



# Porcupine Mountains Visitor

2022 Printed by the Friends of the Porkies

www.michigan.gov/porkies

## WELCOME TO THE PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS

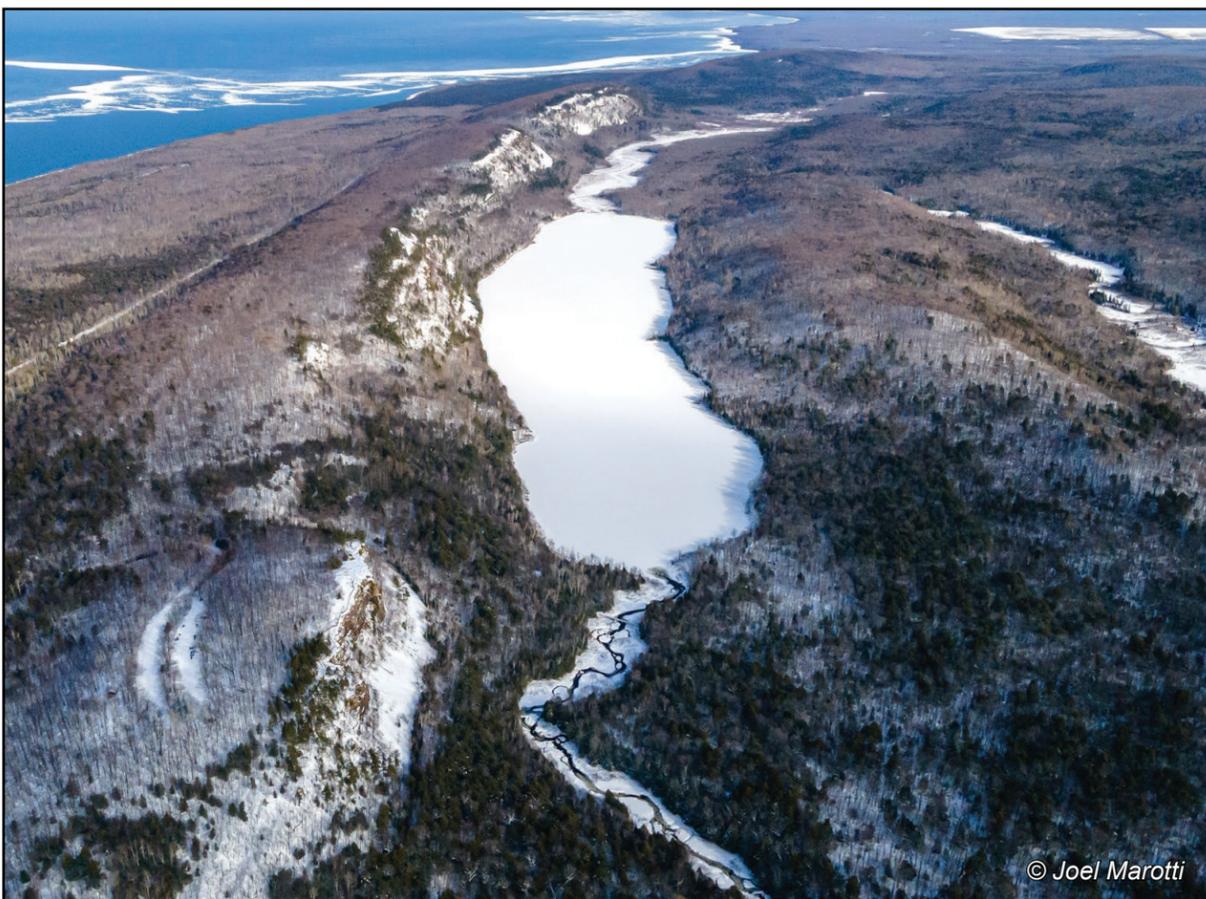
The Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is Michigan's largest State Park at almost 60,000 acres in size. This park, also known as "the Porkies" has been adored by all that have taken the time to experience what this wilderness has to offer.

Well known for its bursting waterfalls in the spring, lush green forests in the summer, or fiery leaves in the fall, not all dare to venture to the park during its more magical time of year, the winter.

Once the fall leaves drop there can be little time before the snow flurries move in and blanket the area. Where some people shudder at the thought of spending time in cold temperatures and frozen lands others can not wait for it to appear.

Cross country skiers are eager to get out and fly on the 25 kilometers of groomed multi-use trails. Snowshoers can't wait to break their own trail through the deep powdery snow to new discoveries. Winter backpackers or cabin user are geared up and ready to make new memories while spending the night out in the frosty North Woods.

