



2024 Celebration Schedule

August 21-25 | St. Ignace, Michigan

There may be hikes or workshops added to accommodate more guests. Any additions or changes will be reflected here ASAP.

Wednesday, August 21

Time	Activity	Location
1:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Check-in Open	Little Bear Arena Lobby
1:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Trail Shop Open	Little Bear Arena
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	National Park Service Roundtable: Have an informal chat with NPS Superintendent Chris Loudenslager. Meet new staff and ask questions. <i>Attendance is optional.</i>	Little Bear Arena

Thursday, August 22

Time	Activity	Location
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Check-in Open	Little Bear Arena Lobby
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Welcome Breakfast	Little Bear Arena
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Bag Lunch Pickup	Little Bear Arena
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Trail Shop Open	Little Bear Arena
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Trail Shop Open	Little Bear Arena
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Buffet Dinner	Little Bear Arena
7:15 - 9:30 p.m.	NCTA + National Park Service Awards	Little Bear Arena

Thursday Activities

All hikes will depart from and return to Little Bear Arena at the times listed below.

Time	Activity	Description
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Historical Hike of St. Ignace and Lakeside Cemetery	Travel through time along the St. Ignace shoreline on this walking tour. As you walk along the scenic St. Ignace shore, Michilimackinac Historical Society Curator, Erin Vanier, will share tidbits of St. Ignace's 350-year history, point out historic buildings and homes, and introduce some of town's former residents. This 6-mile walk will begin at the boardwalk in front of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture and will end at Lakeside Cemetery, followed by a walk through the Straits State Park on our return to Little Bear East. Distance: 6 miles. Map: arcg.is/0Hfv8b
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Naomikong Shallows Park, Salt Point Road	An absolutely beautiful south-to-north hike through an occasional tunnel of trees. The forest types change often as you stroll through both immature and mature growth. Flowering plants decorate the forest floor. Travel through varied terrain and forest, past Naomikong Pond, and the only trail shelter in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Continue to an overlook and Lake Superior (Whitefish Bay). The trail descends from the Naomikong Overlook on steep stairs to an extensive arrangement of recently completed boardwalks. The trail travels parallel to beaches leading to the Naomikong Creek suspension bridge and finally to the Shallows Day Use Area. Distance: 7 miles. Map: arcg.is/e4SmW
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Upper Falls, CR 500	Hike in the wilderness for a true northern experience. This section of trail has no crossroads, no ORV/ATV trails; it is moderately difficult. Hike hemlock ridges, northern bogs and marshes, pass a huge beaver dam, and view Upper Tahquamenon Falls before getting refreshments at the Tahquamenon Falls Brewery & Pub, located just off the trail at the Upper Falls. This is a favorite hike of the local Chapter. Distance: 7 miles. Map: arcg.is/1OvzWz0 . (Repeated on Saturday.)
9:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Lakeview Road Trailhead, Cecil Bay Road	Hike through Wilderness State Park in the Northern Lower Peninsula. See dunes and hills, pine and hardwood forests, lakes and swamps. About half of this trail follows Wilderness Park trails, Swamp Line, and Sturgeon Bay Trail. The other half goes through pine and hardwood forests, a swamp, through Lake Michigan sand dunes, and along many ponds. Most of this section is within Wilderness State Park and park rules apply. Distance: 11 miles. Map: arcg.is/0e0j4C1
9:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Dick Road South-North	This hike showcases the Pine River, the Arbutus

Swamp, and the Betchler Ponds. These are headwaters of both the East Branch of the Tahquamenon River and the Pine River. Varied forests and topography keep you looking forward to the next stretch of this section of trail. One hiker said, "I really enjoyed seeing so many different types of habitat within a short day hike. From mature forests to open clearings and from marsh to pines, this section has a little bit of everything. The scenic view overlooking Betchler Ponds is a must-see as well. My absolute favorite part of my hikes through that section have been the seclusion." **Distance:** 7 miles. **Map:** arcg.is/K11Wz

9:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Founders Circle and Legacy Society Hike, *invitation only*

