



AROUND THE GREAT LAKES EXPEDITION

In 2009, photographer, writer, and kayaking guide Bryan Hansel will attempt a solo circumnavigation of all five Great Lakes. From Fort Gratiot Light on Lake Huron, Hansel will paddle northbound attempting the three largest lakes first. Upon completing circumnavigations of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Lake Huron, he will complete the remaining two, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

During this 5-month, 3800 mile expedition, Hansel will attempt to become the first person to solo circumnavigate by kayak all the Great Lakes in one year. In doing so, he will fulfill a long held dream and provide testimony that great expeditions are possible near home. The expedition's objectives are:

- † Complete a circumnavigation of all five Great Lakes in one continuous push, with a maximum of 20 mile crossings, and paddling 3800 miles.
- † Produce a book showing the Great Lakes from the viewpoint of a kayak.
- † Write and spur magazine and newspaper articles.
- † Maintain a website devoted to paddling opportunities on the Great Lakes. During the trip, provide weekly web updates and daily Twitter tweets of trip status.
- † Produce a slide show promoting kayaking, resource and wilderness protection on the Great Lakes.
- † Build an extensive photographic portfolio of the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes contain roughly one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water, they're surrounded by eight U.S. States and one Canadian province, and have over 10,000 miles of shoreline. Formed just under 10,000 years ago as the last glaciers retreated, this young drainage basin is home to over 33 million people. This unique resource is under constant pressure from pollution, invasive species, and urban sprawl.

With your help, we can promote paddling adventure on the Great Lakes, increase paddlesports participation in the Midwest, and highlight the pressures faced by one of America's great wonders; the increased paddlesport participation will advance resource and wilderness protection.

Bryan Hansel's Biography

Bryan Hansel's goal in life is to advance wilderness protection through growing paddlesport participation. He's worked most of his life in the outdoor field in jobs that range from trail building in Iowa's State Park system, park law enforcement, forestry, leading the camping/paddling/climbing lines in one of the world's 10 largest sporting good chains, as an outdoor photographer, as a writer, as an ACA kayaking instructor and as a guide.

Among personal achievements, he counts thru-hiking the entire 2160+ mile Appalachian Trail, climbing Devil's Tower and solo paddling the old Voyager Route as his favorites. He's paddled, climbed, and backpacked extensively throughout the US.

Currently, he works as a kayaking guide on Lake Superior, teaches cross country skiing, runs a photography business (www.bryanhansel.com), teaches photography workshops, builds and sells kayaks and kayak plans, runs a canoeing and kayaking website (www.nessmuking.com) and writes for print and the web. He lives in Grand Marais, MN.

Bryan's photographs and writing have appeared in magazines and newspapers, such as Sea Kayaker Magazine, Lake Superior Magazine, Cook County Star, Cook County New Herald and Minnesota Monthly. His images have also been used on websites, in brochures, and in commercial publications.

