

Birkie Quick Facts 2018

- During the American Birkebeiner ski race, between 12:00pm and 2:00pm, approximately one skier crosses the finish line per second on Hayward's Main Street.
- The over 100K Birkie Trail is used by over 100,000 skiers, runners, bikers, trekkers, and hikers year-round.
- The Birkie Trail was named the No.1 cross-country ski destination in the United States in 2016 by USATODAY/10Best.
- The trail is available for use nearly 365 days a year.
- The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation is the steward of the over 100K Birkie Trail and is solely responsible for all grooming and maintenance with annual costs of \$350,000 per year, depending on weather conditions.
- It takes three grooming staffers, driving three Pisten Bully groomers, an estimated 36 hours to groom the ski trail. If grooming on snowmobiles, it takes 4 groomers an estimated 15 hours to groom the ski trails.
- For the safety of skiers, grooming is done at night (typically from 9:00pm – 2:00am) when skiers are off of the trail.
- There are ten cabins and/or trailheads on the Birkie Trail, including: American Birkebeiner, Gravel Pit, Firetower, Timber Trail, North End, Birkie Ridge (no cabin), Boedecker, Highway OO, Mosquito Brook, and Fish Hatchery Park.
- The highest point on the trail is 1733 feet (528 m).
- The first Birkie had 35 participants.
- The first Korte had 19 participants.
- There are 7 aid stations for the American Birkebeiner race in 2018 – all have cabins and running water.
- There are 3 aid stations for the Kortelopez race in 2018, complete with running water.
- It takes nearly 2500 volunteers to welcome the world to northwestern Wisconsin for the Birkie week of festivities.
- Over 250,000 skiers have participated in American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation ski events since the inception of the first race in 1973.
- More than one in three participants skis the classic technique, with the remainder skiing freestyle or skate technique.
- Each year, three skiers and an infant dress in full costume as the original Birkebeiner warriors, Inga (mother of Prince Haakon), and infant Prince Haakon. The adults ski the entire race on wooden skis and in full historical garb. In the final stretch swap their baby doll for a real infant "Prince" as they ski across the finish line on Hayward's Main Street.
- During the Birkie, Korte, and Prince Haakon, 3 kilometers before skiers reach Hayward they make their way across frozen Lake Hayward. Then, they proceed up and over the International Bridge on their way to the Finish Line on Hayward's Main Street.
- The International Bridge is 13'6" high and, for the first time, ever spans 4 lanes across Highway 63 in downtown Hayward.
- The International Bridge was built with a nod toward the original International Bridge pedestrian bridge used at Telemark in the earliest days of the American Birkebeiner.
- 65+ Dump truck loads of snow are placed on Hayward's Main Street before Thursday, Friday, and Saturday's races.
- In 2018, over 13,500 skiers will participate in the week's Nordic Festivities.
- In 2018, skiers from 49 states (all but Oklahoma) and 36 countries will participate in Birkie week races.