



# Discovering Copper In the Porcupine Mountains

Sign up today to bring your classroom on one of these copper related field trips in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Guided by the Park Interpreter Katie Urban your students can get hands on experience exploring Michigan's largest state park.

## Exploring the Ruins – 1 mile hike

This two-hour hike will take your students through the Nonesuch Mine historical site. Together we will learn how this mine was unique because of the community that was built around it. We will also discuss how the five mining companies tried different tactics to collect the difficult copper from the area. With a fun hands-on activity, the students will learn how they can help protect the cultural resources of their State Parks.

## From the Rocks to the Clouds– 1.5 mile hike

This two-hour guided hike will take your students from the bottom to the top of the escarpment ridge. Specifically, to Cloud Peak view, the original view of Lake of the Clouds. Along the way we will discuss the different types of plants and animals that live in the park and what kinds of habitats or natural communities we have that allow them to live here. Once to the top of this magnificent view, we will discover the unique geology of the park and how it is part of the copper history in Michigan. Interactive timelines, glacial residue hunts, and much more will take part at this interactive hike.

## Protecting the Porkies – 1 mile hike

This two-hour guided hike will take your students on a wild adventure. We will search for giant hemlock trees, aquatic insects, and signs of copper mining in the area from the 1800s. Students will take part in several hands-on activity where we will learn how and why we need to protect our natural and cultural resources in our State Parks. Tree identification, aquatic insect sampling and history story writing will be covered in this program.

## How to sign up:

**Step 1-** Choose one of the three programs above.

**Step 2-** Contact Park Interpreter Katie Urban to book the time and date of your trip. [Urbank1@michigan.gov](mailto:Urbank1@michigan.gov) 906-885-5206

**Step 3-** Submit the Discovering Copper Mini Grant application for the field trip, located on the Friends of the Porkies website: [www.porkies.org](http://www.porkies.org)

**Contact us with any questions:** [friendsoftheporkies@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftheporkies@gmail.com)

## Discovering Copper - Mini-Grant Proposal FAQs

**Who may apply:** Schools and non-governmental organizations desiring to create or enhance a program or activity that focuses on the importance of copper within the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

**Why apply:** To support the Friends of the Porkies mission, "...Sponsor and support interpretive and environmental education activities that contribute to a better understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park."

**What grant money may be used for:** Grant funds can be used for transportation costs and other expenses directly associated with the visit to the park but cannot be used for salary. Include a prioritized list of expenses requested through this grant. Feel free to include supplies, teaching materials, etc. Indicate other matching funding you have for your activity and the minimum funding that you could accept.

**How much is awarded:** Depending on the number of applications, monetary awards are typically in the \$100 to \$300 dollar range, but may be higher if the proposal is complex.

**What must be done after the event/program ends:** A grant recipient must provide a final report to the Mini-Grant coordinator that includes how funds were used, number of participants, and outcomes achieved upon program completion. Photographs and creative expressions of the participants are encouraged and the Friends may use them to promote the education programs.

**When to apply:** Applications for activities planned for January through December 15, 2024. Submit application on the website.

**Step 1** – Choose one of the three copper programs

1. Exploring the Ruins 1.0 Mile Hike
2. From the Rocks to the Clouds 1.5 mile hike
3. Protecting the Porkies 1.0 Mile Hike

**Step 2** Contact Park Interpreter Katie Urban at [ubank1@michigan.gov](mailto:ubank1@michigan.gov) or 906 885-5206 to schedule an appointment

**Step 3** – Fill out applications on-line at [www.porkies.org](http://www.porkies.org).

**Criteria for awarding:** The following criteria will be used in evaluating all proposals:

1. Provides an educational purpose focused on the scientific, geologic, or historic aspects of the story of copper in the Porkies.
2. The proposal brings participants to the park and provides educational benefits to the park.
3. Number of local youth, seniors, and people with special needs who benefit from the proposal.

**How to apply:** Applications must include the information requested on the Mini-Grant Application Form. Complete and submit the online application at: [Mini-Grant Program | Friends of the Porkies](#) or print and mail to **Friends of the Porkies - Mini-Grant, PO Box 221 Ontonagon, MI, 49953.**