Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Michigan.gov/Porkies

2026

Printed by the Friends of the Porkies



Visitors exploring the new displays and getting help to navigate the park.

Welcome to the Porcupine Mountains

There is much to see and do here at the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Stop by our newly renovated visitor center to learn where to go to make the most of your visit.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is Michigan's largest state park, covering nearly 60,000 acres. Full of stunning views, towering old-growth forests and wild animals prowling about,the park offers much to explore. The best way to learn about where to go and what to do in the park is to stop by the visitor center.

Originally built in 1984, the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Visitor Center had a complete remodel to the inside of the building last year. New features to note include the addition of more modern restrooms, an outdoor water bottle fill stations, new interactive diplays, gift shop space, a park video, places to rest and re-charge, and much more.

Though much has changed from the old Visitor Center, many return visitors were concerned that the interactive topographic map was missing last year. Not to worry, the map made a quick trip across the country to get a new paint job and a few new surprises added. You can find it back where it belongs in the heart of the building along with other new interactive displays.



Visitors enjoying the newly renovated topograpic map.

We invite all visitors, whether it's your first time here or your hundredth, to stop by, say hello, ask some questions, plan a hike, make some memories and get back out to explore Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.



Staff practicing an emergency rescue at Lake of the Clouds.

Prepare for the wilderness

A little planning goes a long way for a safe trip

Each year, park staff responds to multiple emergencies, from injuries to lost hikers.

Many rescues require teams of 6 to 10 people hiking into remote areas. Most situations take several hours to resolve.

While accidents happen, you can reduce risk by preparing ahead. Pack enough water and supplies, wear proper footwear, and plan your route before entering the woods.

Help keep your trip memorable for the right reasons.

Must-see destinations in the Porkies

Three iconic stops: Lake of the Clouds, Summit Peak and Presque Isle River, as shown in photographs by Michelle Lutke.



Lake of the Clouds

From the top of the escarpment, enjoy sweeping views of Lake of the Clouds, surrounded by dense forests and rugged mountains. On clear days, visibility can extend more than 20 miles, making this the park's most visited scenic spot.

Located at the end of highway M-107, the overlook is a 100-yard walk along a paved trail or accessible boardwalk.

Parking is limited, and in the summer and fall, visitors with trailers or campers should park at the Middle Ski Hill lot off highway M-107.



Summit Peak

At 1,958 feet, Summit Peak is the highest point in the park. A half-mile, packed dirt trail from the parking area winds through towering hardwoods, with benches along the way. The trail ends at wooden stairs, walkways, and a viewing tower with two panoramic overlooks.

The entrance is located halfway along South Boundary Road. A turnaround and parking area are at the end of the entrance road. Visitors with trailers or campers should park in the designated lot near the South Boundary Road exit before heading up the mountain.



Presque Isle River

Located on the park's far west side, the Presque Isle River area features a rustic campground, day-use pavilion, and three of the park's largest waterfalls. Trails from the day-use area lead to stairs and walkways that provide access to the falls. A suspension bridge spans the river near its mouth, and the trail continues to Lake Superior, an excellent spot for sunsets.

For the easiest waterfall view, take the flat gravel trail behind the DNR Presque Isle contact station to Nawadaha Falls.



Young black bear on a log.



Black bears stand on their hind legs when they are curious, to help them see, hear or smell better.

Be bear aware

What to do if you encounter a bear in the woods?

Michigan is full of wild animals, including its only species of bear, the black bear. In the 1990s, the Porkies were known to have had many reports from backcountry users regarding bears stealing food and damaging gear; this was before we knew to educate our visitors and campers on proper food storage and disposal. Truth be told, we did not have a bear problem, we had a people problem.

Bears have an amazing sense of smell, and can locate food from long distances away. Curious in nature, the black bear is not a welcome guest to your campsite. While in the backcountry, it is required to hang all food, trash and any fragrant items from a bear pole or use the bear locker provided. Keeping your food packed away in a secure vehicle, trash properly disposed of and a clean and tidy site are all great tips. And don't forget to put away the dog food, it all helps to keep our curious furry friends out of the camping areas.

