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Announcing the Next Executive Director of the Ice Age Trail Alliance *Months-long, nationwide search for next organizational leader concludes*

Cross Plains, Wis. (October 17, 2022) – After an extensive, nationwide search the Ice Age Trail Alliance Board of Directors is pleased to announce Luke Kloberdanz as its next Executive Director/CEO.

Kloberdanz, the current Director of Philanthropy for the Alliance, will succeed Mike Wollmer who is retiring January 1, 2023 after 15 years leading the organization.

"Many of you know Luke today as the Alliance's Director of Philanthropy, an Ice Age Trail thru-hiker, or as a former volunteer for the Alliance with special ties to our Saunters program for youth education along the Trail," says Patty Dreier, Board of Directors President. "Luke brings many skills and insights to the mission and we are confident that our future will be bright under his leadership."

Kloberdanz's involvement with the Ice Age Trail Alliance goes back to 2000, when he began volunteering at Trailbuilding projects. He became so enamored with the Trail, that in 2003, he thru-hiked it, becoming the eleventh person to do so. After that, he co-created the Saunters youth-education program at the Lodi elementary school where he was a teacher. His goal: get kids outside on the Trail for hands-on learning.

In 2010, Kloberdanz began consulting with the Alliance on a part-time basis, expanding the Saunters youth-education program to additional school districts. He became the Alliance's full-time Outreach and Education Manager in 2013, before moving to Philanthropy.

"I'm truly honored to be given the opportunity to lead this great organization," says Kloberdanz. "And I thank the Board for their confidence in me."

"Our team of staff and volunteers is so strong, I have no doubt that together we will continue to meet our mission and work toward completing the Trail," he says.

As Executive Director/CEO Kloberdanz will work with the Board of Directors on strategic and policy issues, financial management, fund development and high-level operational issues. He will oversee Alliance staff, work with 19 volunteer chapters (including thousands of volunteers) and be the primary liaison with local, state, and national government/community leaders.

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About the Ice Age Trail Alliance:

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is a non-profit, member and volunteer-based organization which conserves, creates, maintains, and promotes the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. For more information visit iceagetrail.org.

About the Ice Age National Scenic Trail:

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a 1,200-mile footpath contained entirely within Wisconsin. It traverses the state from St. Croix Falls in the west, to Sturgeon Bay in the east, going as far south as Janesville. One of 11 National Scenic Trails, the Ice Age Trail highlights the landscapes that were carved out by ancient glaciers, which happen to be some of the most beautiful areas in the state. Approximately 60% of Wisconsin residents live within 20 miles of the Ice Age Trail.