

WILL STEGER

WILL STEGER is an educator, polar explorer, photographer, writer and lecturer. He has logged thousands of miles of travel by dog sled in the Arctic regions and has become a voice calling for understanding and the preservation of the Arctic. Will Steger's most recent undertaking was the International Arctic Project (IAP), a five-person international expedition which traveled from Russia to Canada across the Arctic Ocean. The expedition team made telecommunications history by communicating daily with millions worldwide via the Internet and sending the first digital image from the North Pole. Upon completing the IAP, Will Steger was awarded National Geographic Society's John Oliver La Gorce Medal in December for accomplishments in geographic exploration, in the sciences, and for public service to advance international understanding. He joins Amelia Earhart, Robert Peary and Jacques Cousteau in receiving this prestigious award.

Making history is nothing new for Will Steger. In 1986, he led a team of six to the North Pole by dog sled, the first recorded unsupported expedition to the pole. He then led in 1988 the longest unsupported dog sled journey in history, a 1,600-mile South-North Traverse of Greenland. This was followed in 1989-90 by leading an international team of six 3,741-miles across the Antarctic continent in the historic International Trans-Antarctica Expedition. Following the Antarctic crossing, Steger and his team met with President Bush, President Mitterand of France, Vice President Lukyanov and Foreign Minister Schevardnadze of the Soviet Union, Prime Minister Kaifu of Japan and President Yang Shangkun of China to review critical preservation issues concerning Antarctica.

The environment, education and exploration go hand in hand with Will Steger. He received his M.A. in Education at the University of St. Thomas and taught science for three years at the secondary level. In 1970, he moved from Minneapolis to the wilderness north of Ely, Minnesota. There he founded a winter school and for ten years pioneered outdoor programs using dog teams and skis as a means of travel. Steger's 1989-90 International Trans-Antarctic Expedition and the 1995 International Arctic Project broke ground in telecommunications by sharing the expedition's experiences from both the north and south polar regions through computer networks and the Internet. To help advance the understanding of humanity's role and impact on the environment, Steger founded the Global Center of Environmental Education at Hamline University in 1991 and the World School for Adventure Learning at the University of St. Thomas in 1993.

Will Steger has twice been invited to testify before Congress on polar and environmental issues. He is well known for his efforts to advance education and telecommunications as a major solution to the environmental problems the planet now faces. Steger continues to lecture extensively throughout the United States on his expeditions and environmental issues. He has written three books ; Crossing Antarctica , North to the Pole and Saving the Earth. His articles and photographs have appeared in the National Geographic magazine along with numerous other international and national publications.

EXPEDITIONS :

- * 1960 : Traveled the Mississippi River by motorboat from Minneapolis to New Orleans
- * 1963-1970 : 10,000 miles of travel by kayak in northern rivers including MacKenzie, Peace and Yukon Rivers
- * 1982-1983 : 18 month, 6,000-mile dog sled expedition throughout Canada's Northwest Territories and Alaska
- * 1985 : 5,000 mile dog sled expedition from Ely Minnesota to Pt. Barrow, Alaska
- * 1986 : Led the first confirmed journey to the North Pole by dog sled without resupply
- * 1988 : Led the 1,600-mile south-north traverse of Greenland. Longest unsupported dog sled expedition in history
- * 1989-1990 : Led the historic 3,471-mile International Trans-Antarctica Expedition. First dog sled traverse of Antarctica
- * 1992-1994 : Led three training expeditions in northern Canada in preparation for the Arctic Ocean crossing of the International Arctic Project
- * 1995 : Led the International Arctic Project. A 1,200-mile crossing of the Arctic Ocean from Russia to Ellesmere Island, Canada

OCCUPATION :

- * Currently : Polar Explorer, Professional Writer, Educator, Lecturer, Photographer

EDUCATION :

- * M.A., Education, 1969. College of St. Thomas
- * B.S., Geology, 1966. College of St. Thomas

PUBLICATIONS :

- * Crossing Antarctica , by Will Steger and Jon Bowermaster (Alfred Knopf, 1992)
- * Saving the Earth : A Citizen's Guide to Environmental Action , by Will Steger with Jon Bowermaster (Alfred Knopf, 1990)
- * North to the Pole , by Will Steger with Paul Schurke (Times Books, 1987)
- * National Geographic Magazine
 - "Dispatches from the Pole", January 1996
 - "Crossing Antarctica", November 1990
 - "North to the Pole", September 1986
- * Steger's articles and photographs have appeared in numerous other international and national publications

HONORS AND RECOGNITION :

- * 1995 : Awarded the National Geographic Society's John Oliver La Gorce Medal for accomplishments in geographic exploration, in the sciences and for public service to advance international understanding. The medal has been awarded 19 times since the founding of the National Geographic Society in 1888. Other recipients of this prestigious award include Amelia Earhart, Robert Peary and Jacques Cousteau.
- * 1991 : Honorary Doctorate of Letters, University of St. Thomas
- * 1991 : Honorary Doctorate of Science, Westminster College
- * 1991 : Invited to testify before the Congressional Senate Subcommittee for Science, Technology and Space
- * 1990 : Invited to testify before the Congressional House Subcommittee for National Parks and Public Lands
- * 1990 : ABC Network's Athlete of the Week
- * 1990 : Speaker at the National Press Club
- * 1990 : Humphrey Institute Award for International Policy
- * 1990 : Most Distinguished Alumni Award; College of St. Thomas
- * 1986 : Merit Award; The Explorers Club
- * 1986 : Outsider of the Year Award; Outside Magazine