While encountering a bear is not common in the park, it is possible. If you happen to run into a bear while exploring the park, it will most likely be moving away from you. In the event it is not, here are some tips to follow.

- Do not run.
- Stand your ground.
- Wave your arms and make loud noises in the attempt to scare it off.
- Slowly back away and if bear keeps approaching, calmly step off trail to give room to pass.

Help us keep wildlife wild - always enjoy from a safe distance while exploring the park, keep your sites clean and, while hiking, properly dispose of all trash at any trail head.



Mead mine entrance with mechanical devices staged to assist the bats.

Bats caves and generators?

Modern devices in the wilderness - learn more.

Many people visit Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park each year, drive to the Lake of the Clouds and enjoy the stunning views from the top of the escarpment cliffs.

Each person who makes that drive has traveled past a small stairway, which leads down to a hole at the base of a rocky wall just past the Government Peak Trailhead.

That is Mead Mine, an old copper mining cave that has since been abandoned. This empty cave makes a great place for large numbers of bats to spend their winter hibernating.

In recent years, there have been some new devices added to the inside and outside of the mine that many have noticed.

Currently, a yellow duct system, chimney, generator and battery bank can be found inside and around the mouth of Mead Mine. All these devices are there to try and help the bats inside.

In 2019 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources partnered with Dr. Jared Wolfe at Michigan Tech University and a PhD student, Tanner Barnes. Together they started work on a project to slightly cool the mine. The purpose of this effort is to help learn more to combat white-nose sydrome, a disease introduced to hibernating bats by a fungus that grows in the caves.

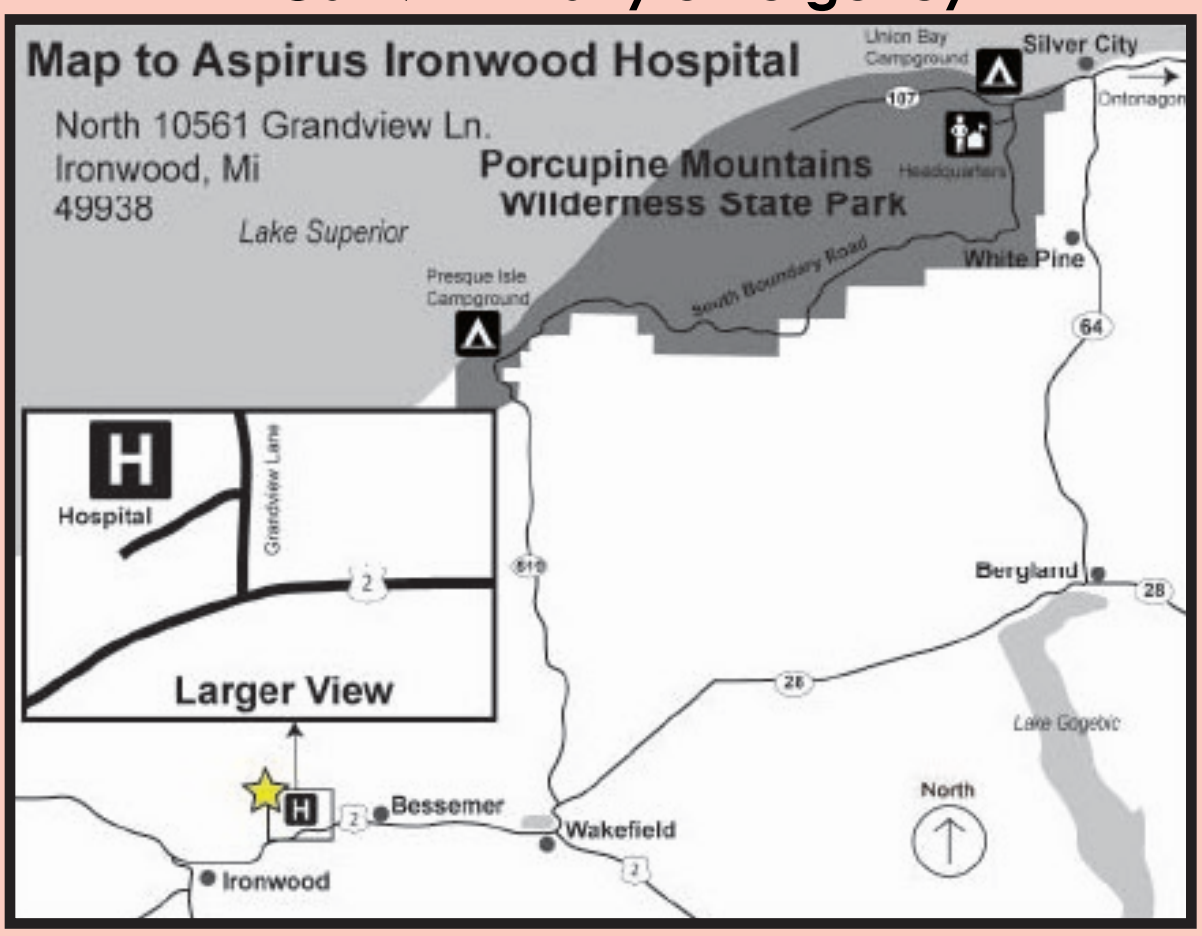
John DePue, a wildlife biologist with the Michigan DNR, shares his vision for this project: "We hope to determine if we manipulate the microclimate to cooler temperatures, which suppresses the growth of the fungus that causes the disease white-nose syndrome, will the bats hibernating in the site move to cooler areas to protect themselves from the diease?"

