



# DEEP PORTAGE

## Learning Center

Spring 2025

### Deep Portage Learning Center

2197 Nature Center Dr. NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
Phone: (218)-682-2325  
[www.deep-portage.org](http://www.deep-portage.org)

### Our Mission:

Through the exploration of woods, water, and wildlife, Deep Portage prepares and inspires learners of all ages to sustain and celebrate our natural world.

### Who Are We:

We are a nonprofit residential environmental education center located on more than 6,000 acres of lakes, bogs, rivers, and woodlands. For nearly fifty years, we have provided extraordinary outdoor experiences for school groups, campers, families, and all who love the great outdoors.

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### Social



## Improving Accessibility at Deep Portage

Through our LCCMR Accessibility Grant, Deep Portage recently acquired an Action Track Chair, an all-terrain track chair designed for rugged trails, and a cross-country sit ski. These additions are the first steps in a larger accessibility initiative that will also include an adaptive canoe, new dock, repaving the existing paved trail, adding a new paved trail to Bass Pond, and constructing an accessible bird and wildlife observation shelter. By expanding our adaptive equipment and improving our facilities, we hope to create a more inclusive environment that meets the diverse needs of our visiting students!



Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and National Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Matt Dixon*

*Morgan Sandstrom*

*Pine River DAC*

## DONATE TO DEEP PORTAGE

There are a few ways you can help support Deep Portage by donating. Please take a look at the different ways below. Your contribution goes towards educating kids about the environment and other programs in environmental education, resources management, conservation, recreation, and community services.

Deep Portage Learning Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax-deductible.

### “BRICK BY BRICK” DONATION

The donation for a brick in our brick hallway has increased to a donation of \$150. This gift of a personalized, engraved brick will be displayed at Deep Portage as a reminder of your support of our environmental education programs.



### \$75 MUG DONATION

Each year Deep Portage puts out a new mug with the year and a critter you might find at Deep Portage. The 2025 mug will be an Eastern tiger swallowtail designed by Ryan Forster, current staff and former 5th grade field trip student attendee several years ago!



### MATCHING GIFTS

Double your impact! Does your employer match gifts? View a list of Minnesota companies that have matching gift programs [here](#).

### IRA GIVING

If you are the age of 70 1/2 or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) annually from your IRA account. You can donate up to \$105,000 total to one or more non-profits each year. This will avoid income taxes on the funds you give directly to Deep Portage.

### STOCKS, BONDS, MUTUAL FUNDS

You can gift stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares to a non-profit while avoiding the capital gains taxes. You can also receive a federal income tax deduction for the current value of the gift.

### DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Make charitable gifts over time by creating a donor-advised fund. In most cases, you can earn a tax deduction. These are offered at investment firms and community foundations such as St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation.

# 2025 Winter Rendezvous Recap

The 46th annual Winter Rendezvous took place on January 25th, 2025, a gorgeous sunny winter day! Around 100 people participate in 15 different activities, including Northwoods curling, clay pigeon shooting, and orienteering. We all enjoyed a delicious chili lunch and ended the day with the awards ceremony, celebrating the winners in their age categories. This event always provides an amazing opportunity to enjoy winter fun with both new and old friends. Stay tuned for next year's Winter Rendezvous on January 24th, 2026!



## Rendezvous for a Cause: Brews & Bats

Join Deep Portage at Rendezvous Brewing for another "Rendezvous for a Cause" event! On this special night, the brewery will generously donate 20% of all sales to Deep Portage.

This event's theme is "Brews & Bats," where Deep Portage staff will dive into the fascinating world of bats, covering their ecology, Minnesota's bat species, the challenges they face, and tips for bat conservation.

Come for the brews, stay for the bats, and support a great cause!

**When:** Saturday, April 5th, 2025

**Time:** 5pm-7:30pm

Social Hour: 5pm-6:30pm

Presentation: 6:30pm-7:30pm

**Where:** Rendezvous Brewing

112 1st St S

Hackensack, MN 56452



# Sporting Clays Fun Shoot

Come out for the public shotgun shooting event at the Deep Portage sporting clays range! The sporting clays course is a 10-station walking course with 50 clay targets in each round. This is a non-competitive events. All proceeds go to Deep Portage.

**Day:** Saturday, May 3rd, 2025

**Time:** 9am-3pm (9am-10am: sign in and coffee/muffins.  
10am: shooting begins)

**Cost:** \$80/person for 2 rounds of 50 targets. Lunch is provided in between rounds. Pay on site with cash or check.

**Reservations Required:** Please call 218-682-2325 to register. Email Neal at [neal@deepportage.org](mailto:neal@deepportage.org) with any questions.



## "Meet Us in the Forest" Summer Rendezvous

Join us for the annual Deep Portage fundraising banquet, *Meet Us in the Forest: Summer Rendezvous*! Get ready for a fantastic day filled with socializing, delicious food, exciting raffles, and a silent auction. Remember, user fees from school visits, retreats, and camps only cover about two-thirds of our expenses - this event is a great way to support what we do and ensure students continue having positive experiences in the outdoors. Every dollar raised directly supports Deep Portage's mission. Don't miss this unforgettable event - mark your calendar and join the fun!

