Keweenaw

Keweenaw National Historical Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Smackdown 2016 Winners!

This year's High School Local History Smackdown was more exciting than ever. The event was held at the beautiful Calumet Theatre on April 28th, 2016. Opening remarks by Keweenaw National Historical Park Acting Superintendent Kathleen Harter welcomed teams, coaches, and guests to the 14th Annual Smackdown. The opening remarks were quickly followed by the first round of questions, read by first-time quizmaster Scott See.

Questions ranged from amygdaloid copper to the location of the stamp mill in Gay, Michigan. In addition to questions about the Copper Country and Keweenaw National Historical Park, teams also had to use their impressive knowledge of other National Park Service sites if they wanted to advance to the next round. Sites from around the country were included in the challenge in honor of the 2016 centennial celebration of the National Park Service. With all ten teams making it to round three of the Smackdown, the audience was left wondering if there was anything these kids didn't know!

With each new round featuring questions of increasing difficulty, teams struggled to stay in the competition. Each team was offered one pass to use if they were stumped by an especially difficult question, and were eliminated after answering two questions incorrectly. At the beginning of round nine, only five of the original ten teams were left fighting for the title of Smackdown Champions.

As the Smackdown progressed, teams were eliminated until only the Hanka Homesteaders and Nonesuch Know-it-alls remained on the stage. With both teams having two strikes against them and no passes remaining, the quizmaster announced a sudden death round. Finally, after answering a question about the Soo Locks the Nonesuch Know-it-alls were announced the winners.

First place went to the Nonesuch Know-it-alls from Ontonagon. Second place went to the Hanka Homesteaders from Baraga. Third place went to last year's Smackdown champions, the Minettes from Dollar Bay. Congratulations to the Nonesuch Know-it-alls and their coach for becoming the 2016 High School Local History Smackdown Champions!

Calumet Visitor Center

Address:
98 5th Street
Calumet, MI 49913

Hours:
May 1 to May 29
Thursday-Saturday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 12pm to 5pm

May 30 to September 5
Monday-Saturday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 12pm to 5pm

Phone:
(906) 483-3176

Free admission to three floors of museum exhibits.

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

National Parks and Geocaching

Geo-what?

If you were to ask one of the over 4 million participants, called cachers, they would probably compare it to a geography based Easter egg hunt. The "Easter egg" is really a container, also called a cache, which often contains a paper for you to add your name to the list of those who have successfully located the cache. Cache locations are posted on geocaching.com using longitude and latitude. Traditionally, these locations were found using dedicated GPS devices, but with the increasing popularity of smart phones the world of geocaching is opening up to everyone!

Last year, Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) joined the geocaching community by offering geocaching based walking tours in Calumet. On the 99th anniversary of the National Park Service, KNHP placed its first geocache to highlight the significance of the former Calumet and Hecla general office building, now home to the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters. To date, dozens of geocachers have searched for, located, and logged their find of this cache at **our cache page**. Geocachers often leave brief stories of their adventure or comments about the cache for others to read.

August 25th, 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Park Service. Rather than only celebrate for a single day, we are celebrating for the entire year with special programs! This centennial year one of our goals is to reach new audiences by transforming the National Park Service's digital experience. What better way to do this than to introduce geocaching to national parks? To help meet this goal, the National Park Service partnered with Geocaching.com to create the "Find Your Park" GeoTour. This GeoTour showcases parks across the United States that have embraced ParkCaching, or geocaching that is not only fun, but also interpretive and educational.

The GeoTour currently includes 61 caches at 26 parks, including Keweenaw National Historical Park's educational cache. As the centennial celebrations continue to play out, expect to discover even more ways geocaching can be used to learn about, explore, and preserve our national parks.

GeoTour webpage
www.geocaching.com/play/geotours/findyourpark

Junior Ranger Programs

This summer Keweenaw National Historical Park is able to offer four Junior Ranger programs! Activity books for the Underwater Explorer, National Park Service Centennial, National Historic Preservation Act, and Keweenaw National Historical Park Junior Ranger programs are all available at the Calumet Visitor Center or at Keweenaw NHP headquarters.

Once an activity book has been completed, show a Keweenaw NHP ranger and they will check your answers! If you have met all of the requirements, then you will be sworn in as a Junior Ranger and receive a badge or pin to commemorate the Junior Ranger book you completed.

If you have already completed all of the Junior Ranger programs Keweenaw NHP has to offer, there are hundreds of other programs for you to participate in! Even if you can't get to another National Park Service site in person, their Junior Ranger program is often on the park's website. Our Junior Ranger book can be found at **https://www.nps.gov/kewe/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm**. If you want a full list of National Parks with Junior Ranger programs visit **https://www.nps.gov/kids/jrRangers.cfm**.

In addition to finding Junior Ranger activity books online, there is also a WebRanger program available through the National Park Service at **https://www.nps.gov/webrangers/**. To become a WebRanger, you will need to create a username and password, or you can visit the site as a guest. Then the fun begins! There are hundreds of fun activities of varying difficulty for you to try. Activity topics range from sled dogs working at Denali National Park and Preserve to an activity cracking George Washington's secret code!

Copper Country Scavenger Hunt

Do you know who saved twenty-four people and a dog from the shipwreck L.C. Waldo in 1913? Do you know which actress is rumored to haunt the Calumet Theatere? If you want to find out the answer to these questions and more, join the fun with the *Copper Country Scavenger Hunt*! The *Copper Country Scavenger Hunt* book is available at Keweenaw National Historical Park Headquarters, the Calumet Visitor Center, our Heritage Sites, and on our webpage.

Copper Country Scavenger Hunt is designed for children, but people of all ages have enjoyed hunting down the answers in each of the four regions. Visit and answer questions for at least 3 of the 4 sites in the Northern Region, at least 6 of the 8 sites in the Houghton Region, at least 5 of 7 sites in the Calumet Region, and at least 3 of 4 sites in the Western Region. After completing the required number of questions for each region, you will receive a sticker that symbolizes that region. Once you have all four stickers, visit the Calumet Visitor Center to have your book signed by a Keweenaw National Historical Park ranger!

Copper Country Scavenger Hunt is a great way for parents, grandparents, siblings, children, and friends to spend the summer months! Before heading out to a Keweenaw Heritage Site be sure to check our current park newspaper for dates and hours of operation. The 2016 Keweenaw National Historical Park newspaper may be accessed digitally on our website. Physical copies of the newspaper may be found at our Heritage Sites, Park Headquarters, the Calumet Visitor Center, and many other locations in the Upper Peninsula. Prizes are available at the Calumet Visitor Center for the first ten Copper Country Scavenger Hunt books to be completed (7 of 10 prizes are remaining). Hurry before they are all gone!

Above: Children on a tour at one of the twenty-one Keweenaw Heritage Sites

Below: Prizes for the Copper Country Scavenger Hunt