The NCTA Founders Circle and Legacy Society will visit a favorite place on Whitefish Bay. In the Eastern Upper Peninsula, this section of the NCT is one of the most visited sections outside of Tahquamenon Falls State Park. Trail structures in this area were recently updated through the efforts of the NCTA Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Chapter, USFS, and other organizations. Enjoy a pleasant walk along Whitefish Bay and up to the Naomikong Overlook. **Important:** To visit all viewpoints planned for this hike, please note the mileage is estimated at 3 miles. There are stairs, sand, and limited seating during lunch. Restroom facilities are also limited. **Distance:** 3 miles. **Map:** arcg.is/1zP8z8

9:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Tahquamenon Falls Excursion

Explore Tahquamenon Falls at your own pace! Begin at the Upper Falls, then bus to the Lower Falls to complete your tour. The Upper Tahquamenon Falls is the second largest waterfall east of the Mississippi River, second only to Niagara Falls. There are 94 steps to a viewing platform at the brink of the Upper Falls. (The Upper Falls can also be viewed from the top of the gorge.) Tahquamenon Falls has a very unique color due to the tannin produced by cedar and hemlock trees in the surrounding forests and swamps. It looks very much like root beer, foam and all. At the Upper Falls, there are a couple of short nature trails that could be explored as well as a gift shop and a brewery / restaurant. At the Lower Falls, there are row boats that can be taken out on the river and to an island that is in between some of the falls, a concession building, and also a bridge to the island. Most of the falls viewing access is ADA accessible, except for the stairs to the brink of the Upper Falls and a short portion of trail on the Lower Falls island - there is a bypass of that section of the trail that is ADA accessible.

There is no set hike. Everything will be on your own and you may explore where you please. You will have a couple hours at each spot before the bus will depart and head to the next location. We ask that you mind the times, as the bus will be on a schedule.

9:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Tahqua Trail Road and Trailhead	Hike the incredible scenic Tahqua Trail along the Tahquamenon River. The trail is level and winds along with the Tahquamenon River ending at an NCT Trailhead. There is minimal roadwalk past a few private cabins and to get around Cheney Creek. This section was closed to all use for many years because of overuse by ORVs. About 10 years ago, the local Chapter received permission to revive the old trail along the banks of the Tahquamenon River near the river mouth. There are 22 structures crossing gullies in this section. This is an easy and beautiful hike; a favorite of the Chapter. Distance: 5 miles. Map: arcg.is/PvKXu
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	St. Ignace NCT Boardwalk	Depart from the Little Bear Arena, enjoy the boardwalk to the American Legion Memorial Park, then walk back. Enjoy the town, shop, and take in views of the lake and everything that makes St. Ignace a wonderful place to be! Distance: 3 miles. Map: arcg.is/DWjiW0 (Repeated on Saturday.)
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Soldier Lake, Dick Road North	Travel through areas used to train armed forces for combat in WWII. See northern meadows, mixed hardwoods, and pine plantations managed by the Hiawatha National Forest. The bracken ferns grow tall in this area! Keep an eye out for bear scat, wolf tracks, and moose droppings! Distance: 6 miles. Map: arcg.is/1u8XPr
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Soldier Lake, Salt Point Road	An absolutely beautiful hike through an occasional tunnel of trees that travels past Stump and Dishpan Lakes, and through mixed forests. The damp, earthy smells are wonderful and lift your physical, spiritual, and mental wellbeing! The forest types change often as you stroll through the immature and mature growth. Flowering plants decorate the forest floor. Small meadows offer a change of scenery and plant life. The Trail crosses M-28 between Racoon and Strong's near the Soldier Lake USFS Campground. Distance: 7 miles. Map: arcg.is/11O4zj
10:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Brevort Lake Road, Castle Rock Trailhead	Walk through the woods near St. Ignace, crossing ancient, fixed sand dunes. These dunes offer both a challenge to hikers and a view of the Mackinac Bridge towers approximately 10 miles away! A magical spot is

the crossing of the Point Aux Chenes River. Some say this section hikes more like 11 miles because of the elevation changes. **Distance:** 8.5 miles. **Map:** arcg.is/0aGHPS

10:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Mackinaw City, Cecil Bay Road	The northernmost miles of the NCT in the Lower Peninsula! This hike starts at the Mackinac Bridge in Mackinaw City where part of the trail follows the Northwestern State Trail, and is paved between Trails End Road and Mackinaw City. It also crosses a gas and oil pipeline, continues past windmills, graduates into forests, and passes French Farm Lake! The trail includes balsam, cedar, and pine forests. It includes many puncheon walkways over streams and wet areas. Two miles of the trail border French Farm Lake with many scenic views and waterfowl viewing in summer. It crosses French Farm Lake dam and then yet another Carp River. Distance: 8.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/114a9n0
11:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Brevort Lake, Dam	A perfect way to get a taste of the fixed dunes and varied forests located north of Lake Michigan, this hike is a pleasant way to spend a morning or an afternoon. Wonderful views of the Brevort River are found all along this route. Cross the Brevort River twice, see hemlock and cedar stands give way to mixed hardwoods. A few ancient fixed dunes add interest to this walk plus a nice terminus at a dam with views of Brevort Lake. Distance: 4 miles. Map: arcg.is/0euPOW
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	M-123, Kenneth Road	Cross Bissel Creek, Taylor Creek, and the North Branch of the Carp River. A great area to hike! Rocks, rivers, and new bridges, all along the north edge of the Mackinac Wilderness area - and some on top of a rock formation that is part of the Niagara Escarpment. Distance: 5.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/CuXzG
4:15 - 5:15 p.m.	Yoga with Gloria	Strengthen and stretch after your first day of hiking! Yoga will be located in the conference rooms at Little Bear Arena.

Friday, August 23

Time	Activity	Location
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Check-in Open	Little Bear Arena
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Bag Lunch Pickup	Little Bear Arena

11:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Trail Shop Open	Little Bear Arena
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Buffet Dinner	Little Bear Arena
7:15 - 9:00 p.m.	Keynote Presentation: Stacy Bare	Little Bear Arena

Friday Activities

All hikes will depart from and return to Little Bear Arena at the times listed below.

Time	Activity	Description
7:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Naomikong Overlook, Bark Dock	A Lake Superior / Whitefish Bay shoreline hike. What's not to love? A dip in the lake in warm weather is always refreshing. The trail descends from the Naomikong Overlook on steep stairs to an extensive arrangement of recently completed boardwalks. The trail travels parallel to beaches leading to the Naomikong Creek suspension bridge. The trail continues very level past the Shallows Parking and winds along beaches to the Bark Dock. This route is along the "foot" of Whitefish Bay where the shoreline is sandy and the water is shallow. A favorite area ever since humans populated the Great Lakes region. Distance: 4.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/04DGy0
7:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Mackinaw City, Cecil Bay Road	The northernmost miles of the NCT in the Lower Peninsula! This hike starts at the Mackinac Bridge in Mackinaw City where part of the trail follows the Northwestern State Trail, and is paved between Trails End Road and Mackinaw City. It also crosses a gas and oil pipeline, continues past windmills, graduates into forests, and passes French Farm Lake! The trail includes balsam, cedar, and pine forests. It includes many puncheon walkways over streams and wet areas. Two miles of the trail border French Farm Lake with many scenic views and waterfowl viewing in summer. It crosses French Farm Lake dam and then yet another Carp River. Distance: 8.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/114a9n0
7:45 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.	East Lake Road (south), H-40	The Niagara Escarpment has a grand outcropping along this route, although it is not the only item of interest. There are stream crossings and a beaver dam, varied forests, a spring or two, and a lake all in this route through varied forests. This is a favorite hike of the local Chapter. Distance: 8 miles. Map: arcg.is/W4DLG1
7:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Two Hearted River	A river made famous by Hemmingway, a Great Lake that impressed Longfellow, and the northernmost hike of the Celebration, this section of the trail is North