The park even contains a ski hill for downhill skiers and snowboarders with access to a chairlift and cozy ski chalet to warm up after a long day.



© Joel Marotti

A frozen Lake of the Clouds on a sunny winter day.

Take some time to plan a trip this winter to the Porcupine Mountains, be sure to ask questions and prepare for the elements. Having proper layers and gear when spending long amounts of time in the cold outdoors is a must.

To find out more about the park during any of our seasons go to [www.michigan.gov/porkies](http://www.michigan.gov/porkies)



### Contents:

Map on pages 4-5

- Welcome ..... p.1
- Scenic Areas..... p.2
- Waterfalls..... p.2
- Winter in the Porkies..... p.3
- Summer Programs..... p.6
- Cabin and Yurt rentals..... p.6
- Friends of the Porkies ..... p.7
- Folk School Invitation..... p.7
- Artist In Residence ..... p.8
- Music Festival is Back ..... p.8

*The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.*

**The Wilderness Visitor Center**  
Open mid-May through mid-October  
Daily hours 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. EST

## #RecreateResponsibly

**PLAY IT SAFE**

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

**PLAN AHEAD**

**LEAVE NO TRACE**

## BE PREPARED FOR WILDERNESS



Park Staff and local Emergency Medical Services heading out for a rescue.

As the number of new users continue to rise in the park, so do the number of emergency responses.

Porcupine Mountains had over 85 rescues or emergencies last year. Each response requires a team of 6-10 people to hike on site, provide first aid and carry injured individuals back out at approximately one mile per hour.

Some emergencies cannot be avoided, and accidents do happen. Help us out by avoiding easy to prevent situations.

Pack appropriately for your trip. Bring enough water and supplies for everyone in your group. Wear proper shoes and have a plan of where you are going before entering the woods.

Make this trip one to remember for the right reasons.



### Lake of the Clouds

Standing along the top of the steep escarpment you look out over the beautiful Lake of the Clouds, surrounded by thick forests and dramatic mountains. On clear days, you can see over 20 miles away. It is easy to see why this is the most visited site in the park.

Located at the end of M-107, only a short 100-yard walk up a paved trail or accessible boardwalk will bring you to this amazing view. Due to limited parking, it is recommended visitors drop trailers and campers off in the middle ski hill parking area on summer and fall days located on M-107.



© Northwoods Exposure

### Summit Peak

At 1,958 feet tall, Summit Peak is the highest point in the park. From the parking area, there is a half-mile packed dirt trail that winds through huge hardwood trees with benches stationed along the route. The trail leads to wooden stairs, walkways and a viewing tower that access two breathtaking panoramic views.

The turn-off for this site is located half-way down South Boundary Road. A turn-around and parking area is situated at the end of the entrance road. It is recommended visitors drop trailers and campers off in the designated lot located as you exit South Boundary Road before heading up the mountain.



© Michael Knack

### Presque Isle River

The Presque Isle River is located on the very west side of the park. Here, there is a rustic campground, pavilion in the day use area and three of the biggest waterfalls in the park. From the day-use area, the hiking trail leads to wooden stairs and walkways that take you to the falls. At the river mouth, a beautiful suspension bridge spans the fast-flowing water. The trail leads to Lake Superior, the perfect spot for sunsets.

Take the flat gravel trail behind the DNR's Presque Isle contact booth for the shortest and easiest access to view one of the waterfalls, Nawadaha.



## WONDERS OF WATERFALLS

Of all the beautiful views to behold in the Porcupine Mountains there is nothing quite like watching a waterfall that is tucked into its natural landscape. Enjoying a snack on the mossy bank while listening to the trickle of water over rocks or cool your feet in the calm pools on a warm day, a waterfall visit can take your amazing trip and bring it to an unforgettable one.

Check out one of these park favorite waterfalls during your stay.

### Little Union Gorge Waterfall

This waterfall is located on the Union Mine Interpretive Trail about 2 miles south along South Boundary Road from M-107. This is an easy 1-mile hiking loop along the bubbling waters of the Union River.



© Dave Braithwaite

### Greenstone Waterfall

This hidden falls is a 2-mile round-trip hike that starts at the Little Carp River Road Trailhead off South Boundary Road. This moderate hike can take between 2-5 hours as you loose yourself in the scenic green forests.



© Michael Knack

### Shining Cloud Waterfall

A challenging 16-mile round trip hike that is well worth the effort, The Big Carp River Trail has a bit of everything. Open views and spectacular waterfalls this hike starts from the Lake of the Clouds parking lot and will take most of the day.



