

Ruth Sommers
2nd time 1000 Miler
10-25-2023

I became a 1st time 1000 Miler on 11-13-2011. After completion I did several presentations. People were very interested. One person retired early 2014. She asked me to be her mentor. We logged our first hike on the Ice Age Trail on 3-17-2014. More people joined in. On May 18th 2014 five of us hiked the 5th Annual Lodi Chapter Spring Hike. It was on the Merrimac segment and we crossed on the Merrimac Ferry through the Gibraltar Rock segment.

On March 13th 2021 seven of us drove from Stevens Point to the connecting route between Hwy H and Cornell. We hiked 11 miles then drove to Tomahawk area to Ruby and Bruce's house to present them with a bench in thanks for (Trail Magic) for allowing girls to camp in their yard several days and for shuttles.

Many of these hikers are now 1000 Milers! I am so happy and proud of them!

On October 25 2023 the final hike was on the St. Croix Falls segment with three others. We had hiked a large percentage of the trails together in the south and west areas. We finished at the Ice Age Trail's Western Terminus with a (glass) wine toast! Three of us became thousand milers that day!

Trail changes from 1st trek 12 years ago

County and backroads were dirt now blacktop

Improved boardwalks and water crossings

Cottages built up along lakes on connecting routes

City segments spread to marshes, urban and park areas

Winery Establishments

NATURE STILL AWESOME!

Thanks to the Ice Age Alliance staff, board members and landowners who have made this trail possible. My appreciation to the Mobil Skills crews and all chapter leaders and maintenance persons.

I thank the Lord for sustaining me throughout this journey.

I will remember all the joys and experiences I had along the way with so many great friends!