

Porcupine Mountains Artist-in-Residence Program

*A program of the Friends of The Porkies
in cooperation with
Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park*

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park (affectionately called the Porkies) located on the southern shore of Lake Superior, is 26 miles long and 10 miles wide. It offers 60,000 acres of natural beauty ranging from stunning vistas to 90 miles of rugged backcountry trails. The Park provides four-season recreation at its finest.

This wilderness park is ideally suited for an Artist-in-Residence program. There are 25 miles of wave-washed shores, four inland lakes, entire river systems, countless waterfalls, enchanting wooded peaks and an escarpment that rises slowly from the edge of Lake Superior until it plummets abruptly into the Carp River valley. Still, the most impressive feature of the Porkies and the reason for its creation is the virgin forest of eastern hemlock and northern hardwoods. This unique resource, known as a “forest museum,” supports a wide variety of captivating flora and fauna.

The Porcupine Mountains’ cultural history begins with the Native Americans who named the escarpment peaks after the crouched woodland porcupines they resemble. Europeans first came to the area in search of furs and successive waves of extraction efforts followed. Between 1845 and 1910, 45 different copper mines operated in the park, and loggers harvested the easily reached shoreline pines in the early 1900’s.

The vast and varied cultural and natural resources of the Porkies present the ideal location for artistic endeavors. Anyone who has spent a minute in silence at the base of a towering pine, held on to their hat as the wind and waves of Lake Superior lash out against the shore, or traced the outline of an old stone foundation of a mine building knows the potential of this park to inspire creativity.

Artist-in-Residence Program

The Artist-in-Residence program at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is open to artists and artisans whose work can be influenced by this unique northern wilderness setting. It offers writers, composers and all visual and performing artists and artisans the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the Porkies and express it through their particular art form. Each year, a number of artists will be selected for residencies lasting two or three weeks.

Each artist will contribute an original piece of work representative of their residency to the permanent collection of the Friends of the Porkies. Donated pieces will be delivered within one year, framed, bound or otherwise gallery ready and will offer the public an opportunity to gain new insights and enjoy the park through the artists’ unique interpretations.

During their residency, each artist will share their experience in one public program, demonstration, talk, workshop, etc. This will be done in conjunction with the park’s interpretive programs. The presentation will depend on the artist’s medium, interests and experience and will be approximately one to two hours in length.

Friends of the Porkies

The Friends of the Porkies was established in March, 1998 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park experience for all of its’ visitors. The organization’s purpose is to promote, support and assist in the efforts of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to offer interpretive, scientific, historical, educational and related visitor services at the Porkies.



Dan Urbanski

The late Dan Urbanski, founding president of the *Friends* and award-winning photographer, inspired the creation of this program. Dan spent many years hiking and photographing the unique aspects of the Porkies. In tribute to his memory and to his efforts with Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, the *Friends* dedicated the rustic timber-framed cabin, which houses the artists in residence, to him and have thus named the cabin “Dan’s Cabin”.

Artist-in-Residence Program Information

Accommodations

The Artist-in-Residence will be based in Dan's cabin at no charge. Dan's cabin is a rustic cabin with simple amenities including an outdoor privy, small icebox and woodstove. There is no electricity or running water but the cabin does have a gas stove. There is a two person maximum occupancy in the cabin allowing the artist to have one guest if he or she chooses. Dan's cabin is furnished with table, chairs, two twin beds and basic cooking equipment and utensils. The artist must provide personal gear, food and art supplies. Artists wishing to participate in the backpacking experience will be able to register for a three-day backcountry permit at no extra charge.

Wildlife is affected by the presence of domestic animals long after they have left; therefore, pets are not allowed to be a part of this program.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is defined as a wilderness and all visitors must be well prepared. The artist should be in good health, and expect solitude, simple facilities and rapid changes in weather.

The Selection Process

A panel of professionals from various disciplines, and a Friends of the Porkies representative, will choose the finalists from each year's applicants. **The selection will be based on artistic integrity, willingness to adapt to a wilderness environment and the ability to relate and interpret the Park through their work.** All forms of art will be considered except those that are inconsistent with the mission of the park. Selections will be made without regard to race, religion, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation or national origin.

We appreciate materials being printed with black ink on white paper, one sided and unstapled.

All materials, including paper application, CD's, DVD's and flash drives will be recycled.

Applications must include the following:

1. A completed application. (2 pages found below)
2. Samples of recent work. Please include:
 - Visual Artists:* a CD or flash drive, labeled with artist's name, containing no more than six digital images (jpeg). (Photographic prints are not acceptable). If applicable please include the size of the work.
 - Musicians & Composers:* a CD or flash drive labeled with artist's name.
 - Dancers & Other Performing Artists:* a DVD labeled with artist's name.
 - Writers and journalists:* a brief manuscript, short story or articles labeled with artist's name.

Please note: all artists' work must be original

Send materials unfolded, without staples, to the following address:

Porcupine Mountains Artist-in Residence Program
P.O. Box 221
Ontonagon, Michigan 49953