



Keweenaw



Every Kid in a Park

The Every Kid in a Park program launched on September 1, 2015. It gives every fourth grader and their families the opportunity to visit federal public lands for free by obtaining a special 4th grade federal lands pass. The free pass opens up 409 National Park Service Sites, and is an invitation to our year long NPS Centennial celebration!

Park rangers from Keweenaw National Historical Park have been busy visiting fourth grade classrooms in Keweenaw, Houghton, Baraga, and Ontonagon counties to introduce students to the National Park Service and give them their federal lands passes. Each fourth grade class learns a special dance to teach them about the National Park Service. Students learn a different motion that corresponds to each component of the National Park Service arrowhead symbol, which represent the different resources and values within the NPS system. The arrowhead itself represents history and culture. The mountains represent scenic views and recreational opportunities. The sequoia tree represents vegetation and the lake symbolizes all of the lakes and waterways protected by the National Park Service. Lastly, the bison represents the animals in the NPS units.

Close to 400 park passes have already been distributed to fourth graders living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and new ranger visits are being scheduled regularly! To learn more about this and other educational programs, please contact Emma Woodruff or Valerie Newman.

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(906) 483-3028

Calumet Visitor Center

Address:
98 5th Street
Calumet, MI 49913

Hours:
Friday & Saturday
10am to 3pm

Phone:
(906) 483-3176

Free admission to three floors of museum exhibits.

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



Pollinator Week is June 20 - 26, 2016

Soon the Keweenaw landscape will be full of color and buzzing with the activity of pollinators.

Pollinators are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food, and help over 80% of the world's flowering plants reproduce through pollination.

Animals that assist plants in their reproduction as pollinators include species of ants, bats, bees, beetles, birds, butterflies, flies, moths, and wasps.

Pollination is the act of transferring pollen grains from the male part (anther) of a flower to the female part (stigma). The goal of every living organism, including plants, is to create offspring for the next generation. The tools that plants use to make their seeds are flowers. Seeds can only be produced when pollen is transferred from flower to flower.

Pollen gets from one flower to another by being moved by a transporter, and flowers rely on them. Transporters can include wind, water, birds, insects, butterflies, bats, and other animals that visit flowers. Usually, pollination is unintentional: the pollinator is often eating, collecting pollen for themselves, or sipping nectar from a flower when pollen grains attach to the animal's body. When the animal visits another flower, pollen can fall

off onto the flower's stigma and enable the flower to reproduce.

Virtually all of the world's seed plants need to be pollinated. It allows wildflowers to produce seeds for dispersal and reproduction, maintain

genetic diversity within a population, and develop ample fruits to entice seed dispersers (such as deer, bears, mice, and other herbivores). Healthy vegetation provides environmental benefits such as clean air, purifying water, and preventing erosion.

How can you help pollinators? Ensure

sufficient foraging habitat for pollinators by including plant species of high value in your gardens or fields, reproduction considerations, providing shelter, and site monitoring.

Does your class conduct any pollinator activities or lessons? National Pollinator week is June 20 -26, 2016. During National Pollinator Week, the importance of pollinators is highlighted such as bees, birds, butterflies and bats. PFor more information visit the Pollinator Partnership at: www.pollinator.org to find curriculum, educational tools, contests and more.