		Country by all definitions. Several inland lakes are viewed from the trail as well as the area recovering from the 2012 Duck Lake Fire. There may be a few late season wild blueberries or huckleberries to taste as well. Distance: 9.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/v9HDj
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Soldier Lake, Dick Road North	Travel through areas used to train armed forces for combat in WWII. See northern meadows, mixed hardwoods, and pine plantations managed by the Hiawatha National Forest. The bracken ferns grow tall in this area! Keep and eye out for bear scat, wolf tracks, and moose droppings! Distance: 6 miles. Map: arcg.is/1u8XPr
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Soldier Lake, Salt Point Road	An absolutely beautiful hike through an occasional tunnel of trees that travels past Stump and Dishpan Lakes, and through mixed forests. The damp, earthy smells are wonderful and lift your physical, spiritual, and mental wellbeing! The forest types change often as you stroll through the immature and mature growth. Flowering plants decorate the forest floor. Small meadows offer a change of scenery and plant life. The Trail crosses M-28 between Raco and Strongs near the Soldier Lake USFS Campground. Distance: 7 miles. Map: arcg.is/1104zj
8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	M-123, Kenneth Road	Cross Bissel Creek, Taylor Creek, and the North Branch of the Carp River. A great area to hike! Rocks, rivers, and new bridges, all along the north edge of the Mackinac Wilderness area - and some on top of a rock formation that is part of the Niagara Escarpment. Distance: 5.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/CuXzG
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Tahqua Trail Road and Trailhead	Hike the incredible scenic Tahqua Trail along the Tahquamenon River. The trail is level and winds along with the Tahquamenon River ending at an NCT Trailhead. There is minimal roadwalk past a few private cabins and to get around Cheney Creek. This section was closed to all use for many years because of overuse by ORVs. About 10 years ago, the local Chapter received permission to revive the old trail along the banks of the Tahquamenon River near the river mouth. There are 22 structures crossing gullies in this section. This is an easy and beautiful hike; a favorite of the Chapter. Distance: 5 miles. Map: arcg.is/PvKXu
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homes, and introduce some of town's former residents. This 6-mile walk will begin at the boardwalk in front of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture and will end at Lakeside Cemetery, followed by a walk through the Straits State Park on our return to Little Bear East.

Distance: 6 miles. **Map:** arcg.is/0Hfv8b

Friday Workshops

Time	Activity	Description
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Trail Construction: Reroute	<p>Back when the NCT was being first laid out, some sections of the trail were installed hastily, as they were trying to get a trail from point A to point B established in a short amount of time. Sometimes the trail building crews took the most direct route without regard to topography or scenic views within the trail corridor. It then falls on the Chapters to do adjustments to the trail route to make it more pleasant to hike. The route between the Dam Road crossing and the Brevort Lake Dam is a prime example in need of route optimization. Before the pandemic, the USFS (Land Manager) and Chapter walked the route and flagged a couple of routes to improve the hike-ability of the NCT. The NEPA studies were completed during covid. Last year a crew roughed out the first of the reroutes. That route needs some finishing touches, and another reroute needs all the work done on it. If we run out of work, there is a hill west of the Brevort River at the Dam that needs to have the trail refurbished/improved.</p> <p>Map: arcg.is/19yj8v0. The forest is a mixed hardwoods with White Pine interspersed throughout. Activities: Rough clearing of brush and branches with loppers; initial clearing of the tread, raked with a McLeod; tread work removing duff and stumps; smoothing and finishing of tread; blazing and line of sight clearing; final GPS of route to turn in to the NCTA office for update of the maps, as well as to the USFS for their data. (Participants will have a chance to do all of this!) There may be the need to do some benching of the trail on hillsides with the possibility of a small switchback or two. There will be a tool trailer at the staging location. The work sites are less than a mile from the staging area. Please wear appropriate work clothes including long pants and sturdy closed-toed shoes and plan to bring work gloves, sunblock, lunch, and at least two liters of water. At least one month</p>

before Celebration, please take the [Trail Safe! course](#), review the [NPS Injury, Near Miss, and Exposure Procedures for VIPs](#), and [sign up as a NPS VIP](#) in the area of Trail Construction and Maintenance. Further information and requirements will be communicated prior to the Celebration.

