

# 2014 Tour

LIVE TO RIDE.  
CALL TO LIVE.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers will bring the Ride for Life's fight to prevent suicide in Alaska in your community

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers has been sponsoring a suicide prevention program in different parts of Alaska for the past five years. The participants at the heart of this effort are Trooper Jon Simeon, Trooper Thomas Akelkok, and Trooper Darrell Hildebrand – Native men who hail from Aniak, Ekwok and Nulato. The first year of the tour, Troopers Hildebrand and Simeon following the Iron Dog race route by flying to a few villages. Akelkok joined the program as it switched to snowmachines riding to different villages and presenting their message on suicide prevention for the following two years to better connect with the communities they were going to. Everyone in the villages could relate to this mode of transportation and they felt they got a better response from the villages and the people attending the presentations.

Last year the three took their presentation to the Kuskokwim River villages from McGrath to the Bethel area villages. This year they are planning on going to Nome via the Yukon River. The tour will leave Manley on March 16, making a stop in Ruby to give the first presentation the following day. From Ruby they will continue on to the coastal villages starting in Unalakleet. They will continue to Nome where the tour stays for a few days. After leaving Nome they will travel back the same route they came and will travel a total of more than 1,000. Included in this package are event announcements to post in your community and a story on a past tour. Simply write in the location and date on the announcement before posting.

Contact Beth Ipsen at 269-5654 or [elizabeth.ipsen@alaska.gov](mailto:elizabeth.ipsen@alaska.gov) for more information.

## Planned schedule for the 2014 Ride For Life program:

**Ruby – March 17**

**Unalakleet – morning of March 18**

**Shaktoolik – afternoon of March 18**

**Koyuk – morning of March 19**

**Elim – afternoon of March 19**

**Golovin – morning of March 20**

**White Mountain – afternoon of March 20**

**Nome – morning of March 21 (both junior high and high schools)**

Life is a Team Effort

877-266-HELP  
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SUICIDE PREVENTION