This exciting project taking part in the park could help save future bats from a disease that has already killed over 6 million bats in North America.

The Porcupine Mountains is a wild place, and we hope to keep it as such, but it is important to allow some of these more modern devices on site to help a species in need.

Emergency in the park

Call 911 in any emergency



Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park is a remote and wild space and accidents happen. If you find yourself in need of a hospital, the closest emergency room is in Ironwood.

There are additional emergency service hospitals in:
L'Anse Hancock Ishpeming.



Enjoy winter in the Porkies

- Downhill skiing
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Fat-tire biking
- Winter camping
- Cabin and yurt rentals

Winter Sports Complex

36672 M-107
Ontonagon, Mi.

Winter 2027 Events

- Lantern-Lit Trail
- Guided Snowshoe Hikes
- Telefest, Feb. 5-7
- Snowburst, Feb. 20

Facebook.com/SkiThePorkies

Guest ski patrollers are welcome! Contact us for more information at DNR-SkiPorkies@Michigan.gov.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Pa



ATTENTION ALL VISITORS

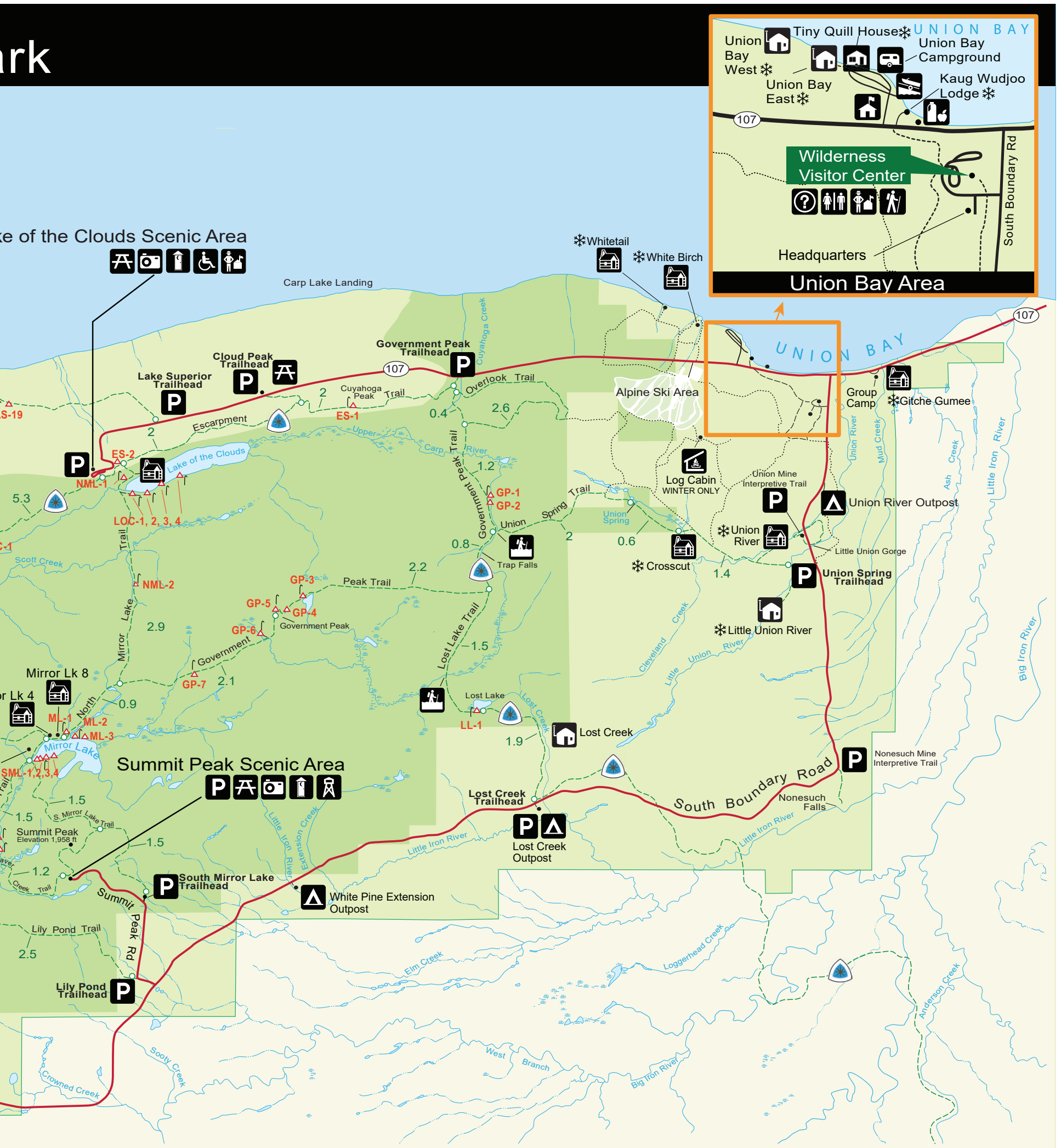
- You are responsible for your own safety in the wilderness
- Black bear are unpredictable and can be dangerous
- Knowing what to do can save your life
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Protect pets – keep them on leash
- You are responsible for your campfire

Top tips to enjoy your visit to the Porkies

Plan ahead and prepare
Check gear and fill your water bottles at the visitor center.

Respect wildlife
Never feed or approach any wild animal.

ark



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

Travel and camp on durable surfaces
Stay on the trail and camp at designated campsites.

Be considerate of others
Respect others by maintaining appropriate noise levels.

Leave what you find
Never move natural or historic objects.



Plan your backcountry getaway

There are 23 rustic backcountry cabins and yurts located throughout the park. Use the chart here to choose a site at the right distance for your group. The park is open year-round, and some cabins remain open in winter - many visitors snowshoe or cross-country ski to reach them.

Firewood: You may collect dead and downed wood for fires. From December – March, firewood provided at winter cabins is for heating only. Axes and firewood are supplied only at cabins open Dec. 1– May 15.