© Michael Knack

## ⚠ Beautiful But Dangerous ⚠

Be sure to take extra caution while exploring the parks waterfalls. Slippery and uneven surfaces can cause a fall where it may take **several hours** to get rescue services on site.

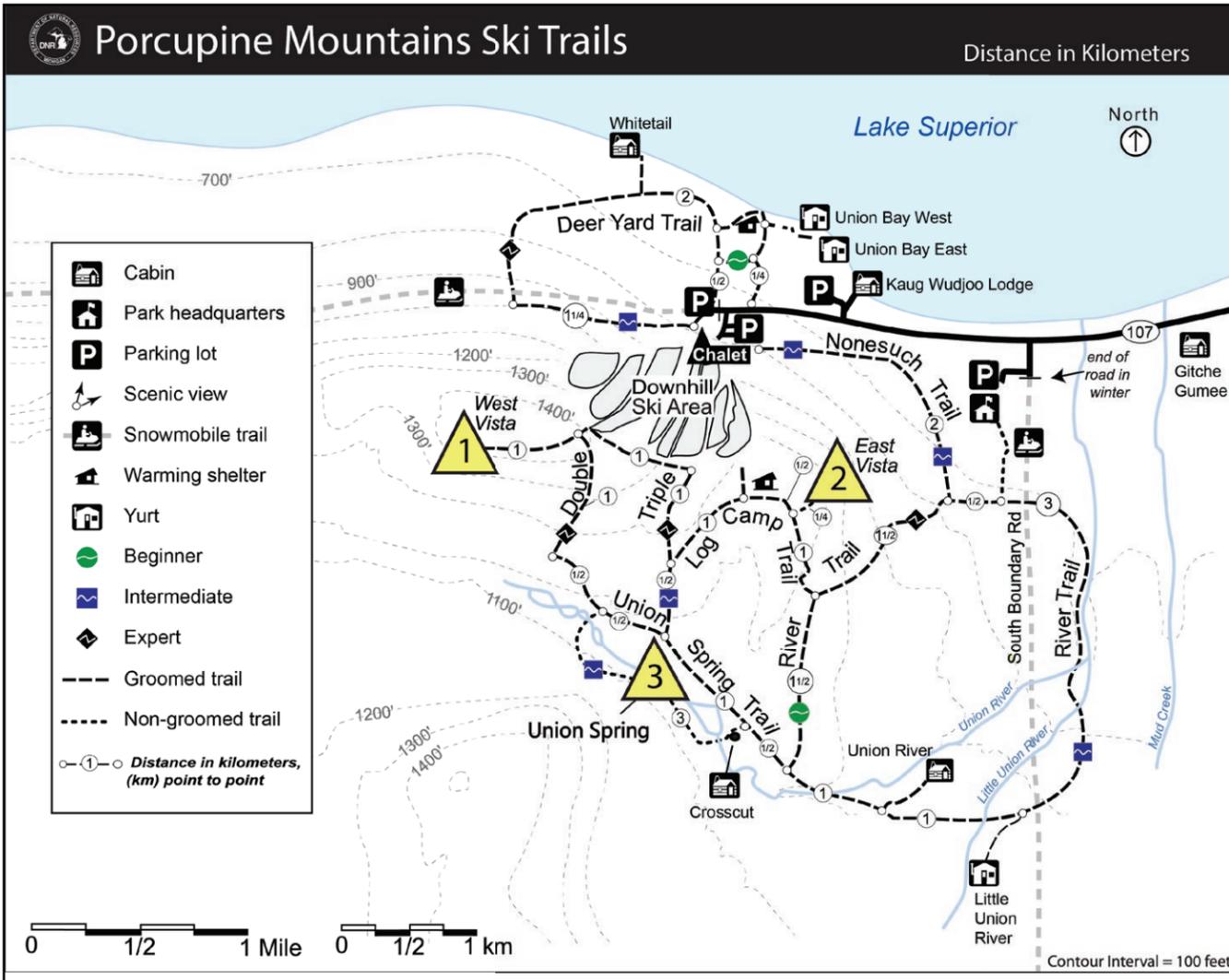
Pay attention to your surrounds as well as warning signs. Keep your trip fun and safe.

# WINTER IN THE PORKIES

There are many people who visit the park in the most popular times of the year but there are many who do not know that the Porkies is a snowy wonderland in the winter.