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Trail Eyes	This mobile workshop is for volunteers wanting to further develop “trail eyes” when it comes to trail maintenance. NCTA staff and experienced volunteers will share tips on performing common maintenance tasks, identifying issues to tackle before they become bigger problems, estimating workload and more. We’ll also share some suggestions for using technology to track issues and share maintenance needs.
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Roots and Routes: A Historical Perspective on Nature Preserves and Trail Development	Join the Upland Conservancy (UPLC) as they highlight properties where NCTA and UPLC work together to implement trails. Most notably Dempsey Memorial Preserve . UPLC will be sharing the research of the history of our partnership areas and how these stories will be considered when stewarding trails and installing signage.
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lightweight Backpacking	This presentation by Andy Mytys will focus on lightening one’s load when packing for a multi-day trip along the NCT, with emphasis on the safety and comfort of the trip. The simple philosophies of carrying less, lighter, and multi-purpose gear will be explored, including when the lightest option isn’t always the best choice. The impact of backcountry skills and choice of food on pack weight will also be discussed. The presentation will also delve into how a lightweight pack can be achieved on a limited budget.
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Communications on the Trail: Cell Phone Coverage and Auxiliary Communications	Cell phone coverage is not assured along the NCT or on other trails and locations off the beaten path. This may very well become critical in case of injury to oneself or others or if assistance is needed to locate someone or something or if contact with someone off the trail is desired. Very effective auxiliary means of communication are, however, readily available, specifically amateur radio, an FCC licensed pursuit. This program by Tim Hass will introduce those in attendance to amateur radio, its transmission capabilities, equipment types, sizes, costs and benefits and the process to become a licensed radio operator. You will likely be surprised at the diminutive size of the equipment that may readily be packed for the trail. In addition, we will discuss a cell phone app by the name of “what3words” and the benefits it offers to

one.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	17th Century History by Jennifer McGraw	Join historian, author, and local history researcher Jennifer McGraw as she dives into 17th century history of the St. Ignace area.
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Mandate for the National Scenic Trail	The 1968 National Trails Act created National Scenic Trails for their outdoor recreation potential, and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass. The NCT fulfills this mandate in an extraordinary manner. This workshop, led by seasoned NCT hiker Joan Young, will showcase some of the ways our trail accomplishes this mandate.
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Geology: The Backbone of the North Country Trail	This session by Dr. Paul Kelso, geology professor at Lake Superior State University, will include an overview of the regional geology along the North Country Trail from the formation of the rocks to modification of the landscapes by glaciers, rivers, and lakes. We will start with a 30-minute overview of the regional geology at Little Bear Arena. This will be followed by a walking tour from Little Bear Area to the shore of Lake Huron to observe rocks and geologic features and learn how modern and ancient geologic processes have created and modified the North Country Trail landscape. The walking tour will be about 1 mile round trip from Little Bear Arena and will take about an hour with geologic stops along the way. Many of the geologic features and processes discussed and/or viewed here are also observable at other locations along the North Country Trail from Vermont to North Dakota. You may also join for only the presentation and skip the walking tour. Please let us know if you need alternative transportation to the walking sites. The North Country Trail rocks!
2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	Hammock Camping Along the NCT	Years of hammock camping along the NCT will be whittled down to a single presentation by Andy Mytys, covering topics such as the differences between hammock and tent camping, advantages and challenges when hammocking, staying warm, dry and bug free when using a hammock, and a comparison of common hammock and tarp designs.
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Comedy on the Trail	Hiking solo at the age of 65 from Ohio to Wisconsin provided many laughable moments for Jo Oostveen. From nude sunbathers to goats on the trail, hiking can be downright hilarious. Join us in celebrating the funniest sport in the world - walking down a trail!

