

An aerial photograph of a suspension bridge spanning a deep, snow-covered forest. The bridge has a wooden deck and metal railings. Two people are visible walking on the bridge. The surrounding forest is dense with evergreen trees heavily laden with snow. The ground below the bridge is a mix of dark, snow-covered rocks and patches of white snow.

# Winter Fun *and Dining Guide*

**2023-2024 Travel Guide for The Northwoods**

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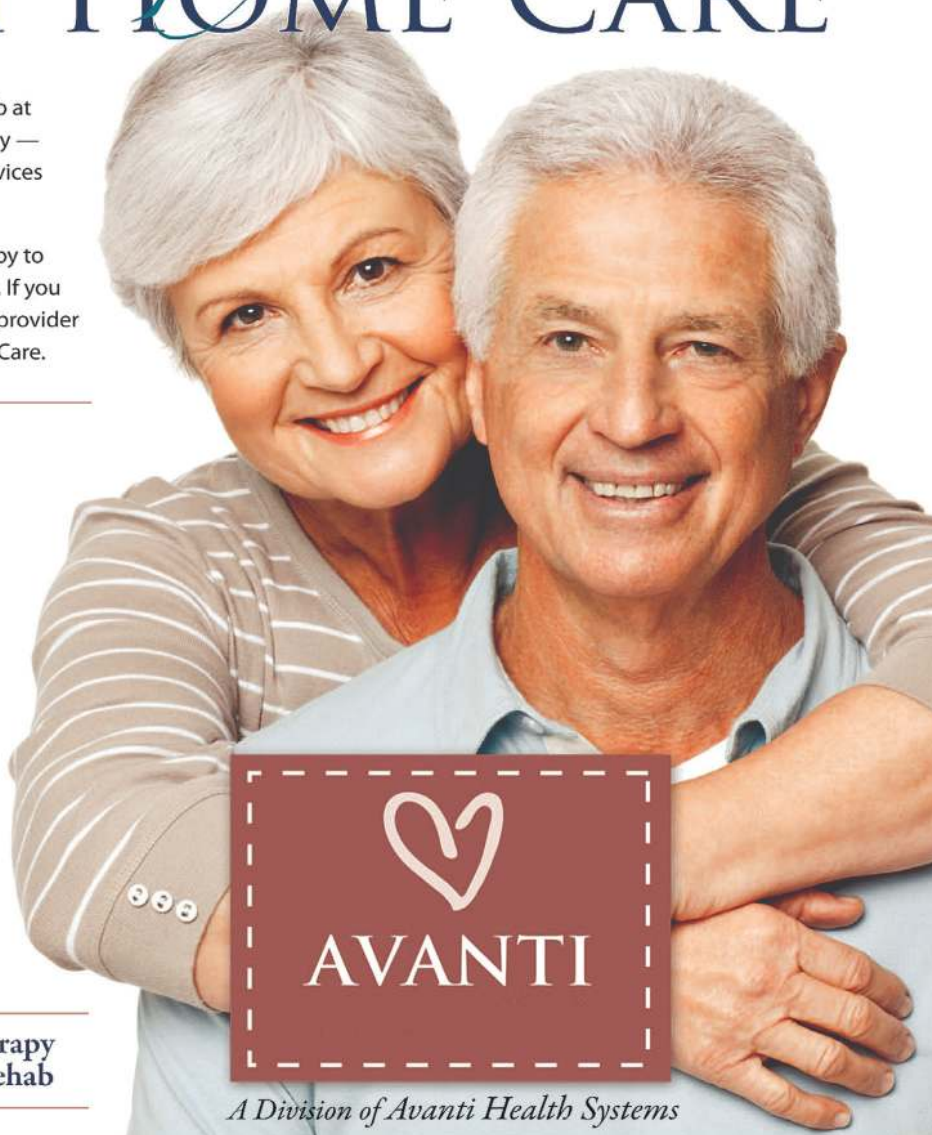
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## Winter Fun and Dining Guide

This visitors and dining guide is published annually by The Globe.

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**COVER PHOTO:** Agate Falls, Ontonagon County





# Welcome to Winter Wonderland

The Gogebic Range is full of natural beauty all year around, but its deep snow winters remain the most popular time of the year for visitors.

