

Thousand-Miler Essay

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The ice age trail was on my 'someday list' for quite some time. As I would travel about in Wisconsin, I would see trail signs and say I want to hike that someday. I came across the trail on Facebook. I saw a post of someone looking for hiking buddies. I went out on a limb and responded. Although I was nervous about going I took the leap and headed out for my first hike and weekend camping.

After a few day hikes and camping adventures, I soon was on a mission to become a thousand miler. I started mid July and hiked through out the fall. Completing 300 miles in 2020. In the spring of 2021 I got back on trail with a few new hiking buddies I met up the previous year. A couple of co-hikers set a goal to complete the trail in Oct of 2021. Jokingly I said I would try to complete trail on the same date. At the time, I didn't think it was a realistic goal. I spent a good portion of the summer driving across the state, meeting up with different co-hikers to hike different sections of the trail. For the most part I had a great time journeying along the way. Of course there was a few struggles, but even the struggles made for good memories.

As summer came to its end, finishing the trail became a realistic possibility. Much to my surprise, I was able to complete my last section before the October date. On September 15, I hiked the St Croix segment and became a thousand miler at the western terminus.