Pets: Most of our cabins are pet-friendly. See the chart. Fee: $10/night per pet (up to two). Modern Lodge: $15/ night per pet.

Provided in each cabin/yurt: water-boiling pot, cooking pot and pan, wash basin, can opener, water bucket, bow saw, ash bucket and scoop, broom and dustpan.
Note: Toilet paper is not provided.

Cabins that once had rowboats now include canoes, paddles and life jackets.

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 daily, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. ET

Oct. 15 - May 14:
Check in at park headquarters, open daily 8 a.m.-4 p.m. ET

Lodging options at the Porkies

Building (*also in winter)	Number of occupants	Trailhead parking	Route	Distance	Distance in winter	Pet - friendly
Big Carp 6 Cabin	6	Pinkerton	Pinkerton to Lake Superior Trail East	4 mi		✓
Big Carp 4 Cabin	4	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 Gumee*	8	Gitche Gumee	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	Escarptment 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		NO
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	NO
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	✓

Explore our free summer programs

Make the most of your stay at the Porkies with free, family-friendly programs all summer long!

Give archery a try.
Join a guided hike.
Share stories around a campfire.
And much more!

Weekly schedules available at the visitor center, campground offices, or online at Michigan.gov/PorkiesVC.



NOW OPEN

Porcupine Mountains Shooting Complex

Managed by Lake Superior Sportsman's Club, Inc.



- New, state-of-the-art, six-lane automated indoor shooting range.
- Outdoor rifle and pistol range.
- Five-station trap range.
- Firearms training.
- Conference room rentals.

31433 W. Hwy M-64
Ontonagon, Mi

Open to the public.
The Michigan Recreation Passport is required for entry.
Hours, fees, club membership and more at LakeSuperiorSportsmansClub.org.

FRIENDS OF THE PORKIES

P.O. Box 221
Ontonagon, MI 49953
906-884-7663 • porkies.org



"Enjoying the Park at the beach" photos by Mark Cavanaugh, 2026 artist

Greetings from the Friends

The Friends of the Porkies is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is "Connecting People to the Magic of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park." With support from visitors, members and volunteers, we use donations and grant funds to enhance park experiences.

You can support the park via the Friends in several ways – become a member, donate and/or volunteer. This publication is funded by donations to the Friends as a resource for every visitor to the park. Visit porkies.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for program details and volunteer opportunities.

Enjoy the park!

Joanie Hawley
President Friends of the Porkies
friendsofporkies@gmail.com

Annual youth sticker winner



Jordyn
Local Homeschooler
See details porkies.org

Become a Friend

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

**Owner must be a member.

Membership includes:

- A collective voice with park users to express your ideas.
- Subscription to the eQuill and Quill Annual Report featuring accomplishments and future plans.
- Invitation to the annual membership meeting in October.

Visit Porkies.org for more information and to become a member.



Artwork by John Dempsey

2026 Artist Thursday Presentations:

May 21: Jake Ring, photography, art ambassador, from Ironwood, MI

June 11: Caroline Meehean, painting art ambassador, from Merrill, WI

July 23: Caroline Mazure, acrylic painting, from Royal Oak, MI

Aug. 6: Mark Cavanough, photography, from St. Paul, MN.

Aug. 27: Roxanne Everett, acrylic painting, from Seattle, WA.

Sept. 10: Katherine Sirvio, wood carving, from Naubinway, MI.

Sep. 24: Anita McKeith, macro photography, from Freeland, MI

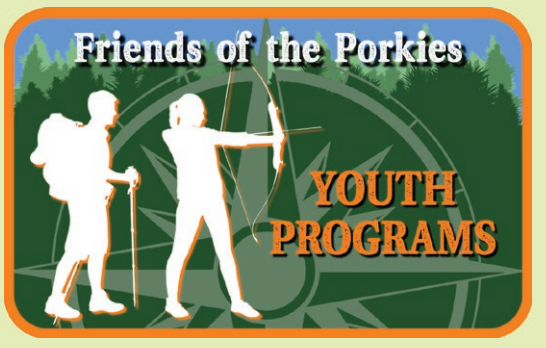
Oct. 8: Bill Wilson, music composer-guitar, from Petoskey, MI

Artist-in-Residence Program highlights

Artists draw inspiration from our park's wilderness.