Snowmobilers, downhill skiers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers find a myriad of winter playland opportunities. More than 400 miles of constantly groomed snowmobile trails, an array of alpine ski resorts, many kilometers of groomed Nordic ski trails and an abundance of wilderness to snowshoe through await outdoor enthusiasts.

A long weekend of fun in the snow won't be enough for any family — plan a week on the Gogebic Range and visit the many shops and restaurants that dot the main streets of Ironwood, Hurley, Bessemer, Wakefield and surrounding towns. Take in a rare treat at one of Ironwood's live theaters — many shows are performed by local talent.

Discover the area's rich history and how it turned from rugged wilderness where immigrant miners and loggers carved out a life in bustling communities in the 1880s, to the quaint small-town America it has become by touring one or all of the

local history museums. The Iron County Historical Society's Museum is open year-round in Hurley and downtown Ironwood features a museum in Depot Park.

Skiers can try one hill after another or choose the one that suits them best, including the college-run Mt. Zion on the campus of Gogebic Community College, Big Powderhorn Mountain, Snowriver Mountain Resort's Jackson Creek Summit and Black River Basin, Whitecap Mountains, or the Porcupine Mountains.

Bundle up and go inside to the Pat O'Donnell Civic Center, also on the college campus. The civic center has open ice-skating hours throughout the winter. A snack bar is available. While on the GCC campus, try snow tubing down Mt. Zion.

There are lodging options for any budget or taste and eateries found nowhere else. Seeing and experiencing the Gogebic Range covered with snow is proof that family vacations don't require beaches and warm temperatures.

Rather than hibernating through winter, embrace and enjoy the season and its snow at any number of events or venues across the Gogebic Range.



# Snowriver Mountain

## Jackson Creek Summit & Black River Basin

Snowriver Mountain Resort, which exists in two neighboring townships in Gogebic County, includes two mountains, 400 skiable acres, 56 trails and three terrain parks.

Jackson Creek Summit is in Wakefield Township, and its trails are open seven days a week. The site's Sugar Maple Chalet includes Jack's Bar and Grille, with pub fare and a new slope-side patio on the main floor. The chalet also includes a retail shop, an area for equipment rental, and an upstairs cafe. The Jackson Creek Summit

Lodge also offers the Legacy Restaurant, Dudley's Bar and a health spa and pool. At the bottom of the slopes is the Creekside Bar, which also serves quick-serve food.

Black River Basin, in Bessemer Township, is open during the winter season from Thursday through Sunday and special holidays. It includes the Gabbro Grille, with a wrap-around deck and second-floor views of the slopes. The chalet also includes its own ski shop and a main floor cafe.

Both sites offer regular live music,

as well as an ongoing calendar of events. Tickets are good for both mountains with a free shuttle service provided.

Throughout the resort, a series of upgrades already have occurred or are underway, including remodeling of some lodging and common areas.

The resort has announced that, as of this season, it will feature the first high-speed detachable chairlift in the Upper Peninsula. At Jackson Creek

**Continued on page 8**



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#### From page 6

Summit, the new lift is replacing the Chippewa Double, the Leelinaw Triple and the Voyager Quad chairs with the only 6-person chairlift in the region. The new unit will be called the Voyageur Express and will provide a three and one-half minute trip to the top of the hill.

Thanksgiving is the targeted opening for this season, but it will depend on the weather. Management promises a “passionate” commitment to making snow as needed, with new guns also installed.

Snowriver Mountain Resort is the largest ski hill in the U.P. It operates under the umbrella of Midwest Family Ski Resorts, which also includes Lutsen Mountains in Minnesota and the Granite Peak Ski Area in Wisconsin. Those ski hills also are the largest in each of their respective states.

In warmer months, Snowriver Mountain Resort also will offer other activity, including motorcycle events, weddings, and color rides.

For more information, visit [snowriver.com](http://snowriver.com).



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# Big Powderhorn Mountain



Advertised as the “ski capital of the Midwest,” Big Powderhorn Mountain Resort offers 253 acres for skiing. Its 45 trails accommodate all skill levels, including beginners, and can be accessed through nine double chairlifts and a beginner handle tow. Terrain park features also are available.

The resort’s Gun Barrel Lodge operates as the main base of operation with 20,000 square feet. It includes a ski shop, options to rent equipment, and the opportunity to sign up for ski lessons. An introductory package includes lessons, rentals and lift tickets. Lessons can span from one to two hours or more.