The entire park is open to visitors in the winter months, though you must snowshoe to get to most of the summer hot spots. South Boundary Road and M-107 from the ski hill to Lake of the Clouds are all closed in the winter for use as a snowmobile trail. Park staff spends much of its time in the winter grooming and maintaining 25 kilometers of multiuse winter trails. These trails connect to the winter cabins and yurts as well as to many of the beautiful places to view in the winter.

Don't miss out on some of our favorites highlighted in the map below.



## Be Smart Before You Start!

**Know Before you Go**  
Be aware of where you are stepping! Don't ruin the set tracks on the multi-use trails.

**Think If You Sink**  
While using the trails, if your boots sink more than an inch into the snow please switch to snowshoes.

**Stay Off to Stay Safe**  
Don't assume ice on the shoreline is safe, there are open pockets and thin ice all along the shore.

**DANGER Stay Off**



**1. West Vista**

This is a fantastic view of the Escarpment range with Lake Superior in the background.

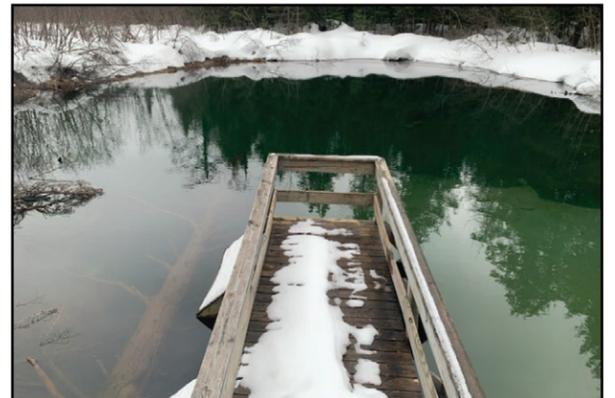
The easiest way to reach this view would be on one of the days the ski hill is in operation. Buy a single lift pass and catch a ride to the top, from there it is a short 1.25 mile snowshoe hike or cross country ski to the view.



**2. East Vista**

This frozen view overlooks Lake Superior, remains of White Pine Mine and on clear days the mouth of the Ontonagon River.

The shortest route would be an out and back trail from Headquarters parkinglot to Log Camp Trail. A total of 4 miles through snow covered trees.



**3. Union Spring**

Union Spring is Michigan's second largest freshwater spring. Be sure to check it out this winter. Walk down the floating dock and look over the side to see the sands bubbling.

Be sure to pack your snowshoes, this 7 mile there and back trip starts on packed groomed trail but the final mile is traveled only by snowshoe.

## Join in on the Fun

The Porcupine Mountains hosts many fun activities and programs in the winter.



Walk, ski or snowshoe the one-mile lantern-lit trail on Saturday nights end of January through February to experience a frozen world by the light of nearly seventy lanterns.



Join the Park Naturalist on a snowshoe guided hike, Advanced hikes on Fridays and Beginner hikes on Saturdays, January through February.