Established in 2007, the Friends of the Porkies' Artist-in-Residence Program welcomes artists to stay at Dan's Cabin for two to three weeks to draw inspiration from the surrounding wilderness. After their stay, each artist donates a piece of their artwork to the Friends' permanent collection (some currently on display at the visitor center). The full collection is available at porkies.org.

The public is invited to free artist presentations throughout the summer at the Folk School. For more information on presentations or the program, visit porkies.org or email friendsofporkes@gmail.com.



Park Interpreter Katie Urban introduces quality programs that allow everyone to discover and explore on their own. Via generous donations to the Youth Program, Friends funded 123 students to the Porkies Outdoor Classroom.

Katie also taught Invasive Species and Animal Habits at the Porkies to 713 students at local schools. Learn more at porkies.org to volunteer or fund.

P.O. Box 221
Ontonagon, MI 49953
906-884-7663 • porkies.org



Folk School students with their black ash baskets.

Discover creativity and community at the Porkies

From watercolor painting to woodworking, the Folk School offers hands-on classes for all ages, led by passionate instructors from near and far

Inspiration, creativity, and community are words that richly describe the Porcupine Mountains Folk School. This year we observe 20 years of cooperative learning dedicated to lifelong education and the celebration of traditional knowledge, arts, skills and culture rooted in the Lake Superior region. Open to all, the school offers exciting opportunities to enhance your skills, try something new and meet new people. This year's lineup includes broom making, woodworking, basketry, spoon carving, watercolor painting and much more. Our instructors are passionate about their art and excited to share it with students.

Courses are held from June through October in the Folk School, located near the Union Bay Campground. Participants are encouraged to register early, as classes fill quickly. Registration is available at Porkies.org/Events or by calling 906-884-7663. Most classes have a registration deadline one week prior to the start date. We look forward to seeing you there!



Crowds enjoying the music festival.

Music festival returns for 20th year

The Steel Wheels and Southern Avenue to headline 20th PMMF

The Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, presented by the Friends of the Porkies will happen Aug. 28 and 29 at the Winter Recreation Area (Ski Hill) of Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. This activity is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

In addition to the headliners, the mainstage also features Charlie Parr, Blair Crimmins & The Hookers, The Fretliners, Blue Moon Marquee, Felix Y Los Gatos, Abby Posner Trio, Cousin Curtiss, TAE & The Neighborly, Boss Mama & The Jebberhooch, and Danny Frank & the Smoky Gold.

Enjoy two additional stages, the indoor Chalet Stage and the "Busking Barn" stage, where performers play for tips. The Kid's Tent located on the festival grounds offers crafts and activities for young attendees.

For tickets, volunteer info and more, visit porkiesfestival.org



Support our trails

Buy an annual trails support decal and help the Friends and park maintain and improve trails.

Purchase an annual trails supporter decal for $25 and help improve trails in the Porkies. All funds raised through trails donations will be used for projects to maintain hiking, skiing, interpretive, and biking trails, or to improve accessibility.

We are also looking for volunteers to adopt a trail or help at trail maintenance work bees. Go to Porkies.org for more information on how to donate or volunteer.

Upcoming events

Learn more at porkies.org/events

Summer Solstice Celebration
Sunday, June 21
6 - 8 p.m. ET

Folk School Open House
Sunday, July 5
3 - 5 p.m. ET

Annual Meeting & Open House
Saturday, Oct. 3rd
Open House: 11a.m. - 3 p.m. ET
Meeting: 3 - 5 p.m. ET