

# Victor Gutwein

Chicago, IL



If there's water, count me in. Preferably fully immersed, but if not then just get me as close as possible.

I'm a husband and father of 3 - venture capitalist by day and Strava-obsessed endurance athlete by early morning :) I started swimming competitively when I was 6 (and held my local Indiana swim team's 8 and under record in the 25-yard-breastroke for decades). After a successful high school career where I got to represent my team at state, I decided to play my passion - water polo - in college at the University of Chicago. Being in Chicago also allowed me to stoke one of my biggest passions - Lake Michigan, where I would swim at Promontory Point and plan open-water water polo practices.

When my wife and I graduated and got married, we stuck around on the South Side, and after a few years I sent in a long-shot hand-written letter to the homeowners of one of just a half dozen Chicago lakefront homes in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood. It miraculously worked, and now I live the dream - waking up to swim miles in pristine Lake Michigan before commuting up Lake Shore Drive to work and then coming back to take the kids kayaking or get an evening windsurf in. I watch the ore freighters chug past from my bedroom (and track them online) and regularly belt out verses to Gordon Lightfoot's epic ballad (which I've had memorized since elementary school). Lake Michigan never ceases to draw me in and when I heard about this swim I knew I had to join, particularly to challenge the waters of her more gnarly bigger sister, Superior.

I've completed a lot of endurance events including the below, but this will be the most I've ever swum in a day:

2013 Ironman Wisconsin

1x 100 Mile Ultramarathon

3x 50 Mile Ultramarathons

Countless 50Ks and marathons

1x Big Shoulders 5K swim

2x 4 mile roundtrip swim to Chicago's 68th street water crib & back

And I've also swum in some exotic locations:

Aral Sea

Red Sea

Dead Sea

Casco Bay

Gulf of Oman

Gulf of Thailand

St. Lawrence River

Amu Darya River

Danube River

Copenhagen Harbor

Sydney Harbor

Oresund Strait

So I'm excited to swim in this tribute, not just for the challenge and unique (difficult) location, but also for the memories and heritage that this represents. THE LEGEND LIVES ON!