



DEEP PORTAGE

Learning Center

Spring 2024

Deep Portage Learning Center

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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



"Snow-quet" Activity at Winter Rendezvous

By: Environmental Educator Holt Gibson

This year's Winter Rendezvous saw a lot of fun and friendly competition, including a new event called "Snow-quet", a mini-golf style putt challenge using croquet mallets and tennis balls.

This deceptive simpleness of this game makes it a great activity for all ages. The centerpiece of our course this year was a snow-mountain that obscured the hole, while still providing a visual guide of where to aim. Other notable features included the "Room of Doom", an area that had no access into the mountain, and "Secret Tunnel", a tunnel that led through the left side of the mountain to allow entry to the hole. There were also ramps and other tunnels on the fairway, creating fun feature for those with a flare for the journey not the destination. With the well-below freezing temperatures during the week leading up, we were able to firm up a great single-hole course. Scoring for the event was done by golf rules, with 100 points awarded for a hole-in-one. There were a recorded 12 participant hole-



in-ones throughout the day, in addition to several volunteers that were able to conquer the mountain in a single hit. All first time attempts were awarded points, with a max stroke count of 10. Overall, "Snow-quet" was found to be a resounding hit with those who braved the cold to give it a try.

"Snow-quet" is a fun, new winter pastime that will hopefully be returning for the next Winter Rendezvous. This can also be a fun activity to try with your family and friends. All you need is croquet mallets, tennis balls, and some shovels. An ice auger for the hole is also a nice optional tool. Building on a frozen lake worked very well, as the ice provided

less resistance. This made drives from the tee-box easier and close-range taps more chaotic. Designing the course is a matter of preference, but around 25ft was found to be the most successful. Allowing some time for freezing after compacting your course features is needed to let the ball roll well, as well as having solid "bumper" boundaries. Overall, we hope that "Snow-quet" will someday be a staple game of not just our yearly event, but homes everywhere.



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Full Moon Night at Rendezvous Brewery Recap

We brought Deep Portage right into Hackensack on Saturday, February 24th for the first ever "Rendezvous for a Cause!" Rendezvous Brewing generously donated 20% of all sales from the evening to Deep Portage. The theme for the evening was Full Moon Night. After a lively social hour, education staff member Holt Gibson presented on a variety of astronomy topics from planets to galaxies, Hubble telescope imagery to Mars rovers, and much more. His depth of knowledge, energetic presentation style, and humorous interjections made for a stellar presentation (one might even say "interstellar")! At the end of the night, we brought telescopes out to view the moon and even got great views of Jupiter and four of its moons. Thank you all who attended and for Rendezvous Brewing's support of Deep Portage!



"Meet Us in the Forest" Deep Portage Banquet

On Saturday, August 17th, 2024, Deep Portage will be hosting our first annual banquet. This fundraising banquet will include special outdoor activities, raffle items and a silent auction, and dinner. Mark your calendars for the day and look forward to more information coming soon!

Now Hiring for Seasonal Positions!

All seasonal positions are paid and provide on-campus housing and food. Check out our website to learn more. Please share with anyone who may be interested in working a highly rewarding job in a beautiful location!

Summer Camp Team Leader (June-August)

- Post-high school/college students
- Primarily firearms safety, hunting, and fishing camps

Outdoor Educator (Sep.-May)

- Bachelor's Degree or significant experience
- Primary instructor for outdoor recreation and environmental education lessons
- Primary audience is 5th and 6th graders

2024 Summer Camps

Deep Portage offers a wide variety of summer camps to suit almost any interest. Whether a child is interested in fishing, hunting, canoeing, or expanding their scientific horizons, we have a camp for them. Campers learn a lot, have fun, make new friends, and grow in their appreciation for all the Minnesota great outdoors has to offer. All camps offered are overnight style.

Visit our [website](#) or click [HERE](#) to register!

Forkhorn I

Session 1: June 9-13, 2024

Session 2: June 16-20, 2024

Session 3: June 30-July 4, 2024

Session 4 ALL GIRLS: August 4-8, 2024

Tuition: \$500

Ages 11-15

Successful completion of this camp earns students their MN DNR Firearms safety Certificate. By learning in a cooperative classroom, doing hands-on activities outside, and plenty of practice at our rifle range, you can be assured that your camper will come away with a high level of firearms safety, responsible hunting practices, and wildlife ecology skills. Although they will be busy with firearms safety training, campers will also have plenty of time for recreational and outdoor skills classes such as canoeing, fishing, survival, orienteering, rock climbing, and much more.

Forkhorn II

Session 1 ALL GIRLS: June 30-July 4, 2024

Session 2: July 7-11, 2024

Tuition: \$500

Ages: 12-16

Prerequisite: MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate

Students will be certified in the Minnesota Bowhunter Education Program (MBEP) as part of this camp; this certification is required to purchase archery hunting tags in many states, provinces, or special designated archery hunting areas in MN. This advanced hunting camp takes students beyond the basic white-tailed deer hunting and offers higher level training in bow hunting such as shooting out of deer stands and walking a 3D archery target course. Additionally, they will learn advanced map and compass skills, high caliber rifle and muzzleloader training, and ethical hunting practices. Campers will go on a day long canoe trip down the Boy River, up and over beaver dams to the remote little Boy Lake to fish, and have a campsite lunch.