**Day:** Saturday, August 16th, 2025

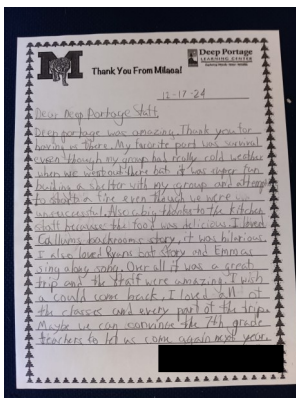
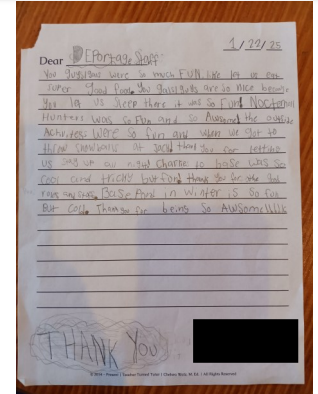
**Time:** TBD (please keep an eye out on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) event for more details)



# Student Thank You Letters

Dear DEPortage Staff,

You guys/gals were so much fun. Like let us eat super good food. You gals/guys are so nice because you let us sleep there it was so fun! Nocturnal Hunters was so fun and so awesome! The outside activities were so fun and when we got to throw snowballs at Jack! Thank you for letting us stay up all night! Charlie to base was so cool and tricky but fun! Thank you for the good roles and stuff. Bass pond in Winter is so fun but cold. Thank you for being so AWESOME!

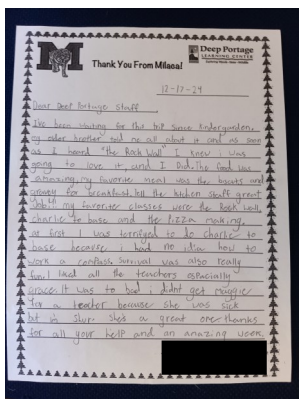
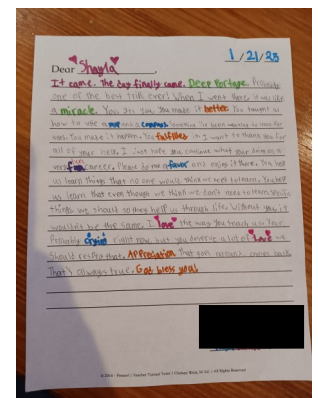


Dear Deep Portage Staff,

Deep Portage was amazing. Thank you for having us there. My favorite part was survival even though my group had really cold weather when we went out there but it was super fun building a shelter with my group and attempting to start a fire even though we were unsuccessful. Also a big thanks to the kitchen staff because the food was delicious. I loved Callum's backrooms story, it was hilarious. I also loved Ryan's bat story and Emma's sing along song. Over all it was a great trip and the staff were amazing. I wish a could come back, I loved all of the classes and every part of the trip. Maybe we can convince the 7th grade teachers to let us come again next year.

Dear Shayla,

It came. The day finally came. Deep Portage. Probably one of the best trips ever! When I went there it was like a miracle. You, yes you, you made it better. You taught us how to use a map and a compass. Something I've been wanting to learn for ages. You made it happen. You fulfilled it. I want to thank you for all of your help. I just hope you continue what you doing as a very fun career. Please do me a favor and enjoy it there. You help us learn things that no one would think we need to learn. You help us learn that even though we think we don't need to learn specific things, we should so they help us through life. Without you, it wouldn't be the same. I love the way you teach us. Your probably crying right now, but you deserve a lot of love we should respect that. Appreciation that goes around comes back. That's always true. God bless you!



Dear Deep Portage Staff,

I've been waiting for this trip since Kindergarten. My older brother told me all about it and as soon as I hear "the Rock Wall" I knew I was going to love it, and I did. The food was amazing, my favorite meal was their biscuits and gravy for breakfast. Tell the kitchen staff great job!!! My favorite classes were the rock wall, Charlie to base and the pizza making. At first I was terrified to do Charlie to base because I had no idea how to work a compass. Survival was also really fun. I like all the teachers especially Grace. It was to bad I didn't get Maggie for a teacher because she was sick but I'm sure she's a great one. Thanks for all your help and an amazing week.

# WE ARE HIRING!

## Environmental Educator Position

This is a field teaching position. An instructor can count on spending most of the instructional day outside with students, chaperones, and visiting staff. Our programs include field science classes (Bog Ecology, Bass Pond in Winter, Macroinvertebrate Sampling, Forest Ecology), physical skill building (Canoeing, Climbing, Archery, Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing), and cross-disciplinary lessons (Orienteering, Nature Journaling, Biomass Basics, Wind Power, Team Building).

Educators primarily focus on teaching. The primary audience is children in 4th-6th grade, but educators will gain experience with K-12 students throughout the school year. There are also opportunities to develop and refine curriculum, create interpretive displays, participate in community programming, and contribute to a sustainably managed school.

