

“Building character,
confidence and community
through enriching outdoor
experiences..”



CAMP JORN YMCA

PATHFINDERS

**A 4-day, 3-night backpacking
adventure in the Porcupine
Mountains for youth ages 12-15.**

- connect with the outdoors
- learn wilderness skills
- form lifelong friendships
- foster independence

August 23- 28, 2026

**Parent / Family
Lodging
Available**

Register today at :

www.campjornymca.org

Or call 715-543-8808

13591 Zenner Lane, Manitowish Waters, WI

About CAMP JORN



Camp Jorn has been serving youth since 1953, originating out of the Waukegan YMCA until becoming an independent YMCA in 2007. For more than 75 years, Camp Jorn has provided youth the opportunity to become part of a special community focused on friendship, acceptance, character values, self-discovery, land stewardship, and independence. In 2025, we served nearly 790 children through our Day and Resident camp programs.

Camp Jorn is located on a 70+ acre peninsula in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Beautiful Rest Lake and 72 acres of pine forest provide a peaceful setting for outdoor recreation and skill development. We are accredited by the American Camp Association, upholding the national standard for camp safety and excellence.

Wilderness Tripping has a long legacy as one of the most impactful parts of CJ programming. On trail, campers grow beyond their comfort zone, further unplugging from technology and modern comforts as they overcome challenges while connecting deeply with their peers and with nature. We are lucky to be surrounded by extensive public lands throughout Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, perfect for canoeing and hiking trips. In 2025, Camp Jorn safely sent out more than 60 Wilderness Trips.



Camp Jorn PATHFINDERS

Join us for an unforgettable 4-day, 3-night backpacking adventure in the Porcupine Mountains, located in the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan! This epic journey is an opportunity for youth to connect with the outdoors, learn wilderness skills, form life long friendships and feel empowered in their independence.



**COST:
\$1,000**

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK

“The Porkies” are truly a stunning natural feature of the midwest. The CJ Pathfinders group will spend 4 days covering roughly 20 miles of backcountry from the scenic Lake Superior Trail to the Big Carp River Trail, finishing up at the gorgeous “Lake of the Clouds”. These trails run through the largest old-growth, hardwood-hemlock forest in the Great Lakes region. The trip will be led by two passionate young adults with years of experience counseling and wilderness tripping with kids. Both are certified in Wilderness First Aid and Lifeguarding.

OUR ROUTE



For more
information on the
Porcupine
Mountains
Wilderness State
Park, Visit:
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/places/v-centers/porkies>

LIFE ON TRAIL

Campers can expect to hike for up to 4 hours (8 miles max) each day of the trip. They will each carry their own packs with all the essentials, from nourishing food to water filters, tents & sleeping bags, whisper lights, first aid kits, playing cards of course, and more! Camp Jorn is well equipped with high quality tripping gear and packs are provided. We can happily accommodate dietary restrictions. See the packing list for more specifics on what campers are expected to bring.



Through this challenging, rewarding experience, campers build strength, resilience and confidence. There is an incredible sense of accomplishment from persisting through a difficult route, with the supportive encouragement of friends and mentors. Then we land at a mind-blowing scenic view or a gorgeous campsite where we can relax, cook a meal and share laughs. The opportunity to disconnect from technology and enjoy the peace of the wilderness is essential for the holistic development of youth in today's culture, and provides a lifelong sense of connection with and appreciation for nature.

Team Building is inherently built into the tripping experience, as we all work together to set up tents, cook food, navigate terrain, and most importantly encourage and inspire each other! The trip leaders will facilitate reflections each evening, which allow campers to share about their emotions and experiences on the trip and in life in general. Reflections are wonderful practices for self-awareness, space holding and social emotional learning.





PATHFINDERS IS A GREAT FIT FOR

The CJ Pathfinders program is co-ed and open to 12-15 year-olds. While the hiking route is challenging at times, it is attainable for even first-time backpackers. Campers will undergo a “Trips Training” on arrival day to help them feel prepared with basic trip skills and get excited about the adventure to come!

It is essential to consider the physical health and ability of your camper. Participants must be able to carry a pack that weighs up to 30% of their body weight. They should be in good shape to hike rough terrain for up to 4 hours each day, for 4 days. We will move at a pace that suits the group. The hike is challenging by nature, but again, challenging oneself is a valuable part of the experience!

Mental and emotional health is also an important consideration. Your camper should have basic tools to emotionally regulate and handle potentially stressful or frustrating situations - knowing that at all times they will be supported by experienced leaders. If your camper is able to generally maintain a resilient attitude, has age-appropriate social skills and the ability to make safe decisions, they will be a great fit.

If you have questions about your camper's readiness or qualification for this program, please email Lauren@campjornymca.org.

Parent & Family RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS

We know you may be traveling far to Camp Jorn's beautiful remote location... That's why we're offering discounted on-site accommodations to parents and families of campers in this program. Enjoy the Northwoods experience at CJ while your camper is having the wilderness adventure of a lifetime!

Deluxe Cabin: 5 nights for \$500

- Sleeps up to 12 Modern
- Bathrooms w/Showers
- Kitchenette

Seasonal Cabin: 5 nights for \$350

- Sleeps up to 12
- Use of shared bathhouse

Over 50%
Discount!

On-site staff will be available to lead light programming and assist with complimentary use of our canoes and kayaks. We have balls and games for use on our playground and blacktop/basketball courts. Hiking, biking, and running trails on our property connect to the Heart of Vilas County trail system. Manitowish Waters is a vibrant community with delicious dining options, live music, local artisans, and outdoor recreation abound!



Families who stay on site are welcome to join the group for our welcome dinner, Friendship Fire ceremony, and final breakfast.

Contact Lauren@campjornymca.org with rental inquiries or to reserve your spot!

Tentative **SCHEDULE**

Campers should arrive at Camp Jorn YMCA between 12pm and 1pm on Sunday, August 23rd. Please eat lunch before arrival

Sunday, 8/23

1-2 pm: Campers Arrive!
2 pm: Welcome & Group Expectations
2:30 - 3:30 pm: Icebreakers and Low Ropes Teambuilding
3:30-5:30: Trips Training
5:30: Dinner
6:30: Games! & pack for trip
8:30: Showers/Get ready for bed
9:00 pm: Group Reflection
10:00 pm: Lights Out!



Monday, 8/24

8:00 am: Breakfast
9:30 am: Pack out gear
10:30 am: Shuttle Departs for Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park!
12:00 Arrival at Lake Superior Trailhead
Hike to Lake Superior Campsites 11&12. 7 miles of beautiful shoreline!

Tuesday, 8/25

Hike to Big Carp River sites 4&5. Two gorgeous waterfalls!

Tentative **SCHEDULE** Continued

Wednesday, 8/26

Hike to Lake of the Clouds sites 3 & 4. Possibly the most gorgeous sites in the park! Beautiful scenic route.

Thursday, 8/27

Enjoy LOC, then an easy short hike to the pick-up point
11 am: Shuttle Pickup 12:30 pm: Arrive back at camp!
Hot Lunch! 1:30-3:00pm: Rest & Shower 3-5:30 pm:
Pack In gear 5:30 pm: Dinner 6:00 pm: Rec Square/Field
Freetime 7:00 pm: Trip Reflection & Skit Creation 8:00
pm: Friendship Fire - share skits, stories and thank yous
- Families welcome! 9:30 pm: Cabin time, R&R, pack
bags 11:00 pm: Lights Out

Friday, 8/28

8:00 am: Breakfast - Families welcome!
9:00 am: Check out & Goodbyes!



Lake of the Clouds,
Porcupine Mountains