The main lodge also offers a cafeteria and coffee shop on the second floor and a bar and grill on the third floor. The neighboring Caribou Lodge offers a broader menu of lunch and supper options and also includes a pool area for lodge guests. In between the Gun Barrel and Caribou lodges is



an expansive outdoor patio with a fire pit.

The resort also has one sun deck next to the finish line on the race hill and a second one at the top of lift 8, with a view of the mountains. Two wine huts can be rented for the day

with wood stoves, fireplaces and decks.

Lodging options include more than 40 ski homes available for rental, ranging from one to six bedrooms.

**Continued on page 12**

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## From page 10

Many of them are located trailside for easy access. Some are tiny homes.

Even in winters with less snow than usual, Big Powderhorn produces artificial snow so that winter fun can continue regardless of the weather.

Plans are being made for special events through the season, such as New Year's Eve fireworks.

Finally, members of the Big Powderhorn Ski Patrol regularly cruise the hills to better assure everyone's safety. The patrol is a unit of the North Central Region of the Central Division of the National Ski Patrol.

As a bonus, cross country skiers may access the Wolverine Nordic Trails from the top of the hill, where parking also is available. Snowmobilers also are welcome and can access an east/west trail from Powderhorn Road, where they can move along the road's shoulder.

For more information, call 800-501-SNOW (7669) or see [bigpowderhorn.net](http://bigpowderhorn.net).



# Ontonagon Ski Areas

## **Porkies Ski Area**

The Porcupine Mountains Ski Area is part of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. It dates back to 1940 as one of the first alpine ski areas in the Midwest.

This ski area — which boasts a 670-foot vertical drop — is known for its view of Lake Superior from the top of the hill, as well as for an abundance of natural, lake-effect snow. No artificial snow is made here.

The Porkies has 250 acres on which to ski, along with about 20 runs, a chairlift and a rope tow.

Beginners should start with the bunny hill, which is right next to the chalet. The next step from there is one of the easy slopes that offer scenic views and extended descents. The Hidden Valley run is on the east side, and the Sunset run is on the west.

Intermediate skiers should try the following tours: Ridge Run, Snow Valley, Hiawatha, Copper Run, Superior Plunge or Hemlock.

For experts, there are three black-diamond trails (Agate, Cuyahoga and Ojibway) and five challenging double black-diamond runs (The Jungle, Agate Glades, Porcupine Glades, Porcupine Plunge and Hemlock Glades).

A terrain park also is available.

During the winter season, the hill typically is open from Fridays through Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lift tickets are available for full or half-days or for the full season. Some deals include complementary free skiing days at Michigan ski resorts such as Mt. Bohemia and Marquette Mountain.

The Porkies Ski Area is under the management of the state Department of Natural Resources, which monitors all outdoor activity. The DNR has contracted the direction of indoor chalet activity — including concessions, the ski shop and rentals — to Simple Adventures.

On the deck of the chalet is a fire pit, while the inside includes several fireplaces.

The ski hill hosts popular annual events such as the Snowburst Winter Carnival and the Midwest Telefest. Check local media for related announcements.

The Porkies Ski Area is accessible from M-64/107th Engineers Memorial Highway. Note that South Boundary Road is closed in winter months. Ample parking is available near the chalet.

Additional activities are available in the way of trails for snowshoeing and cross country skiing near the parking area.

Porcupine Wilderness State Park has lodging options, but additional choices are available through local hotels.

In warmer months, the ski area remains busy with hiking; fall color rides; a Frisbee golf course; and the annual Porkies Music Festival, which is organized by Friends of the Porkies.

The ski hill's website includes additional details, such as snow conditions, a ski hill map and a webcam. For more information, call 906-885-5209 or 906-885-5275.



## **Adventure Mountain in Greenland**

Ontonagon County now has a new location for snow sports at Adventure Mountain, also known as Greenland Ski Hill. Actually, it's more like a revival because the site in Greenland Township had been open for years in the previous century until the tow rope broke in 1990.

In 2015, grant funds from the state Department of Natural Resources, as well as from the Portage Health Foundation, became available. Local businesses and individuals offered additional donations, with Greenland Township officials supplying cooperation. But then, 2018 flooding in the Keweenaw Peninsula, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, took priority over the work needed to restore the site.

