



Winter

2011 -2012



Newsletter

Keeping you updated on information and activities at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park.

School Kids Enjoy Learning Adventures Year-round

During the school year children from schools throughout the area come to Mille Lacs Kathio to have outdoor fun while learning about the park's natural and cultural resources. These programs and activities are "custom-designed" based on the needs of each class. The park activities get kids involved in the outdoors while contributing to the school's learning standards and the teacher's lesson plan goals.

School classes that have organized a field trip to Kathio as part of their learning experience over the past few years include Onamia 1st, 3rd and 5th grade; Isle 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade; Princeton North 4th grade, Royalton 3rd grade, St. John's Prep 6th grade, Rocori 7th grade, Aitkin 3rd grade, Pierz 5th grade, Community Christian School, Holy Trinity 6th grade, Riverside 2nd grade, Harrison 2nd grade, Becker 2nd grade, Vandenberg Middle School, Princeton Head Start, Onamia

Head Start, Princeton High School, Nay Ah Shing High School, Staples High School, Anoka-Hennepin Indian Education and Connections Academy. Some of the activities in which students participated are GPS & Geocaching, Habitat/Camouflage Hike, Pop Can Casting, Wildlife of the Park, Project Wild, Birding Hike, A View from the Tower, Voyageur Canoe Tour, Animal Tracks, Forest Ecology Hike, Tree Planting, Archaeology Site Tours, Cross-country Skiing and Snowshoeing.



School Field Trips in the Winter?



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You Bet! At Kathio we have year-round naturalist staff, so when it gets cold the fun doesn't end. Groups

can schedule a snowshoeing activity, or even a winter Geocaching adventure...and there's a sledding hill located right next to our heated trail center.

The park provides programming for both schools and clubs. We would like to extend an invitation to teachers and other leaders to call the Interpretive Center at (320) 532-3269 to request a program for your group.

Every year, the interpretive staff is excited about the new school year. We look forward to interacting with returning visitors and seeing new faces.



NEW PROGRAM ALERT...



Digital Bridge to Nature

This year we will be offering this new and exciting program. Participants get how-to instructions on using a digital camera and tips & tricks about nature photography. Then they borrow a digital camera to try out what they learned. Afterwards they will be able to view their photographs and take home a photo of their own. Call the Interpretive Center to learn more... (320) 532-3269.

Winter Facilities & Rentals

At Mille Lacs Kathio State Park there are many opportunities for fun and recreation during the winter months!

Sledding: Due to its location next to the park's modern Trail Center/Warming Shelter, you can relax inside and sip hot chocolate while you keep an eye on the kids sliding down the hill.



Cross Country Skiing: 19.8 Miles (32 Kilometers) of Ski Trails. These trails range from beginner to expert. The park has 10.9 K of easy trail, 12.4 K of moderate trails and 8.7 K of difficult trails, all of which go through wooded terrain.

If you don't have your own skis or snowshoes ... Cross-country skis are available for \$10.00 per day and snowshoes for \$6.00 per day.

Snowshoeing:

6.5 Miles of snowshoe trails. Three trails are marked for snowshoeing. These trails take you to some great scenic areas.



Bird watching: Visit the Interpretive Center to view 10 different bird feeders.



Snowmobiling: 19 miles of snowmobile trails. The trails go through wooded hills and connect with the 13,000 mile Grant –In-Aid statewide snowmobile trail system at various locations.

Our Trail Center is a great place to take a break and warm up!

Kathio's Trail Center/Warming House is available for you to get out of the cold! This building includes a woodstove, picnic tables, and modern restrooms.



If you need more time to enjoy the park stay the night in one of our five rustic, one-room camper cabins!

- 1 cabin sleeps 5 (ADA accessible)
- 4 cabins sleep 6 each
- All are available year-round
- All have electricity, heat and a screened porch
- Each cabin has a table with benches and bunk-beds with mattresses
- Pets are not allowed
- All cabins are smoke free



For more information about cabins visit...

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/reservations_campercabin.html

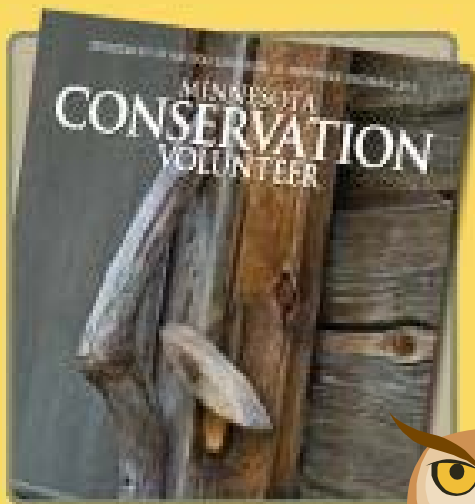
Kid's Corner

Young
Naturalists

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M A G A Z I N E

Minnesota Conservation Volunteer is a reader-supported magazine advocating conservation and careful use of Minnesota's natural resources.



