

Welcome aboard Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Sault Ste Marie, Michigan!

Commissioned on June 27 2011, the ANT services aids to navigation from Grand Island on Lake Superior's pictured rocks shores, through the St. Mary's river, its outlying lakes and channels, down to Detour Reef lighthouse, into the Les Cheneaux Islands of the quiet towns of Hessel and Cedarville.

The everyday operation of ANT Sault Ste Marie is anything but day-to-day work. One day you may be jumping an aid from our small boat and the next you're trekking through rough terrain in UTVs with a crew to service a range light, or climbing the spiraling stair well of an historic lighthouse that lights the way for our mighty freighters to transit safely. This unit is among the hardest working groups in the Coast Guard and is one of the most rewarding jobs a member of this service can hold.

The town of Sault Ste Marie is small town life with a population of roughly 16,500; offering a very low crime rate and quiet laid back community. Things to do in and around the Soo consist of mainly being active in the outdoors with great camping in our state parks and national forest and other outdoor activities. There are exciting fishing opportunities in the lakes for northern pike, small mouth bass, walleye, lake trout and salmon. Our creeks and rivers, like the Two Hearted River in the western UP, offer great rainbow, brown, and native brook trout fishing. Michigan's seasons attract tourists from all over. The transitions from season to season offers a chance to see the trees and environment go from green in the summer time, to the fiery oranges and yellows of fall, to the dramatic white of winter, back to the budding greens and blossoming flowers of spring.

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan summers and early falls are great for adventuring out into some of the best ORV trails. There are over 2,600 miles of trails with various terrains that double in the winter time for snowmobiles trails, which is one of the UP's most exciting sports and activity. Soo winters can be quite cold, with temperatures as low as below zero. That may sound cold, but once you get past 32 degrees, it's hard to feel a difference between 32 and 8 degrees. Not to worry though, the Soo is very winter oriented. From cross country skiing, and snow-shoeing, to tubing at the Sault Seal Hill behind the high school, and ice-fishing once the ice sets, there is always something to do for everyone. The Soo is very snowmobile friendly, and holds Michigan's premier winter sporting event, the I-500, a snowmobile extravaganza for a weekend in February; it's the snowmobile Daytona-500.

The Great Lake shores bring the chance to explore a unique environment and culture that can only be found along the cool, clear waters of our Great Lakes. Once again, welcome aboard Aids to Navigation Team Sault Ste Marie, MI.