

Thousand-Miler Essay
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I began my Thru-Hike on May 9th after 4 days of getting my logistics figured out and adjusting from my trip to Argentina. My goal was to finish the the trail on the 10th of June to establish a Self-supported FKT time that would inspire others to attempt to beat. After 5 or 6 days flu like symptoms hit me and I was fearful that I had covid as I had no energy and a high fever. I tested negative for covid twice but decided to keep my distance from everyone and just hike through the illness as best as possible. The weather was in the 70s and I had every piece of clothing on yet was still shivering. It was definitely a difficult time for me mentally. After about 5 days of being sick I woke in the morning soaked in sweat. My fever had broken in the night and I was on the mend. I continued my hike, each day regaining my strength and having to opportunity to enjoy the trail more and more. One of the things I enjoyed the most was meeting all of the passionate sections hikers doing the even the roadwalking connector routes. After a short stop at the IAT headquarters to meet everyone, enjoy a hot shower, and do laundry it was time to get my FKT back on track. I was far behind the schedule that I had hoped to maintain which required me to hike long days, often only getting a few hours of sleep but I was able to finish on the night of June 9th!