

Backpacking the Porcupine Mountains, Michigan

The Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in the western Upper Peninsula encompasses a block of primary (uncut) forest of approximately 35,000 acres in size. It is considered by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory to be the “biggest and best tract of virgin Northern Hardwoods in North America.” The federal government has also recognized the area as a National Natural Landmark.

HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT:

We will drive 3.5 hours to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan around the southern shore of Lake Superior. We will set up camp Friday night after a short hike. Saturday and Sunday will each consist of a 6-7 mile hike to a new campsite. The circuit hike is approximately 13 miles total.

WHEN:

Trip Dates: Depart 3:00pm on Friday, October 2
Return 6:00pm on Sunday, October 4

Mandatory Pre-Trip Meeting:
Wednesday September 30 at 5:30pm
(meet in room SpHC 191)

PREPARATION:

- *Equipment* – attached is an equipment list that includes what we provide and what you need to obtain. **Follow this closely**, it is based upon extensive experience. Plan on weather that *could* range from the low 70's to the 40's and windy.
- *Schedule* – attached is an itinerary of what we will be doing.
- *Health & Liability Form* – complete these forms and return them within one day.
- *Recommended Training*- get outside at least twice for an hour walk with your backpack. (Check out Chester Bowl)

THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM PROVIDES:

We provide all group gear, transportation, and guidance.

COST:

\$62 for UMD Students/ \$108 for Others



GOALS:

- Have Fun
- Meet people that enjoy the outdoors
- Explore the Porkies
- Learn backpacking skills
- See some incredible sights
- Have Fun

EXPLORE MORE WITH THE UMD OUTDOOR PROGRAM:

- Check out our website for upcoming programs!

GENERAL INFO:

Phone: (218) 726-7128
Email: rsop@d.umn.edu
www.umdrops.org

The Real Classroom is Outside...Get Into It!

University of Minnesota Duluth - Outdoor Program

Backpacking the Porcupine Mountains

Itinerary 2009

This itinerary is designed to be flexible based on many factors that include: weather, skill levels, and interests. Listed are highlights of what will be seen and done.

Friday, October 2

3:00pm – Depart UMD from the front of Sports and Health Center. Drive to Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

7:30pm- Register at visitor's center and arrive at Big Carpe River Trail Head off of M107. Hike approximately 1.5 miles into backcountry campsite. Set up camp, make dinner, and discuss the next day's plans.

Bring a bag meal or purchase at a fast food restaurant enroute.

Saturday, October 3

8:00am- Wake up, break camp, eat breakfast.

10:00am Head out on trail and hike 6.5-7 miles along Big Carpe River Trail and Correction Line Trail.

Eat lunch on trail

5:00pm- Arrive at backcountry campsite near Mirror Lake, set up camp, eat dinner, campfire, discuss how the day went and plans for Sunday.

Sunday, October 4

7:00am- Wake up, break camp, eat breakfast

9:00am- Hike about 4 miles along North Mirror Lake Trail to trailhead.

Eat lunch on trail.

2:00pm- Pack up van and depart for Duluth. Have closing discussion, and pass out evaluations.

6:00pm- Arrive at UMD campus, unload, put away group gear, say goodbye.

FUN INFORMATION ABOUT HIKING IN THE PORKIES:

- The Porcupine Mountain Wilderness is a State Park. This means we travel and camp in a way that attempts to "leave no trace". Everything we bring in, we bring out with us, including garbage.
- We will get our water from lakes and rivers using water filters to remove possible bacteria.
- This is on the southern shore of Lake Superior, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, so bear, weasel, and deer sign are definitely possible.
- Plan on the possibility for frost while on this trip. Past years have even seen snow flurries. This means no biting insects!
- Plan on plenty of fun in one of the most beautiful hiking areas in the midwest.

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Backpacking the Porcupine Mountains Equipment

On this trip the weather may vary from hot and sunny with a high of 70 degrees to cold, rainy, and windy and in the 30 degree range. Plan your clothing items so they can be worn over each other in layers.

WE PROVIDE:

Maps for the group	Tarps
First Aid kit	Tents
Matches	Toilet tissue
Kitchen and cookware	Stoves
Food	
All transportation from UMD	

YOU NEED TO BRING:

- Backpack- Internal or External frame, large enough to hold all of the items listed below plus a portion of the group gear/food
- Broken-in Boots- durable with heavy soles and ankle support
- 1 pair light shoes for in camp
- Heavy duty garbage bags- for keeping clothes dry in your pack
- Sleeping pad (closed cell foam or Thermo-rest style)
- Sleeping bag (rated to 20 degrees F) in a stuff sack w/ plastic liner
- Toiletries- NO MAKEUP
- 1 Bandanna/ small towel
- 1 Pair pants (wool, nylon, supplex, or light cotton)
- 1 pair shorts
- 2 Piece rain-suit/poncho- durable material
- 1 Pair long underwear (no cotton) top and bottom
- Underwear
- 4 Pair wool socks- with thin polypro liners if possible
- 1 Long sleeved shirt
- 1-2 T-shirts
- 1 Wool sweater or Fleece
- 1 warm jacket
- Sunglasses with safety strap
- Gloves or mittens and a winter hat
- Pocket knife
- Spare prescription glasses with safety strap
- Unbreakable eating utensils (plate, cup, bowl, k,f,s)
- Small flashlight w/ fresh batteries
- 2 1-quart unbreakable plastic water bottles (or Camelbak®)
- Hat

RENTAL:

If you don't have some of the major items (i.e. backpack), you can rent from RSOP Rental Center. Stop by 199 SpHC or call 726-6134.

EQUIPMENT TIPS:

- Fleece and wool are great insulators – they even work when wet.
- Quality rain gear really helps you enjoy inclement weather.
- Long underwear should be a synthetic material, not cotton. If you don't have any, most outdoor stores have appropriate supplies.
- Wool socks work best because they are durable and warm.

EXTRAS YOU CAN BRING:

Camera, Journal, pen/pencil

DO NOT BRING:

- Cell Phone
- MP3 player
- Tobacco
- Cosmetics
- Valuables
- Recreational drugs or alcohol

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