Young Naturalists stories introduce young readers to Minnesota's natural treasures—from agates to zooplankton. Stories explore the universe underfoot, the northern lights, and everything in between.

Click here to learn more...

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/young_naturalists/index.html



Enjoy a Kathio snowshoeing experience with your group!

Mille Lacs Kathio State Park offers outdoor education activities year-round. During the winter, snowshoeing programs are quite popular, and are scheduled regularly. We also offer Naturalist-led snowshoeing activities to groups, such as school classes, scouts and other organizations. Two popular group programs are Snowshoeing for Beginners, which is a basic “how-to” lesson for all ages, and Snowshoeing into the Past, a group snowshoe trek to see and discuss historical and archaeological sites that earned Kathio the title of National Historic Landmark.

Groups will often combine a trip to the sliding hill and lunch at the Trail Center along with their visit to the Interpretive Center and outdoor program. Call the Kathio Interpretive Center at 320-532-3269 for details. Scouts! Call us to discuss how we can help with merit badge requirements!



Hey! We have a classroom in the Interpretive Center that can be used for meetings when not in use for educational programs. Call 320-532-3269 for more information.

Winter Programs

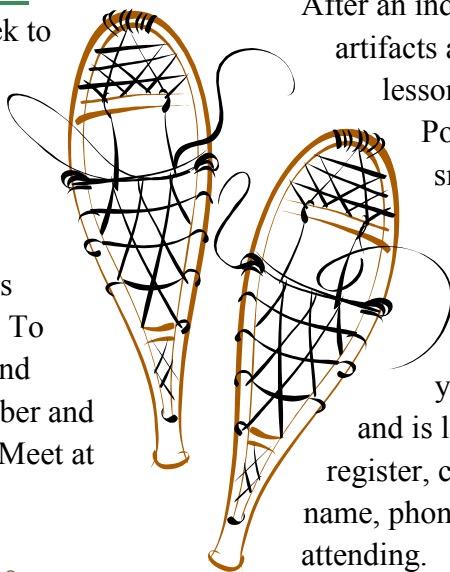
January 21 7:00 – 8:30pm

Snowshoeing to the Stars

Join us for a snowshoeing trek to see and learn about the stars of the winter sky.

Snowshoes and an introductory snowshoeing lesson are provided.

Registration is required and is limited to the first 25 people. To register, call 320-532-3269 and leave your name, phone number and number of people attending. Meet at the Interpretive Center.



February 11 1:00 – 2:15 pm

Snowshoeing into the Past

After an indoor look at some ancient artifacts and a brief "how-to-snowshoe" lesson, we will explore the Petaga Point archaeological site on snowshoes. Our snowshoe hike will take us to locations where archaeologists found evidence of a village of the 1600s and a "campsite" dating to 3,500 years ago. Registration is required and is limited to the first 25 people. To register, call 320-532-3269 and leave your name, phone number and number of people attending.

January 28 1:00 – 4:00pm

Cross-country Ski Lesson and Trail Tour

Learn how to glide, pole, turn, and handle hills – all the basic skills you will need to enjoy traditional cross-country skiing. After the basic lessons, join the ski instructors and

the park naturalist for a guided ski tour on the park's woodland trails. Bring your own skis or rent some at the park office (\$10/day for skis, boots and poles) before meeting at the Interpretive Center.

Registration is necessary and limited to the first 25 people.

To register, call (320) 532-3269. Leave your name, phone number and number of people attending.



February 25 1:00 – 2:00 pm Winter Geocaching Adventure for Beginners

Discover the fun of snowshoeing and the great sport of Geocaching. After an introduction to GPS and Geocaching inside the Interpretive Center we will put on snowshoes and search for some hidden caches. Snowshoes and an introductory snowshoeing lesson are provided. Bring your own GPS unit or use one of ours. Registration is required and is limited to the first 25 people. To register, call 320-532-3269 and the number of people attending.



Fun Idea Alert! After you learn how to cross-country ski you can come back to the park the following weekend for our Annual Candlelight Ski event! See the next page for details.

Naturalist programs will be posted throughout the year so be sure to visit the website frequently...

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/3month.html?jsp=/templates/listing.jsp&k=SPK00232&nd=90&o=startdate

Candlelight Ski

Date: Saturday, February 4th

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Join us for a candle light ski through the winter woods of Mille Lacs Kathio State Park.

Enjoy skiing by the light of the full moon with candle luminaries to help guide the way. Two separate routes are lit for this popular annual event. Refreshments will be served and a shuttle bus will run continuously between the Trail Center and Interpretive Center. Ski rental (\$10/day for skis, boots and poles) is available on a first-come-first-serve basis. *This event is co-sponsored by the Natural Resource Club of Central Lakes College.*

For more information call: (320) 532-3269



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