fairbanks - Population: 31,644

Start Line – Chena River
This is where the excitement starts for visitors, volunteers, and mushers! The 1,000 mile race starts at 11am, but mushers and officials will begin preparing at 8am. This is a great opportunity to see mushers harness their dogs and finish their last-minute preparations. The YQ300 will start at 3pm on the same day and at the same location.

Start Line Services
The start line is located on the Chena River behind the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center, 101 Dunkel Street. Please visit the Race Headquarters and gift shop at 550 First Avenue.

Community Services
Enjoy downtown Fairbanks, and its full range of services - purchase of food and gas is easily available. Plenty of accommodations, but book early before they sell out! And don’t forget to mention you’re here for the Yukon Quest to receive a special discount at La Quinta Inns and Suites.
Two Rivers - Population: 719

Driving
From Fairbanks, Chena Hot Springs Road is relatively flat with the exception of the first few miles. Watch out for ice and moose along this road. The traffic will be relatively heavy going towards the checkpoint. The checkpoint is on the left at Milepost 53.

Checkpoint Services
Food available at this checkpoint is for mushers ONLY. Please buy food at Pleasant Valley Store.

Community Services
The Pleasant Valley Store will be open around the clock during the checkpoint service to accommodate the Yukon Quest and handlers for gas, auto supplies, groceries and limited hot food items. Two River's Lodge Dining Room at Mile 16 is also open from 5-10pm. No accommodations are available for visitors or volunteers.

Mile 101 - Population: 0
Teams have a mandatory 4-hour layover at either Mile 101 or Central (musher’s choice). Formerly a Dog Drop, Mile 101 has been a checkpoint since 2010 and consists of a few buildings standing alongside the highway. Unfortunately, this means that barring the few experienced volunteers assigned to this checkpoint, there is limited room and no accommodations for additional volunteers and visitors. Mile 101 is a great place to see teams as they travel between the two summits.

Driving
Before you begin your drive up the Steese Highway, it is advised that you call the Alaska Department of Transportation at 1-866-282-7577 to make sure that the road is not closed! You must be prepared before you head up the Steese Highway. The road is mostly gravel, with no shoulders, and plenty of curves. It is very important to check your supplies in Fairbanks before you drive up the Steese Highway. There are no services or cell phone coverage after Chatanika Lodge, and you may not see another vehicle on the road for several miles. Make sure you have enough supplies and warm weather gear to survive for several hours. Watch out for blowing snow, overflow ice, and minimal shoulders as you travel the Steese Highway. Should you run off the road, a recovery vehicle would have to travel from Fairbanks to assist you. Be extremely careful at both 12 Mile Summit and Eagle Summit.
From Two Rivers: Head West on Chena Hot Springs Road, then turn right (North) at the Steese Highway Junction. When driving to Mile 101, be very aware of the traffic on the road, as snowplows may be out and about.

Checkpoint Services
Food available is for mushers ONLY.

Community Services
No Services Available

Central - Population: 96
Teams have a mandatory 4-hour layover at either Mile 101 or Central (musher’s choice). YQ300 Mushers will finish in Central after they loop through Circle City. The YQ300 Trail for this section can vary from year to year due to weather conditions.

Driving
From Mile 101, you will be on the Steese Highway going over Eagle Summit and then begin the long descent into Central. Do Not Do this drive in the dark. Watch for possible overflow, white-outs and snowplows.
Checkpoint Services in Central
At Central Corner you will find a bar, restaurant, gas and a small grocery store. Limited accommodations are available. Be sure to book early and try their famous Quest Burger while you’re there. Open all hours during the race. A favorite spot for mushers.

Community Services
Food and gas only. *This is the last gas station you will pass until you return to Central plan accordingly

Circle City - Population: 104

Driving
This is a relatively short drive North on the highway from Central. It is only 33 miles (Alaskan Winter Miles – plan on 1 to 1.5 hours of drive time) between the two checkpoints but EXTREME CAUTION must be exercised. The highway here is mostly gravel with no shoulders.

Checkpoint Services
The checkpoint is housed within the community Fire Hall. It tends to be cold and has no services for visitors. Food is available at this checkpoint is for mushers ONLY.

Community Services
Very Limited Hours for Gas and Snacks, NO DIESAL

Eagle - Population: 85

Driving
There are NO ROADS to the community of Eagle in the winter. The Eagle Checkpoint is only accessible by airplane from Fairbanks, AK.

Checkpoint Services
Only basic services are available. Supplies are extremely limited.

Community Services
Fuel is not available. A small grocery store provides volunteers with access to food. Accommodations are extremely limited, and are usually restricted to on-site personnel and mushers.