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Trail Protection	Join Paul Gagnon, NCTA Director of Trail Protection, to review the most current methods and considerations for protecting the North Country National Scenic Trail, with a special focus on how to approach and communicate with landowners.
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	After the Storm	On October 10, 2021, an EF-2 tornado passed through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and cut a mile wide swath across the Border Route/NCT north of Clearwater Lake, effectively closing the trail to hikers with no available detour. A coordinated plan to flag and re-open the trail was put together by the Border Route Trail Association, NCTA, and Superior National Forest. Matt Davis assembled a crew of volunteers, including Dan Dueweke, and USFS rangers to go in the following spring to reopen the trail using axes and crosscut saws, the only tools allowed in the BWCA wilderness. They completed the objective in four days.

Saturday, August 24

Time	Activity	Location
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Check-in Open	Little Bear Arena Lobby
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Bag Lunch Pickup	Little Bear Arena
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Trail Shop Open	Little Bear Arena
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Buffet Dinner	Little Bear Arena
7:15 - 9:00 p.m.	Social Time	Little Bear Arena

Saturday Activities

All hikes will depart from and return to Little Bear Arena at the times listed below.

Time	Activity	Description
7:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Two Hearted River	A river made famous by Hemmingway, a Great Lake that impressed Longfellow, and the northernmost hike of the Celebration, this section of the trail is North Country by all definitions. Several inland lakes are viewed from the trail as well as the area recovering from the 2012 Duck Lake Fire. There may be a few late season wild blueberries or huckleberries to taste as well. Distance: 9.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/v9HDj

8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Hike Between the Falls (Lower to Upper)	<p>Hike between the Lower Tahquamenon Falls and the brink of the Upper Tahquamenon Falls. The Upper Falls is the second largest waterfall east of the Mississippi River, second only to Niagara Falls. There are stairs (94 steps) to a viewing platform at the Upper Falls and a bridge to the island between the Lower Falls. Tahquamenon Falls have a very unique color due to tannin produced by cedar and hemlock trees in the surrounding forests and swamps. It looks very much like root beer, foam and all. There are exposed tree roots, and damp weather can make the roots and some of the clay portions of the trail a bit slippery if wet. It's a hilly trail that initially takes you away from the river into the forest and winds back and forth to and away from the river. This is a trail you'll never forget. It's one of Michigan's gems.</p> <p>Distance: 5 miles. Map: arcg.is/1GOWev2</p>
8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Upper Falls, CR 500	<p>Hike in the wilderness for a true northern experience. This section of trail has no crossroads, no ORV/ATV trails; it is moderately difficult. Hike hemlock ridges, northern bogs and marshes, pass a huge beaver dam, and view Upper Tahquamenon Falls before getting refreshments at the Tahquamenon Falls Brewery & Pub, located just off the trail at the Upper Falls. This is a favorite hike of the local Chapter. Distance: 7 miles. Map: arcg.is/1OvzWz0. (Repeated on Thursday.)</p>
8:30 a.m. - 1:35 p.m.	Brevort Lake Road, Castle Rock Trailhead	<p>Walk through the woods near St. Ignace, crossing ancient, fixed sand dunes. These dunes offer both a challenge to hikers and a view of the Mackinac Bridge towers approximately 10 miles away! A magical spot is the crossing of the Point Aux Chenes River. Some say this section hikes more like 11 miles because of the elevation changes. Distance: 8.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/0aGHPS</p>
8:30 a.m. - 1:35 p.m.	Brevort Lake Road, Worth Road	<p>A perfect way to get a taste of the fixed dunes and varied forests located north of Lake Michigan, this hike is a pleasant way to spend a morning or an afternoon. Wonderful views of the Brevort River are found all along this route. Cross the Brevort River twice, see hemlock and cedar stands give way to mixed hardwoods. A few ancient fixed dunes add interest to this walk. Distance: 9.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/0L0XeC</p>
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Tahqua Trail Road and Trailhead	<p>Hike the incredible scenic Tahqua Trail along the Tahquamenon River. The trail is level and winds along with the Tahquamenon River ending at an NCT</p>