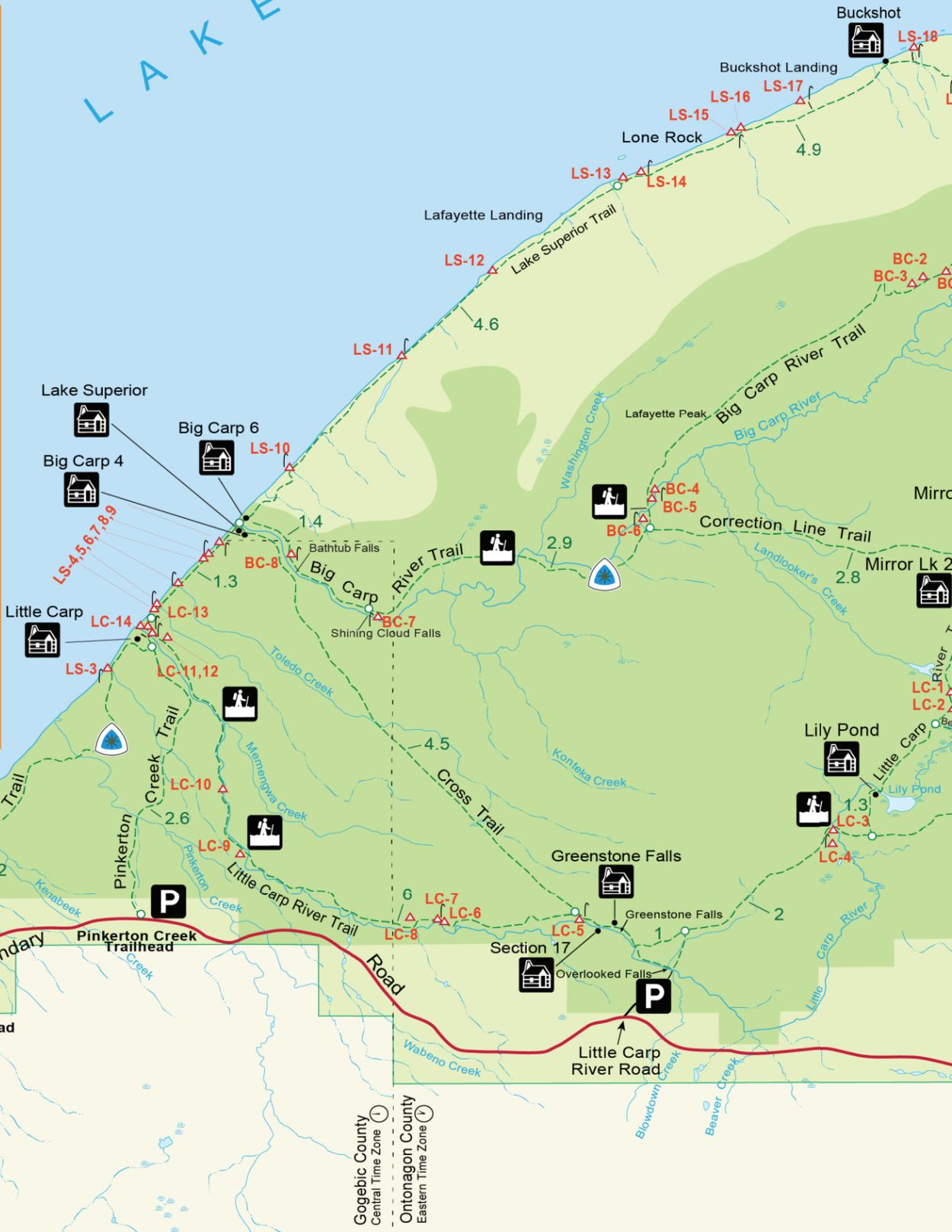


Don't miss out on Snowburst our Winter Carnival where we play games, have races and fireworks at the Ski Hill. This annual event takes place the last Saturday in February.

# Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park



L A K E S U P E R I O R



## ATTENTION ALL TRAIL USERS

- 
- 
- 

You are responsible for your own safety in the wilderness
- 

Black bear are unpredictable and can be dangerous
- 

Knowing what to do can save your life
- 

Pack it in, pack it out
- 

Protect pets – keep them on leash
- 

You are responsible for your campfire

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**  
Know the rules for the area and always be prepared.

**Be Considerate of Others**  
Respect other visitors by maintaining appropriate noise levels.

of the Clouds Scenic Area  
Escarpment Trail



- |                    |                   |                           |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Accessible area    | Information       | Scenic area               | Cross country ski trail |
| Backcountry cabin  | Lookout tower     | Suspension bridge         | Hiking trail            |
| Backpack campsite  | Modern campground | Toilets                   | North Country Trail     |
| Bear pole location | Parking           | Un-bridged river crossing | Primary forest          |
| Boat launch        | Picnic area       | Warming shelter           | Park land               |
| Camp store         | Ranger station    | Winter lodging            | Distance in miles       |
| Hiking trailhead   | Rustic campground | Yurt                      |                         |

**Respect Wildlife**  
Never feed or approach any wild animal.

**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**  
Stay on the trail and camp at designated campsites.

**Leave What You Find**  
Never move natural or historic objects.

# Summer Nature Programs

During your stay at the Porcupine Mountains don't miss out on the fun programs that go on all summer long. Learn to shoot a bow, collect aquatic insects, take part in a guided hike, find a constellation or tell stories around a campfire and much more.



Check the weekly schedule at the Visitor Center, Campground office or online at [www.michigan.gov/porkies](http://www.michigan.gov/porkies)