**Position Dates:** September 2nd, 2025 - May 22nd, 2026

**Salary:** \$430/week

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree, Associate's degree, or significant experience, teaching experience or working with youth, desire to maintain a healthy community and workplace, and a commitment to lifelong learning and improvement

**Other Info:** Meals provided when groups are on-site, on campus housing, 3 PTO days, ~7 paid sick days, unpaid time off for holidays and spring break

**Apply:** Send resume, cover letter, and references to Lindsay Bjorklund at [lindsay@deepportage.org](mailto:lindsay@deepportage.org)



## Summer Camp Team Leader

Summer camp counselors provide instruction in firearms safety, fishing education, and science-based camps. Camp activities include canoeing, archery, hiking, indoor rock wall, camping, arts and crafts, and much more! If you are an outdoors oriented person, or willing to train this is a once in a lifetime camp employment experience to pass it on the next generation.

Throughout the 10-week season, staff can expect to instruct on a variety of outdoor skills to diverse audiences ranging in age from 9-16. Develop your teaching skills and broaden your own outdoor experiences in a beautiful northern Minnesota setting. This position is commonly used to fulfill internship requirements for undergraduate education, recreation, and outdoor education programs.

**Position Dates:** June 2nd, 2025 - August 8th, 2025

**Salary:** \$375/week

**Qualifications:** High school diploma, teaching experience or working with youth, desire to maintain a healthy community and workplace, and a commitment to lifelong learning and improvement

**Other Info:** Meals provided when groups are on-site, on campus housing, and sick days accrue as you work

**Apply:** Send resume, cover letter, and references to Neal Tacheny at [neal@deepportage.org](mailto:neal@deepportage.org)



## Job Perks for Both Positions

- Live on over 6,000 acres of public land - there are literal miles of skiing/hiking trails, lakes, forest, wetlands and more at your doorstep
- Use of recreational equipment on your off time such as skis, ice fishing equipment, snowshoes, electric bikes, and canoes
- Spend your workdays active and outdoors

# Warblers!

Written by: Maggie Hermanson (Environmental Educator)

As the snow melts and the floral blooms appear, one of the most anticipated signs of spring is the arrival of warblers. Warblers provide so much color to our forests and are some of the earliest migratory species to arrive here in Deep Portage. You may begin to notice flashes of color from our warblers as early as mid April, with other species joining in May and June. Warblers fly quickly between trees which may make them difficult to identify, but with many



**Yellow-rumped Warbler**



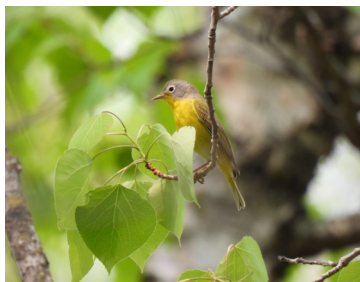
**American Redstart**

excellent viewing spots like the Bass Pond Loop, Deep Portage is a great place to catch a glimpse of these special birds.

So why are warblers some of the first birds to arrive in Minnesota? Warblers spend their winters in South and Central American countries, but are driven to make the difficult thousand-mile long journey to begin nesting and providing for their young. Following their inner clock and compass, they arrive in their northern homes as the insect breeding season is set in motion, providing an endless supply of food. These small birds primarily snack on a variety of insects, with certain species also eating berries as well, making spring the ideal time to arrive in Northern Minnesota. Some warbler species will make Deep Portage their summer home till fall migration, while others are driven further north to Canada.



**Golden-winged Warbler**

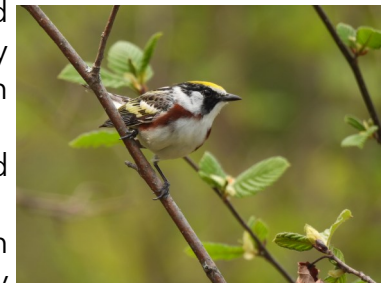


**Nashville Warbler**

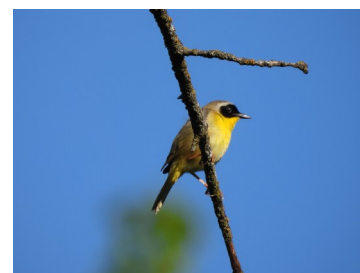
One of the earliest arrivals is the yellow-rumped warbler, a bird characterized by a bright yellow rump and an additional yellow spot on each side. These early birds are a clear sign of spring and are exciting to watch as they are known for their excellent flycatching abilities. Yellow-rumped warblers may also be seen in a flock as they migrate, which is uncommon for other warbler species. American Redstarts are also excellent flycatchers, but can be distinguished from other warblers with their white belly and

patches of yellow or orange across their wings and tails. Other early arrivals include the Pine Warbler, a large warbler often perched on pine trees with yellow covering its throat to belly.

While many of the warblers can be found on the Bass Pond Loop nestled in trees, warblers such as the Palm Warbler may be



**Chestnut-sided Warbler**



**Common Yellowthroat**

spotted near the bog with its brown crown and the Golden-winged Warbler in shrubby areas during the nesting season. There are many places to explore at Deep Portage and around Minnesota so as spring approaches, get your binoculars out and keep your eyes peeled for our wonderful warbler friends!