		<p>Trailhead. There is minimal roadwalk past a few private cabins and to get around Cheney Creek. This section was closed to all use for many years because of overuse by ORVs. About 10 years ago, the local Chapter received permission to revive the old trail along the banks of the Tahquamenon River near the river mouth. There are 22 structures crossing gullies in this section. This is an easy and beautiful hike; a favorite of the Chapter. Distance: 5 miles. Map: arcg.is/PvKXu</p>
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Naomikong Shallows Park, Salt Point Road	<p>An absolutely beautiful south-to-north hike through an occasional tunnel of trees. The forest types change often as you stroll through both immature and mature growth. Flowering plants decorate the forest floor. Travel through varied terrain and forest, past Naomikong Pond, and the only trail shelter in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Continue to an overlook and Lake Superior (Whitefish Bay). The trail descends from the Naomikong Overlook on steep stairs to an extensive arrangement of recently completed boardwalks. The trail travels parallel to beaches leading to the Naomikong Creek suspension bridge and finally to the Shallows Day Use Area. Distance: 7 miles. Map: arcg.is/e4SmW</p>
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	St. Ignace NCT Boardwalk	<p>Depart from the Little Bear Arena, enjoy the boardwalk to the American Legion Memorial Park, then walk back. Enjoy the town, shop, and take in views of the lake and everything that makes St. Ignace a wonderful place to be! Distance: 3 miles. Map: arcg.is/DWjiW0 (Repeated on Thursday.)</p>
9:15 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.	Lakeview Trailhead, Levering Road	<p>Forests on this section of trail include mainly hardwoods. It has only a few small hills. The trail crosses Wycamp Dam, and one mile of the trail goes along the shore of Wycamp Lake. Hike through coniferous and hardwood forests. Continue on over a few steep hills. Lakeview Trailhead is within Wilderness State Park, so park rules apply. Distance: 8.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/1myimv0</p>
9:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.	Brevort Lake Road, Camp Road	<p>Varied topography and views of Brevort Lake, this hike offers a chance to climb a few fixed, ancient sand dunes as you circle along the south side of the lake. This is a shorter version of the Brevort Lake Road to Worth Road hike. Distance: 6.5 miles. Map: arcg.is/1PWKXv0</p>
10:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.	East Lake Road (south), H-40	<p>The Niagara Escarpment has a grand outcropping along this route, although it is not the only item of</p>

interest. There are stream crossings and a beaver dam, varied forests, a spring or two, and a lake all in this route through varied forests. This is a favorite hike of the local Chapter. **Distance:** 8 miles. **Map:** arcg.is/W4DLG1

10:30 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. Soldier Lake, Dick Road North

Travel through areas used to train armed forces for combat in WWII. See northern meadows, mixed hardwoods, and pine plantations managed by the Hiawatha National Forest. The bracken ferns grow tall in this area! Keep an eye out for bear scat, wolf tracks, and moose droppings! **Distance:** 6 miles. **Map:** arcg.is/1u8XPr

11:30 a.m. - 3:35 p.m. Worth Road, M-123

An enjoyable hike in the woods that crosses trout stream Silver Creek, Burma Road, Carp River, and newly rehabilitated trail near M-123. Worth hiking! There are natural openings where sandhill cranes may be sighted. Watch for blueberries and kestrels in this area. A 1991 report said that swampy areas on both sides of Silver Creek are covered in old railroad ties. This has been cleaned up by the local Chapter in recent years. New structures make the hiking more pleasant. The trail crosses a natural gas pipeline clearing before crossing one-lane, graveled Forest Road 3124 aka Burma Road. Moving on, we cross the strong-flowing Carp River on a 50-foot wooden bridge. Thirty five years ago you would find that selective cutting of trees had occurred in this area. More selective harvests have occurred recently near M-123 with appropriate trail repairs being made. **Distance:** 5.5 miles. **Map:** arcg.is/0rLTTj

4:50 - 5:20 p.m. Yoga with Gloria

Strengthen and stretch after your first day of hiking! Yoga will be located in the conference rooms at Little Bear Arena.

Sunday, August 25

No group activities or meals planned.