

IRKPA awards first Carl Levin Student Research Grants

Two students from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire are the recipients of IRKPA's first Carl Levin Student Research Grants.

The Carl Levin Student Research Grant awards research projects pertaining to historical, cultural, ecological or biological issues addressing the management priorities of Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Grants were awarded to Emery (Emma) Day, pictured at right, and Rachel Thompson, left.

Both students spent the summer at the park as interns conducting research and learning about public history. Thompson, from New London, Wisconsin, is a fourth-year



student double majoring in history and social studies education. Her project involves a capstone paper that examines the history of the 1913 labor strike through an ethnic studies lens and preparing a lesson plan, based on her findings, that

can be shared on the Keweenaw NHP's website.

Day, from Dassel, Minnesota, is expected to graduate from UWEC in December with a bachelor of arts degree in public history. Her research focuses on the history of health in America, specifically, the state of public health in the Keweenaw mining communities during the implementation of basic infrastructure such as plumbing. She also seeks to find what this tells us about how health was seen in rural and marginalized communities.

The late Carl Levin represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate for 36 years. He was instrumental in the inception of Keweenaw NHP.

Children can experience the wilderness of Isle Royale online

In September, in celebration of National Wilderness Month, Isle Royale National Park launched the *Isle Royale Wilderness Adventure*, a new online experience for kids. Though the island of Isle Royale is closed annually November through mid-April, you can now experience its wilderness any time of year. The *Isle Royale Wilderness Adventure* simulates a backpacking and paddling experience with the goal of traveling across the island over five days. The adventure challenges users to make decisions that backpackers or paddlers may experience in-person while on Isle Royale. Each choice affects how your online adventure unfolds.

The *Isle Royale Wilderness Adventure* is part of a larger expansion of kid-friendly content on Isle Royale's website. Other additions include "Wilderness Adventure Training" — a series of four online activities that educate kids on topics such as Isle Royale habitats, wildlife, wilderness best practices, and Leave No Trace principles.

This expansion of kid-friendly web content is part of an ongoing effort to increase Isle Royale wilderness connections any time of year, whether in-person or from afar. To access the *Isle Royale Wilderness Adventure* and "Wilderness Adventure Training," visit: www.nps.gov/isro/learn/kidsyouth/index.htm.

Discover your wild side exploring the *Isle Royale Wilderness Adventure*!

Commissioned Artist project at Dry House Ruins unveiled

Keweenaw National Historical Park, the Keweenaw NHP Advisory Commission, and IRKPA unveiled four sculptures on the landscape at the Quincy Dry House Ruins along US-41, on September 26. A crowd of about 35, including artist Kasey Koski, KNHP Superintendent Wyndeth Davis, KNHPAC Executive Director Sean Gohman and IRKPA Executive Director Mark Wilcox were among those who participated in the unveiling.

The goal was to commission an art piece that captures the workers and families who were once sprawled densely throughout the Copper Country, showing the everyday lives of those who are gone, but not forgotten. Artist Kasey Koski captured those themes through the metal of her sculptures.

Koski is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and educator living in Wenatchee, Washington. She is a Baraga County native and an alumni of Finlandia University. In addition to the unveiling, Koski attended several events throughout the week including a pair of family art workshops and a public artist talk.



Bob Linn Grant Awarded

A graduate student from Minnesota, whose research will provide digital documentation of historic structures on Isle Royale, has been awarded a Bob Linn Student Research Grant. Christina Ridolfi, pictured at left on Isle Royale this past summer, is pursuing an executive master of business administration degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ridolfi's project, "Digital Documentation of Historic Buildings and Landscapes to Promote Active Management and Accessibility for All," will produce an inventory that will provide baseline documentation of endangered cultural resources to the park's List of Classified Structures and Cultural Landscape Inventory.

The project uses a LiDar scanning tool to record endangered cultural resources that include structures at Tobin Harbor, Rock Harbor, Chippewa Harbor, Long Point, Barnum Island and Washington Harbor. The research will produce 3D digital models, 3D prints, video fly-throughs and orthographic photographs for use in asset management and interpretation and for wide public distribution via park and NPS websites.

IRKPA's Board of Directors approved a total of \$2,500 to be distributed in two payments over the course of two years.

KEWE reports successful summer



NPS Photo Ranger Nick Clark leads a walking tour in downtown Calumet earlier this summer.

By Amber Kraft, Interpretation and Education Program Manager

Keweenaw National Historical Park's (KEWE) Visitor Center in Calumet is having a great year. So far in calendar year 2024, we have served more than 15,130 visitors. This summer, the Visitor Center was open seven days a week. In addition to daily ranger programs, visitors often had the opportunity to interact with park staff and interns through staffed pop-up experiences.

IRKPA and KEWE joined forces at the 2024 Copper Country Strawberry Festival in Chassell in July interacting with hundreds of participants. It was a great way to reach new audiences and connect with future visitors to the park and the Keweenaw Heritage sites. We hope to have more joint opportunities in the coming years.

In addition to IRKPA aid-to-parks supporting the park's first-ever commissioned artist program (see story on page 2), it did so much more. From funding the Keweenaw Guide, the park's free newspaper for visitors, to supporting the park's public history interpretive program, the impacts are great.

Before the end of the year, the Park and IRKPA are looking forward to participating in Main Street Calumet's Trunk-or-Treat (Oct. 26), Ladies Day Out (Nov. 14) and Christmas in Calumet (Saturdays in Dec.) with programming and supplies sponsored by IRKPA funds.



IRKPA's 2025 Membership meeting will return to Isle Royale in July

Mark your Calendar! The IRKPA general membership meeting will take place at 1 p.m. (EDT) on Saturday July 26 at Rock Harbor on Isle Royale. As this is during peak time, those interested in attending are advised to make all arrangements for lodging and transportation as soon as you can. As always, there will be a social time following the meeting.

Here is IRKPA's 2024-25 meeting schedule:

2024

- Saturday, Oct. 26, Board Meeting, KNHP, 1 pm

2025

- Saturday, Feb. 22 Board Meeting, KNHP, 1 pm
- Thursday, July 24, Board Meeting, KNHP 1 pm
- Saturday, July 26, Membership Meeting, ISRO 1 pm
- Saturday, Oct. 26, Board Meeting KNHP 1 pm

Create Your Legacy

You can leave a lasting legacy for OUR Parks by making a planned gift to IRKPA.

Direct donations allow us to use or invest both the principal and earned interest in support of our operations and park priorities.

- Gift of life insurance policy or designation of IRKPA as your beneficiary
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For more information, call 906-482-7860, email executivedirector@irkpa.org or visit irkpa.org/legacy



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IRKPA is the membership-based nonprofit partner of Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historical Park. Gifts, bequests, memorials, and membership are U.S. tax deductible.

Membership Categories

Individual \$25	Household \$35	Supporting \$50
Sustaining \$100	Patron \$250	Lifetime \$1,200

Board of Directors

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KEWE Visitor Center on Fall Hours

From now until December 16, the Keweenaw National Historical Park Visitor Center will observe its Fall Hours.

The center, at 98 5th St. in downtown Calumet, is open Fridays and Saturdays from Noon to 2 p.m.

Holiday Shopping with IRKPA

IRKPA will appear at a number of holiday art shows in the Keweenaw. Support OUR Parks at the following events:

- Keweenaw Art Affair, Saturday Nov. 9, Houghton High School
- Home for the Holidays Gift Market, Nov. 22, Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts, Houghton
- 48th Annual Poor Artist's Sale, Saturday, Dec. 14, CLK Gym, Calumet