



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 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

Contact us with any questions: friendsofporkies@gmail.com