

# Overview of Events

## Wednesday, February 18, 2026

- **Birkie Open Track Events**
  - Introducing the Open Track experience – same great events, same race course, inspiring downtown finish, simply with a more relaxed approach. The Open Track event is for skiers that want to compete against themselves on the famed Birkie Trail. Limited to the first 1000 people, you will experience less crowding, more open trail, and an opportunity to ski with other registered friends and family. It's a new and exciting way to kick-off the beginning of Birkie Week 2024!
- 8:00am–9:00am —American Birkebeiner Open Track Start in Cable
- 11:00am–11:45am —Kortelopet Open Track Start at the OO Trailhead
- 11:00am–11:30am —Prince Haakon Open Track Start on Phipps Rd.

## Thursday, February 19, 2026

- **Barkie Birkie Skijor – 9:00am**
  - Skiers & dogs enjoy the sport of skijoring and show off their “Barkie Fever” as they race down Hayward’s Main Street in 1K, 3K, or 5K event
  - Presented by Northern Lakes Cooperative
- **Slumberland American Birkebeiner Expo - 10:00am to 8:00pm**
  - Home to bib pick-up, this 2-day event finds over 11,000 skiers and vendors galore preparing for the largest cross-country celebration in North America! Located at Hayward High School
- **Barnebirkie – 11:30am**
  - Where Birkie dreams begin! Imagine an estimated 1000 youth skiers, ages 3-13, skiing on Hayward’s snow-covered Main Street to the Birkie finish line, amidst costumed characters and cowbells, finishing with medals, cocoa, and cookies.
  - Presented by Johnson Financial Group and Swiss Miss
- **Junior Birkie – 1:00pm**
  - The next generation of passionate skiers, between 6 and 19-years of age, charge their way toward Main Street in 1.2K, 3K, or 5K races! This is where Olympic dreams are born!
  - Presented by Rossignol
- **Junior Birkie Relays – following Junior Birkie events**
  - Junior Team relay sprints on Hayward’s Main Street make for an afternoon of action-packed excitement!
  - Presented by Rossignol
- **Birkie Giant Ski - 4:30pm**
  - Under the twinkling lure of lights, skiers and non-skiers alike compete in teams of six, on giant 25-foot long skis, on Hayward’s snow-covered Main Street
  - Sponsored by Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce

- **Birkie Bash – 5:30pm Social, 6:00pm Dinner**
  - Slumberland American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet, and Prince Haakon skiers gather to kick-off Birkie week at the Birkie Bash – Pasta & Salad Buffet
  - Tickets must be purchased in advanced at [www.Birkie.com](http://www.Birkie.com)
  - Steakhouse & Lodge, Hayward WI

## Friday, February 20, 2026

- **American Birkebeiner Expo 9:00am to 8:00pm**
  - Home to bib pick-up, this 2-day event finds over 11,000 skiers and vendors galore preparing for the largest cross-country celebration in North America!
  - Located at Hayward High School
- **Kortelopet – 29K Classic & Skate – 10:15am**
  - North America's second largest cross-country ski race departs from the Highway OO Trailhead and ends on Hayward's snow-covered Main Street
  - Title Sponsor Slumberland Furniture and Presented by Salomon
- **Prince Haakon 15K – 1:15pm**
  - In honor of the infant Prince Haakon, the future Norwegian King, who was rescued and skied to safety by Birkebeiner warriors, this exciting race ends amongst cheering fans and the ringing cowbells in downtown Hayward
  - Title Sponsor Slumberland Furniture, Presented by Northern Lakes Co-op

## Saturday, February 21, 2026

- **52nd Annual Slumberland American Birkebeiner – 50K Skate/55K Classic – 8:15am**
  - The "Birkie" is North America's largest cross-country ski-marathon. Skiers make their way from the American Birkebeiner Trailhead near Cable, WI, on the legendary Birkie Trail, ski across frozen Lake Hayward, ski up and over the American Birkebeiner International Bridge, and on to the finish line on Hayward's snow-covered Main Street. The Greatest Show on Snow!
  - Title Sponsor Slumberland Furniture

## Sunday, February 22, 2026

- **Sunday On-Snow Ski Demo - 9:00am to 12:00pm**
  - Everyone from newbie skiers to seasoned veterans can try out the latest in new equipment–skis, poles, boots, and bindings at the Mt. Telemark Village in Cable, WI - vendors galore!