



Keweenaw

Copper T.R.A.C.E.S. May 23-25, 2016

In conjunction with the Every Kid in a Park initiative, Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) will be hosting a field day for 4th graders from Keweenaw, Houghton, Baraga, and Ontonagon counties in May 2016. Educators will be able to schedule class visits 1 of 3 days the event is offered: May 23-25, 2016. Keweenaw National Historical Park would like to reach as many 4th grade students as possible with this all-day event. Thanks to a generous grant from the National Park Foundation, transportation reimbursements and a locally sourced, healthy lunch will be made available to educators and students, free of charge.

Calumet Visitor Center

Address:
98 5th Street
Calumet, MI 49913

January-April Hours:
Friday and Saturday
10am to 3pm
Closed January 1st

Phone:
(906) 483-3176

Free admission to three floors of museum exhibits.

Use links below to find us at:
www.nps.gov/kewe



The May field day will be held at the Calumet Unit of Keweenaw National Historical Park and introduce 4th graders to the colorful history of the copper country through a series of educational stations. Station topics will include: Technology, Research, Art (and music), Community, Environment, and Service. Each of these station topics is vital to understanding the lasting traces of the copper industry in the Keweenaw. Pre-activities will be distributed to educators to prepare 4th graders for their visits. Both the field day stations and the pre-activities will meet Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs).

In early March, interested educators will be contacted with a sign-up sheet for the three stations they would like their class to participate in. In April the three corresponding pre-activities for stations will be distributed, as well as detailed event information.

You may contact Emma Woodruff via telephone at (906) 483-3042 or via email at emma_woodruff@nps.gov to express interest or ask questions regarding the field day.



Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Winter Programs

Have you ever found yourself wondering how to take advantage of the Copper Country's postcard-worthy winter landscape, but just don't know how? Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Interpreter Bob Wild has a suggestion for you! He says that "ski and snowshoe hike programs are a great way to enjoy the winter, whether you are trying to beat the winter blues, have a new year's resolution to get more fit, want to try a new winter sport, or are a long time winter recreationist."

A lantern-lit snowshoe and ski trail are offered

Saturdays from December 26, 2015 through February 27, 2016. Nearly 80 old-fashioned kerosene lanterns illuminate a 1-mile trail for a unique winter activity that will be remembered for years to come. Skiers and snowshoers will travel in adjacent loops. About halfway through the loop, a stop at the warming shelter will provide recreationists with refreshments and a cozy campfire. While the trail is rated as easy,

keep in mind that snowshoeing or skiing at night is more difficult than during the day. The trailhead is directly across from the entrance to the ski hill, and the group will leave at 6:00 PM ET.



From January 2, 2016 to February 27, 2016 the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park offers guided snowshoe hikes every Saturday. Hikers will ride the ski lift and then snowshoe down the east side of the ski area. Park Interpreter Bob Wild recommends

bringing a camera on this picturesque hike, as the views at the East Vista stop are especially breathtaking. The trail is of moderate difficulty and lasts about 2 hours. To join the hike, meet at the little log cabin on the open slope of the ski hill at 1:00 PM ET. Snowshoers of all experience levels are

encouraged to participate. If you would like to borrow a pair of snowshoes, arrive a few minutes early to ensure a timely departure.

Winter is unpredictable at times, and if the weather is not favorable the event may be canceled. Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park asks that visitors call ahead to inquire about cancellations at (906) 885-5206.

To learn more about additional winter opportunities at the park, call (906) 885-5275 or visit www.mi.gov/porkies. These events are free, however a Recreation Passport is required for entry to the park.

CopperDog 2016

Sled dogs might not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Keweenaw National Historical Park, but in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula—where abundant snowfall makes for a variety of winter activities—the thrill of the race brings thousands of volunteers and visitors (including the four-pawed kind) to Calumet, Michigan's historic downtown.

Last year, a park ranger watched a young spectator experience his first CopperDog: *A young boy in the crowd watches closely, transfixed by the energy of the dog team as they pull their sled across the snow. The musher yells a command and the dogs round the corner and up the street toward the finish line. Muzzles are frosty and eyelashes are frozen, yet they race to the finish line, stopping only when they hear the command and the sled brake drops. The boy's eyes are huge and his face has a soft smile that turns to pure excitement as he hears the excited barks and howls and cheers. What could be more fun than*



Photo Credit: Larry Molloy

seeing dogs smile as they run and pull a sled with someone riding in it? As the athletes make their way through the crowd, the boy turns and says, "Mom, I'm going to be in the race when I get big."

This reaction by a young visitor is what makes CopperDog such an amazing event. Held each year in a small historic copper mining town at the heart of Keweenaw NHP, CopperDog 150 creates dreams, excitement, and community pride. Thousands of people line the streets, cheering as dog teams bark and jump in anticipation. Dog handlers strain, holding each dog in place while mushers and dogs await their turn to start. Everyone joins the countdown: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and off they go, red lights blinking on lead dogs, mushers raising an arm to wave, cow bells ringing. For over an hour, teams run down the snow packed streets of Calumet, heading into the night, chasing dreams.



Run entirely by dedicated volunteers, CopperDog 150 is about a small town dreaming big. Mushers from across the United States and Canada come to participate in what has become a premier dogsled race that begins in a national park. For three full days, communities along the 150-mile long route welcome visitors with food, candle-lit lanterns, and children's activities. It's an exciting weekend with room for everyone: visitors, volunteers, dogs, children, and sleds. For more information, visit www.copperdog150.com and mark your calendar for this year's race on February 26-28, 2016. Take your turn at counting down and joining in the winter fun!

Local History Smackdown

By Kendra Lahikainen

The 2016 Smackdown will be held April 28th at the Calumet Theatre at 7:00pm.

The deadline for team sign-ups is March 25, 2016. Start putting together a team now!

**More information can be found through the following link.
<http://www.nps.gov/kewe/learn/kidsyouth/smackdown.htm>**

Above: The 2015 winners of the Local History Smackdown, the Minettes

Below: Kendra answering a question at the 2014 Smackdown



If you were asked this question, would you know the answer: During the U.S. Civil War, Congress made land grants to Michigan and Wisconsin to build what road between Copper Harbor and Green Bay? This is one of the many local history questions that I answer, at the annual Local History Smackdown event that happens in April. The answer, by the way, is the Military Road.

My name is Kendra Lahikainen. I am a junior at Dollar Bay High School and resident of Calumet. About two years ago, I joined the Local History Smackdown event. For a month leading up to the event, my coach, my friends and I studied and practiced for this fun and competitive event between schools from Baraga, Keweenaw, Houghton, and Ontonagon counties. My first year at the event my team didn't place, but it motivated me to learn more and to compete again. Over the summer, I kept reading more about local history. In 2015, my teammates and I worked hard and won first place.

I wanted to get involved in more of our local history and was hired by a youth corps to help Keweenaw National Historical Park with cleaning and fixing historical sites of the park and its partners. My crew and I worked at the Carnegie Museum, Eagle Harbor Lighthouse, the Life Saving Station in Eagle Harbor, the Firemen's Museum, the store fronts of Calumet's historical 5th Street, the Quincy Mine, and cataloged a famous doctor's private library. I enjoyed meeting the people that worked at the different sites and helping to provide visitors with more information about our local history.

I would love to give recognition to my history teacher and coach, Mrs. Hill, the Park Rangers that I worked with, and my parents for supporting and encouraging my learning more of our history. I plan to pursue a career as a teacher or historian so I can continue teaching others about the local history.