Building (*also in winter)	Number of Occupants	Trailhead Parking	Route	Distance	Distance in Winter
Big Carp 6 Cabin	6	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi	
Big Carp 8 Cabin	8	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi	
Buckshot Cabin	4	Lake Superior	Lake Superior Trail	3 mi	
Cotten Cabin	8	Speakers	Speakers Creek Trail	1 mi	
Crosscut Cabin*	2	Union Spring	Union Spring Trail	2 mi	3 mi
Gitche Gumees*	8	Gitche Gumees	East of South Boundary on M107	Drive in	Drive in
Greenstone Falls Cabin	4	Little Carp River Road	Little Carp River Trail	1 mi	
Kaug Wudjoo Modern Lodge*	12	Kaug Wudjoo Lodge	West of South Boundary on M107	Drive in	Drive in
Lake of the Clouds Cabin	4	Lake of the Clouds Overlook	Escarpment Trail to North Mirror Lake Trail	1 mi	
Lake Superior Cabin	4	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi	
Lily Pond Cabin	4	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail South East	1.5 mi	
Little Carp Cabin	4	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail Intersection	3 mi	
Little Union River Yurt*	4	Union Spring	Little Union River Yurt Trail	1 mi	3 mi
Lost Creek Yurt	4	Lost Lake Trail	Lost Lake Trail	1 mi	
Mirror Lake 2 Cabin	2	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail North West	2.5 mi	
Mirror Lake 4 Cabin	4	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail North West	2.75 mi	
Mirror Lake 8 Cabin	8	Summit Peak Parking	Beaver Creek to Little Carp Trail North West	2.75 mi	
Quill 4 Tiny House*	4	Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds
Section 17 Cabin	4	Little Carp River Road	Little Carp River Trail	1 mi	
Speakers Cabin	4	Speakers	Speaker Creek Trail	1 mi	
Union Bay East Yurt*	4	Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds
Union Bay West Yurt*	4	Union Bay Campground	West end of Union Bay Campground	Drive in	250 yds
Union River Cabin*	8	Union Spring	Union Spring Trail	1 mi	3 mi
White Birch Cabin*	2	Whitetail Parking lot	Deer Yard Ski Trail	1 mi	1 mi
Whitetail Cabin*	8	Whitetail Parking lot	Deer Yard Ski Trail	1 mi	1 mi

## RUSTIC LODGING

If you are looking to stay at one of the park's 23 backcountry cabins or yurts there are a few things you should know.

The rustic lodging is spread out throughout the park. Use the chart above to find a place to stay that is located at an appropriate distance for your group.

The park is open year-round and so are some of our rustic lodging options. Renters enjoy snowshoeing or cross-country skiing to their lodging in the winter.

Trees that are dead and laying on the ground can be collected for firewood. In the winter months (December-March) firewood is provided for the use of heating the cabins only, not for outdoor fires.

**Check-in must occur during regular business hours and at designated check-in stations:**

**May 15- Oct. 14:**

Check in at the Visitor Center, open every day 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST.

**Oct. 15 - May 14:**

Check in at Park Headquarters, open everyday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST.



Porcupine Mountain yurt covered in snow.

## The park spans two different time zones

West of Pinkerton Trail is Central Time, while the rest of the park operates in Eastern Time.



Keep this in mind while planning your daily activities.

## Bear Behavior

Black bears are normally afraid of humans and will leave the area in a hurry. If you see a bear near you, retreat slowly. Do not turn and run. Always allow the bear to have a clear and unobstructed escape route. Give bears with cubs plenty of room. For your safety and the safety of the bear, never feed or approach bears.

**A bear is studying you if...**



- it stands on its hind legs to get a better view.
- it waves its nose around smelling the air.
- it makes non-aggressive grunting sounds.

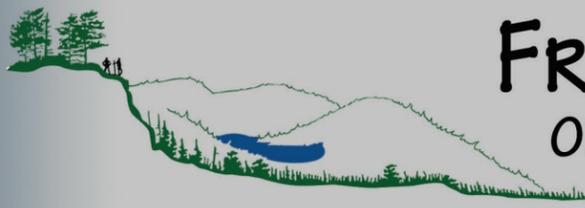
**A bear may be getting upset if it...**

- clicks its teeth.
- gives a loud blowing sound.

**A bear is telling you to leave when it...**

- blows loudly.
- makes short lunges.
- hits the ground or nearby objects.
- gives a bluff charge that stops short of you.





# FRIENDS OF THE PORKIES

P.O. Box 221  
Ontonagon, MI 49953  
906-884-7663 • [porkies.org](http://porkies.org)

## SUPPORTING THE PARK

The Friends of the Porkies exists to support the Park and its users. Trails users are by far the largest group of Park users, and this past year the Park staff used the Friends' Trails Fund to provide Confidence Markers on trails and to repair a heavily used hiking and cross-country skiing trail. A Confidence Marker, placed just beyond a fork in a trail, provides hikers with information about what lies ahead. It is a tool that hikers can use, along with a trail map, to avoid lengthy detours down the "wrong" trail.

In June, 2021, volunteers and Park rangers installed the inclusive playground in the Union Bay campground. Day users and area residents as well as campers enthusiastically welcomed the only playground between Ontonagon and Ironwood. Dedication of the playground capped a three-year fundraising campaign by the Friends to purchase the equipment. On order for the 2022 season is a hexagonal universal access picnic table with benches made in Michigan of recycled plastic.