Forkhorn III

Session: July 21-25, 2024

Tuition: \$550

Ages 13-17

Prerequisite: MN DNR Firearms Safety Certificate

This improved Forkhorn 3 camp no longer has an Advanced Hunters Education certification. Instead, it will focus on advancing on the outdoor and conservation skills learned in Forkhorn 1 and Forkhorn 2. Campers will be doing advanced land navigation course with higher level survival techniques, rifle ammunition basics, muzzleloading, and shotgun wing shooting at our sporting clays course. We will be featuring special theme days at camp such as turkey, waterfowl, small game, and big game days where campers will learn more in depth information about the wildlife they can pursue and how to become more successful. Campers will go home with their own wild game calls! This camp will also feature an overnight tent camping experience on DP property.

Upland Bird Camp

Session: July 28-August 2, 2024

Tuition: \$550

Ages: 12-16

Prerequisite: MN Firearms Safety Certification

Upland Bird camp offers campers the opportunity to learn the basics of hunting upland game birds and improve their wing shooting skills.

Classes cover:

- Upland bird biology from trained biologists
- Daily wing shooting instruction on our 10 station sporting clay pigeon course
- Dog training techniques
- Ethical hunting techniques
- Campers participate in an activity to learn how to respectfully gain permission on private lands

Trained dogs are an important aspect of upland bird hunting so this course includes a field trip to Pine Shadows Kennel where students receive hands-on dogs in the field.

Stations include:

- Flushing/pointing dog techniques in the field with live birds
- Skeet shooting
- Dog first aid basics
- At one station, the Pine Shadows staff give each camper a puppy to hold onto for 45 minutes to teach them how to handle young dogs

This is a great way to meet friends and learn about birds, dogs, and bird hunting. Each camper can expect to go about a case of shells by the end of camp on the shooting course.

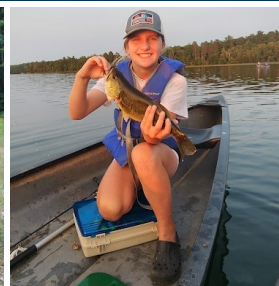
Fishing Camp

Session: July 28-31, 2024

Tuition: \$375

Ages: 10-14

Fishing camp provides a fun learning atmosphere where campers not only get to fish their hearts out, but also learn important lake limnology, water ecosystems, and fisheries management skills to make them better anglers and water stewards. Campers will be using Big Deep Lake, Bass Pond, Boy River, and Little Boy Lake as their fishing grounds and classroom. Bring your fishing gear and prepared to catch a few big ones!



Alumni Spotlight

What did they learn and where are they now?

Ben Jacques

Worked at DP: 2014-2020

Current Job: Public Program Manager at Bluff Lake Nature Center in Denver.

My experience running rendezvous in 2020 helped me with all the public programs that I run now. On the personal side, DP was where I learned how to be an adult, ski, use a chainsaw, bird, layer for cold weather properly, and meet lifelong friends.



Jared Little

Worked at DP: 2011-2012

Current Job: Education Specialist at Wings Credit Union

The exposure to literally thousands of students and adults is valuable in crafting your educational style. Deep Portage solidified my love of experiential learning and the joy of teaching.



Charlotte Wollenburg

Worked at DP: 2009-2011

So many things from DPLC have stuck with me. I could go on a while. One thing that comes to me so often: I had no idea how lucky I was to have 18K of beautiful hike and ski trails that started about 15 feet from my doorstep. What a gift.



Andrea Doerr

Worked at DP: 2013-2014 and Fall of 2016

Current Job: Summer Program Director at Voyageur Outward Bound School in Ely, MN.

The lessons I have learned from Deep Portage are infused with my entire wonderful experience of working in the field of outdoor education. In particular, Deep Portage is nailing it in your commitment to having sustainable energy source for your buildings and educating your students and staff about it. I also learned a lot about how to be compassionate and curious leader from Molly. You cannot give too much positive feedback. I learned from her how important it is to make sure kids are having positive experiences in nature... more important than the content of what they are learning. I find myself trying to emulate many of Molly and Dale's qualities in my current leadership role, most importantly their ability to slow down and hang out with us as staff and get to know us as people.



Alumni Spotlight

What did they learn and where are they now?

Morgan Long

Worked at DP: 2018-2020

Current Job: School Programs and Summer Camp Manager at the Headwaters Science Institute in Soda Springs, CA.

Working at DP was my first real job in environmental ed! In the years since I worked there, I've kept coming back to education jobs (including my current job) and I don't know if I would have realized how much I love teaching without working at DP first.



Josh Sweet

Worked at DP: 2011-2013

Current Job: Office Administrator at the Lowry Nature Center

Deep Portage's high quality reputation certainly helped me to land several jobs. And the "Deep Portage Difference" is something that I try to incorporate into all of my work.



Steven Gang

Worked at DP: 2014-2016

Current Job: Soon to be a Nurse Technician

Working here taught me so much about working with people and students from different backgrounds. Something Molly told us that I have never forgotten is to imagine ourselves as the students. We have no idea what their home life is, this may be the first time they are getting a full meal or space to be themselves. It was such an important lesson in empathy for me. This will help me as I become a nurse and not make assumptions on the patients that I am treating.



Brooke Remer

Worked at DP: 2017-2020

Current Job: 4-H Extension Educator with Cass County

DPLC taught me so much about working in and with the community of people - how to support one another, learn and pull from the strengths of others and share mine with others. Every day was a new adventure and we gave it our all because every student that came through the door may only have that one experience outdoors at an ELC.