Step Into History

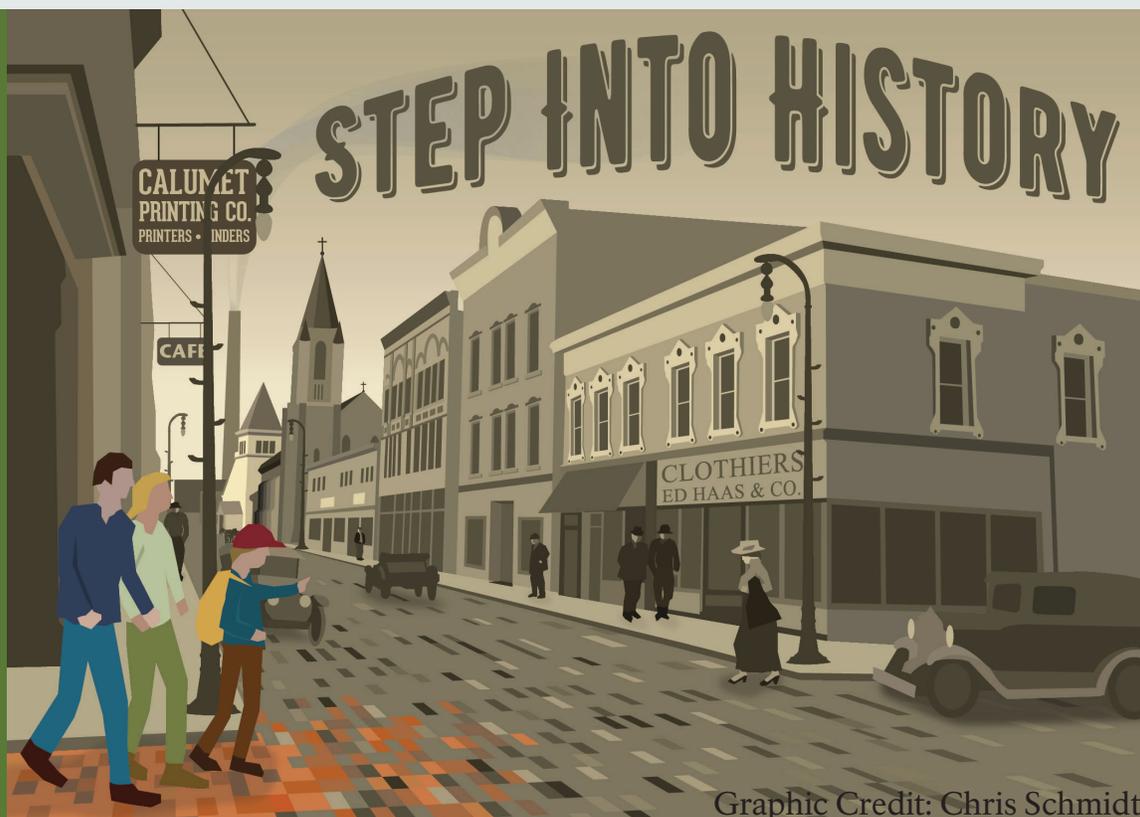
National parks are great places to engage in healthy physical activity while hiking canyons, kayaking scenic rivers, and climbing mountains. But you don't have to travel to the Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone or Yosemite to explore park trails. Keweenaw National Historical Park, in partnership with Western U.P. Health Department and local businesses and volunteer groups, will host a series of monthly guided walks in 2016 to points of interest in and around the Park's Calumet and Quincy Units. The Park and Health Department teamed up to win an Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation to promote national parks as places to practice healthy lifestyle habits.

The local Active Trails program, called "Step Into History," features short hikes for all ages and abilities, led by health educators and park rangers. Each one-hour event will include a brief talk about history in the mining district, but the focus is on getting outdoors "for the health of it." Events in February included an evening snow shoe walk around Calumet Lake, and a

youth snow shoe obstacle course in Agassiz Park. Activities planned for the spring and summer include curling in a historic drill house, exploring Swedetown, and surface tours of mine locations on Mine Street in Calumet and atop Quincy Hill. The hikes are free with no registration required, and at each event you'll have a chance to win donated (out) door prizes and track your participation on a punch card for a chance to win larger prizes at the end of the year.

Along with the guided walks, the Park and Health Department will work with local government officials to initiate plans to connect non-motorized routes and make the Calumet area even more bike- and pedestrian-friendly. To learn more about upcoming events, look for Step Into History announcements on the KNHP Facebook page, in the Daily Mining Gazette, on local radio stations and on posters, or call the Health Department at 906-482-7382 and ask for Bridget or Arnie.

By Ray Sharp



Graphic Credit: Chris Schmidt

Educational Quincy



Above: A school group arrives at Quincy Mine.

Below: 4th graders board the tram that will take them to the mine entrance.



“My Grandpa worked in the mines!” states an outgoing fourth grader during the tram ride down the hill to the mine entrance, the Quincy East Adit.

The Quincy Mine Hoist Association (QMHA), a 501(c3) non-profit organization and partner of Keweenaw National Historical Park, has for years been actively engaging hundreds of local youth through school field trips each year. Not only do the students learn about local history through interactive tours, they are also given opportunities to gain an understanding of the work their ancestors may have done, connecting them personally to local history. The tour is much more than dates and facts: it’s an immersive experience they’ll remember for years, and a story to share with their family. The enthusiasm can be contagious, even for those who may not have relatives with any association to local history. As these initial connections are made and grow, the QMHA and NPS hope that they continue, leading them, in time, to become the future generation of Park stewards.

The Quincy Mine is open for school group reservations beginning in late-spring through late-fall. Tours are half-price and large groups can be accommodated. Allow 2 hours for a full tour. Please call at least 3 days in advance, 906-482-5569.

Transportation expenses may be reimbursed through a grant from the KNHP Advisory Commission. Call Scott See at 906-483-3040 for more information.

By: Nick Clark