In November, 2021, a very successful Giving Tuesday campaign raised \$9,425 for equipment and transportation costs for Park Interpreter Katie Urban's Outdoor Skills Academy program. Youth can take classes in backpacking, hiking, archery, fishing and more, building skills that they can use through their adult years.

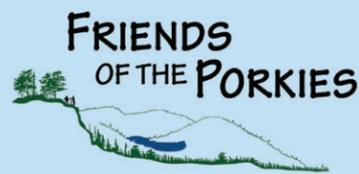
Coming in 2022, binocular viewers that will give persons who are colorblind their first look at the tapestry of colors in the forests in the Park. One in twelve men, approximately 25,000 yearly visitors to the Park is colorblind. The Park will have five viewers to enhance the experience for those visitors, two at Lake of the Clouds, one at Summit Peak, and two at Presque Isle. The two-viewer support stands will place one viewer at adult standing height and the second at wheelchair height.



Sally Berman, President  
Friends of the Porkies



The playground was a big success, many volunteers came to help put this project together.



Individual	\$25
Household	\$40
Business	\$50
Lifetime	\$300
Pet**	\$10

\*\*owner must be a member

### Membership includes:

- Subscription to the bi-monthly *E-Quill* and the *Quill Annual Report* featuring Friends' yearly accomplishments and plans for the future.
- Invitation to the annual membership meeting.
- A collective voice with park users to express your ideas.

### What is the Kids Outdoor Skills Academy?



This program offers expert instruction, gear and hands-on learning for snowshoeing, orienteering, backpacking and archery.

Groups can come from both schools and youth organizations from the region.

If you would like to book a program contact Park Interpreter Katie Urban 906-885-5206

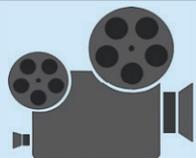
## Come see what the Folk School is all about!

**OPEN HOUSE**

Held at the Porkies Folk School  
**Sunday, July 3**  
5:00–7:00 p.m. EDT

Refreshments  
Tours  
Free craft activities for all ages

Directions: Follow M-107 west from Silver City to Union Bay Campground (turn right), take first gravel road to right. We are in the old carpenter's shop, the first building on your right.



## Friend of the Porkies: Conservation Film Series

Friends of the Porkies sponsors a Conservation Film Series at the Visitor Center at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in the summer months.

The one-hour films focus on nature, wildlife, and conservation issues and practices. They are suitable for all ages and are free, while a donation is welcome.

The program begins the 3rd Wednesday in June at 6:30 p.m. and continues through September. There is a time for discussion afterwards. Any Park protocols for health and safety will be observed.



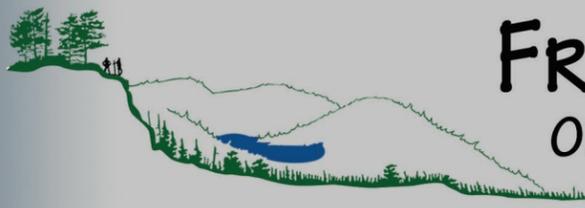
## HELP THE TRAILS!

Buy an annual Trails Supporter decal and help the Friends build our Trails Fund. For a donation of \$25 or more, supporters will receive a 2022 Trails Supporter decal.

All funds raised are used to repair and maintain hiking, skiing, interpretive, biking trails and improving accessibility where possible.

Purchase your 2022 Trail Supporter decal at [porkies.org](http://porkies.org) or mail a check to Friends of the Porkies.





# FRIENDS OF THE PORKIES

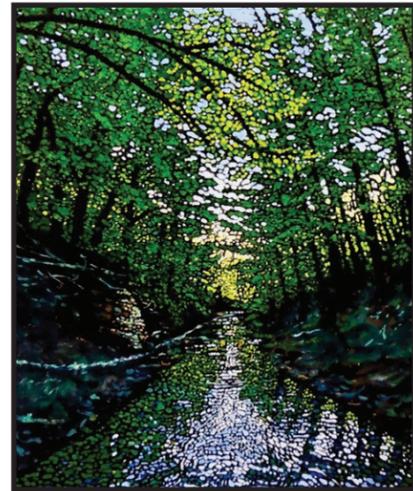
P.O. Box 221  
Ontonagon, MI 49953  
906-884-7663 • [porkies.org](http://porkies.org)

## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Friends of the Porkies Artist-In-Residence Program, established in 2007, hosts artists for two or three-week residencies. While living in Dan's Cabin in a secluded wilderness, artists have an opportunity to explore and absorb the vast wilderness of the park.

