



Cross Trail Outfitters of Illinois  
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Eric St. Pierre is more commonly known by his professional name Bear. If you've ever stood next to him you'll understand why!

Bear's leadership development began while in Scouts and continued as he went through the scouting program, eventually earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1996. It was during this time that Bear developed his passion for the outdoors including hunting, fishing, and conservation.

It is because of this passion he was led to begin Cross Trail Outfitters of Illinois. CTO is a ministry that Bear founded in the state of Illinois in 2010. He developed a solid foundation for this ministry that continues to grow today. CTO is a big part of his life, and he serves as the State Director for CTO of Illinois.

It was CTO's cornerstones: *Building Men*, *Preserving our Heritage*, and *Sharing our Faith*, which drew Bear to Cross Trail Outfitters. He saw *Building Men* as an opportunity to

develop leaders and teach personal responsibility to a generation whose idea of manhood has been hijacked by entertainment, media, and lack of attentive fathers. *Preserving our Heritage* he saw as an opportunity to share not only outdoor heritage, but also the heritage of our founding fathers and the documents on which our country was built. Bear cherishes helping all he comes in contact with to understand the original intent of the founding fathers. *Sharing our Faith* in Jesus and helping answer some of life's great questions through Scripture is an important part of Bear's life, which is why he appreciated seeing these values reflected in CTO as well. Outside of CTO, Bear has been sought after to help develop leaders in business, ministry, and athletics. It was during his time with World Wide Dream Builders he was given the opportunity to exchange ideas with leadership guru John C. Maxwell. Maxwell told Bear that he not only looked to him as a mentor but as a friend (Kind words Bear aspires to live up to daily). Bear continues leadership development to this day both in CTO and also through working with John Wright at Greyfield Legacies in St Joseph, IL. There he works with industry leaders and athletes, both collegiate and professional.

Bear also is an Immediate Past President of Guns Save Life. He was the youngest president in GSL history, but you wouldn't know it by his list of accomplishments.

When he was asked how he has accomplished so much in such a short amount of time he said, "I've been blessed by God. He has put so many opportunities in front of me, and I have always made myself available to step out in faith, letting Him lead my steps."

Bear believes the reason some people have a problem with firearms is because of a lack of understanding of how they truly work. "It is this lack of knowledge that breeds fear." He believes that the best way to continue to win the debate over firearms is to teach those who have no experience with guns how to properly use them. Once ignorance has been erased, one will see the fear of firearms begin to melt away which will allow many previous dissenters to become avid firearm owners themselves. These people will especially benefit when shown all the fun and safe activities there are within shooting sports.

Bear graduated in 2001 from Trinity Christian College where he double majored in Theology and Christian Education with a minor in Music. He was ordained Reverend Eric G. St. Pierre in 2013 through Windsor Road Christian Church in Champaign, IL.

Bear was also an American Professional Wrestler for over twenty years. He retired from the international promotion ZERO1 Pro Wrestling.

When asked how he balances all of these responsibilities, "I see all of my roles working together as one. To me it is all one and the same calling I have in my life. God has put these opportunities before me to impact the lives of others. Whether I am doing that while wearing a CTO hat, a GSL hat, a ZERO1 hat, or even a Greyfield hat, I'm helping people come to the understanding of truth. Sometimes that truth is guiding them to Jesus, sometimes that truth is sharing with them about personal responsibility and self-defense, and sometimes that truth is helping them chase their dreams and realize how they can reach their unlive life by overcoming the river of resistance. All in all it's about how I can encourage and equip people to be the best God has called them to be."

**Eric 'Bear' St. Pierre**

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