

Nan & Anna Delwiche

We started the trail October 2, 2020 for the 40th anniversary and the newly launched Mammoth Challenge. It was something that had been on my bucket list for a while and thought the Mammoth Challenge would be a way to test out the trail and mileage to see if it was what I really wanted and could do. My daughter, Anna, age 14 at the time walked the Delafield Segment with me. She's an outdoor enthusiast, and afterwards, said Mom, I'll hike the whole trail with you! I said really? You're sure? And low and behold, 3 years and 10 months later we finished it. Our goal was to complete the trail the summer of her high school graduation and before she left for college. We finished August 16, 2024 with one week to spare! We moved her into her dorm at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities August 26. At times it was tough getting her out of bed, other times, she was "let's get this done"!

While the trail proved challenging at times, we did it together. It was a wonderful mother daughter experience at a time in her life when most teens don't want to be with their parents much less have so much one on one time with them. Our time on the trail allowed for lots of great talks, motivating each other through some tough miles, all while having each other to keep an eye on those yellow blazes. We hiked on hot and humid days, through rain, wind, cold and snow.

The trail allowed us to see parts of Wisconsin we may not have ever seen. Our state is so beautiful! Some of our most favorite segments were Scuppernong, Plover River, White Cedar, Point Beach and Cedar Lakes.

We could not have done this without the help of my husband/Dad, Jim, daughter/sister Katie as well as many friends and relatives who encouraged us and of course the many volunteers and trail angels along the way.