Artists capture their creative impressions in a variety of mediums, and each resident donates a completed piece of art to the Friends' permanent collection. Enjoy a glimpse of the varied seasons and hidden treasures of the Porkies found in the selection of artwork displayed in the Visitor Center and in the complete collection found in the on-line gallery at [www.porkies.org/artist](http://www.porkies.org/artist)

The generosity of artists makes possible the sale of giclee art reproductions, books and other Porkies merchandise which supports future residencies. Merchandise can be found on-line at [www.porkies.org/merchandise/art-prints](http://www.porkies.org/merchandise/art-prints)



*Renewal*  
By Ken Reif  
2022

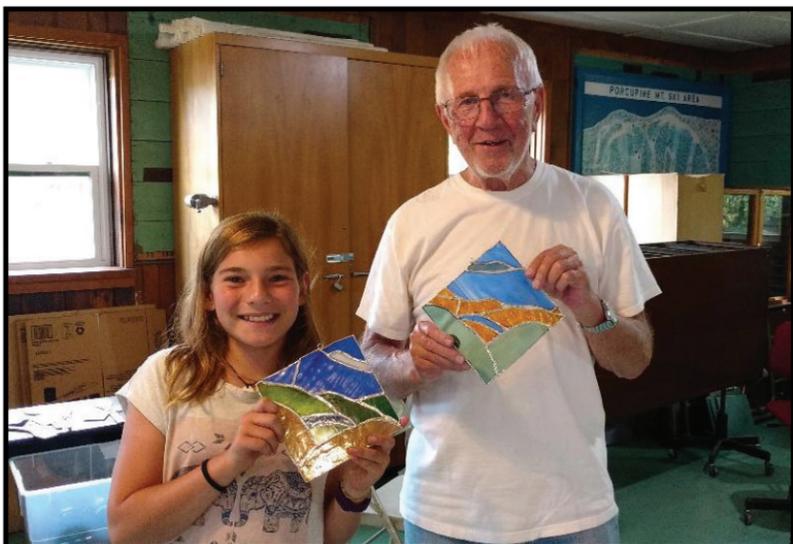
### Selected for 2022

Yelizaveta Renfro, writing, Granger, Indiana  
Nancy Byrum, acrylic painting, Wyandotte, Michigan  
Beth Johnson, paper sculpture, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Patricia Tinney, watercolor painting, East Jordan, Michigan  
Scott Laursen, film photography, Brimley, Michigan

*Needle Felted Trout*  
By Catherine Dane  
2021



## THE PORKIES FOLK SCHOOL: COME TO MEET, GROW, HAMMER, STICH, CRAFT AND BE INSPIRED



*Students showing off their stained glass projects.*

### What is the Porkies Folk School?

The Folk School is a cooperative environment encouraging learning and community building while promoting traditional knowledge, arts, skills and stories from the Lake Superior region.

### Where is it located?

The Folk School is located in the historic Old Carpenter's Shop on the Union Bay Campground entrance.

### What kind of classes are offered?

The Folk School offers a variety of classes such as jewelry making, stained glass, fiber arts, woodworking, writing, basketry and blacksmithing.

### How do I register for a class?

Register online at [porkies.org/events](http://porkies.org/events), scan the QR code, or call 906-884-7663. Classes fill up quickly so early registration is recommended.

### Can I register on the day of the class?

Some classes accept in-person registration on the day of the class. Check the website for details.

### Who teaches the Folk School classes?

Classes are taught by very talented instructors who are passionate about their work.

### Are there classes for children?

Some classes are applicable for children or older teens. The minimum age requirement is located in the details of the class offering on the website. Check it out [www.porkies.org/events](http://www.porkies.org/events)

## PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, presented by the Friends of the Porkies will be held August 26 & 27, 2022.

The Festival made state history in 2005, as the first music festival held in a Michigan state park. Performers bring to the Porkies' stage a diverse selection of musical styles: blues, country, bluegrass, rock, folk and more. The pairing of quality performers and the intimate natural surroundings of the state park offers a unique musical experience.

Headliners are JigJam, described as "The Best Irish band in bluegrass," and rootsy psychedica faves The Slambovian Circus of Dreams from NY. Also performing are the Po' Ramblin Boys, Ariel Posen, Raye Zaragoza, the Talbott Brothers and more. For more info visit [www.porkiesfestival.org](http://www.porkiesfestival.org)

This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.



*A good afternoon for music.*