



# DEEP PORTAGE

## Learning Center

Spring 2026

### 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 overnight 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



## 2026 Family Forkhorn Camp

Forkhorn family camp is your chance to complete Forkhorn 1 with your youth camper. Camp activities will include the same curriculum, education, activities, and MN DNR Firearms Safety certification as Forkhorn 1. Adults will be participants alongside their campers and can receive their MN DNR Firearms Safety as well! Campers must be registered as part of a family group with one adult for up to five youth, and each group will be assigned one private room. During camp there are classroom lectures, tree stand safety, .22 caliber rifle training (2 sessions), firearms in the field training, and wilderness survival and navigation. Also during this camp we will have other activities which include archery, canoeing/fishing, environmental sciences, arts and crafts, swimming, etc.

**August 9-13, 2026**

**Tuition:** *Per room with individuals*

- 2 people: \$1100
- 3 people: \$1600
- 4 people: \$2100
- 5 people: \$2600
- 6 people: \$3100

**Ages:** 11-Adult

Youth campers must be here to receive FAS.

Register on our [website](http://www.deep-portage.org).



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President  
Heidi Auel  
Secretary  
Jerry Lamon  
Treasurer  
Jerry Lamon

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Jared Little  
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## 2025-2026 STAFF

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Carol Garnto  
Janna Hagen  
Jennifer Parrish  
Lorinda Ramirez  
Ryan Volkman

Facilities/Grounds  
Matt Dixon  
Morgan Sandstrom  
Pine River DAC

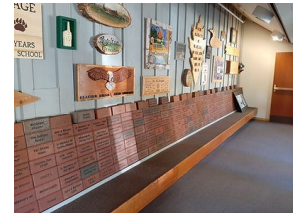
# TURN YOUR TAX REFUND INTO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL

For many people, tax season comes with a small refund. If that happens this year, consider putting a portion toward something meaningful. A gift to Deep Portage Learning Center helps connect young people and families with nature through outdoor learning, conservation, and community programs.

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 collectible mug with a critter you might find at Deep Portage. The 2026 art features an ermine block print created by Rachel Pace, a multimedia artist out of northern Minnesota. Get yours today either online or in person.



## 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 \$108,000 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.

We are truly inspired by those who put their resources to work for young people and the outdoors. On behalf of the Deep Portage Family, Thank You!

# Sustainable Angling Presentation and Outdoors Trivia Event

Join Deep Portage Learning Center for a special Rendezvous for a Cause night celebrating fishing, food and the lakes that make our region special. *"Sustainable Angling: Recipes for Success from the Lake to the Table"* is a practical, down-to-earth presentation on how anglers can enjoy local fisheries while helping protect them for the future.

Led by professional fishing guide and Deep Portage Development Director Dan Ryan, the talk will cover smart harvest strategies, fish handling and preparation tips, sustainable meal planning with locally caught fish, and how modern fishing technology is shaping the future of our lakes, including those in Walker, Hackensack, Longville area, and Leech Lake.

And of course, it wouldn't be Rendezvous without trivia. Bring your crew for a lively night of outdoors and nature trivia, a beloved brewery tradition.

Winning teams will be entered into prize drawings including a half-day guided fishing trip, rod and reel, and Deep Portage swag. Fish-themed fine art will also be available through a silent auction.

A light dinner will be provided, so come hungry and ready to play.

**Rendezvous Brewing will donate 20% of event sales to Deep Portage**, so grab a beer, rally your smartest friends, and join us for a fun, competitive night in support of conservation and community.

**When:** Saturday, March 21, 2026

**Where:** Rendezvous Brewing in Hackensack, MN

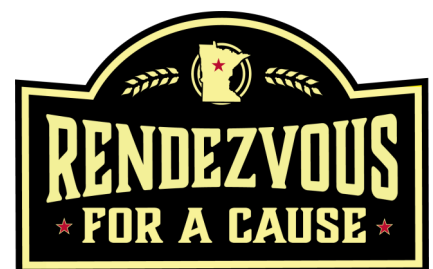
**Time:** 4pm - Presentation

5pm - Social

5:30pM - Trivia

**Info:** Teams of 2-6 players

Light dinner provided



# Sporting Clays Fun Shoot

Join us on **Saturday, April 25, 2026** for our annual Sporting Clays Fun Shoot! Each person will get 2 rounds of 50 targets on our 10 station sporting clays course. Open to all skill levels. *\*All 12, 20, 28, and .410 shotgun actions except single shots allowed.*

**9am:** Sign in, coffee and social time

**10am:** Shooting starts

**12pm:** Lunch

**1pm:** Shooting begins again



**Food:** Coffee and muffins will be provided 9-10am and lunch will be TBD (usually a warm sandwich, chips, sides, etc.)

**Register:** \$80/person

Please call Sophie at 218-682-2325 or email Neal at [neal@deepportage.org](mailto:neal@deepportage.org) at least one week prior to event. Payment is taken upon sign-in at event. Space is limited.

*All proceeds go to Deep Portage Learning Center.*

## Summer Public Programs

Deep Portage this summer will be doing weekly public programs and events! Some of the programs will be climbing on our 35 ft tall indoor rock climbing wall, archery with compound and recure bows at our archery yard, canoeing in our Wenonah canoes on Bass Pond and Big Deep Lake, making homemade pizza and cooking it in our outdoor brick oven, hiking with one of our skilled naturalist to learn more about what you can see on Deep Portage land, and more! Please keep an eye out on our [website](#) under public programs about dates for these programs.



# First Students to Use the Cross-Country Sit Ski!

At the end of January, two students from Princeton Middle School, Dominic and Gage, became the very first students to go skiing using our new cross-country sit ski!

Sit skis create opportunities for students who might otherwise be unable to participate in cross-country skiing due to disability. With the sit ski, students can be pulled or pushed by a

Deep Portage instructor, parent, or even a friend. If able, they can also use poles to help propel themselves.

It was a real treat to be out there together with classmates, skiing across the sparkling snow on Big Deep Lake and Bass Pond. The group even checked out the view of the Eagle's nest and we all enjoyed the peaceful beauty that



winter skiing offers.

We're so excited to continue creating outdoor experiences where every student can participate, make lasting memories, and discover new outdoor hobbies!

Funding for the sit ski was generously provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