As of the start of 2021, however, it was possible to reopen the ski area three decades after it had closed. A new tow rope had been installed, and other upgrades had been enacted. Skiing, snowboarding and sledding commenced, as well as skating in a separate, enclosed structure.

During winter months, Adventure Mountain is open on Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The chalet offers food, as well as equipment rentals.

In the summer, the location is the site of biking trails and the Ontonagon County Fair.

The Mountain Lions Club, a non-profit entity, has steered the rejuvenation of Adventure Mountain and continues to manage the operation.

Ontonagon County is in the Eastern Time Zone.

# Whitecap Mountains



Whitecap Mountains Resort in Upson, Wisconsin, features nearly 50 ski runs across three different mountains, along with four chairlifts and a new Magic Carpet lift in the beginner area. Spanning 400 acres, the resort receives an average of nearly 17 feet of snow each season, thus giving it claim to “Wisconsin’s Snowiest Resort.”

Whitecap Mountain gives the resort its name and is the only one of the three mountains on the Penokee Range visible from the resort hotel. It is great for an introductory ski run. Thunderhead Mountain is another introductory-level hill that is perfect for families. Several intertwining runs allow skiers to move from run to run, depending on weather and the angle of the sun. By contrast, Eagle’s Nest Mountain is the resort’s gateway to the “Legendary South Side.” Here, you will find several Double Black Diamond runs, in addition to the resort’s greatest concentration of expert trails. The Dragon Trail was named one of the Top Ten Expert trails by one ski publi-



cation a few years back. As of this year, it is now joined by two new DBD runs called Djevel and Ore Chute, along with a new intermediate trail and two new beginner trails.

Whitecap staff members create snow nightly as needed, and trails are monitored by local members of the National Ski Patrol. Located between the North Pole and Midway lift stations is the resort’s Wine Hut, which fea-

tures a full menu of drinks, including hot wine, and a limited food menu.

Housing at Whitecap Resort can accommodate about 400 guests. Trail-side condominiums with ski-in and ski-out lodging are among the options. The resort hotel includes a bar, restaurant, pool and hot tub, and its rooms have options such as lofts, attached kitchens and jacuzzi suites.

Among special deals this year is a

cooperative agreement between Whitecap and Mount Bohemia in Lac La Belle, Michigan. Season ticket holders at either resort will be able to enjoy one free ski day at the other resort.

Near to Whitecap Mountains Resort are additional recreational options in the way of cross country skiing and snowmobile (or ORV) trails. As a 4-season facility, the resort also features an 18-hole golf course and borders Weber Lake, where guests can enjoy boating and fishing in warmer months. Across the lake is Weber Lake Park, run by the Iron County Forestry and Parks Department.

Located on the western end of the Lake Superior Snowbelt, Whitecap is directly southwest of Hurley, off Wisconsin 77 on County E. For more information, call 715-561-2227 or visit [whitecapresort.com](http://whitecapresort.com).



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# Mt. Zion Ski Area

## Gogebic Community College



The Mt. Zion Ski Area is located on the Ironwood campus of Gogebic Community College. Weather permitting, it will open on Dec. 22 for the 2023-2024 season.

This ski area is the oldest recreational complex in Big Snow Country, dating back to 1937, and it is known for skiing for all ages and family fun. Many locals learned to ski here.

All GCC students can ski and snowboard for free, as can people of age 62 and older. The facility will have expanded hours during the Christmas break. Mt. Zion will be open seven days a week during that period, but it will close on Christmas Day.

Ski lessons at affordable rates are a large part of the Mt. Zion Ski Area. The facility, which attracts around 8,000 students each year, offers elementary instruction programs for fourth, fifth and sixth graders at Ironwood Area Schools. It also offers a tiny tot course for children five to eight years old. The tiny tot course will begin in January, and enrollment is limited.

In addition to the skiing and snowboarding slopes, Mt.

Zion features a tubing hill and a terrain park for tricks.

Ski racing is also popular on Mt. Zion, especially with young skiers.

On Dec. 15 and 16, the 2023-2024 AMSOIL Championship Snocross will hold its opening round of the year at Mt. Zion, as well as the AMSOIL Dominator, a Pro and Pro Lite showdown with a \$10,000 payday. The dominator is being promoted as a family-friendly event with autograph sessions, pit passes, a coloring zone, and special guest appearances.

The hill is the home of the college's Ski Area Management program, which is one of only two such programs in the nation. Students in the SAM program run all aspects of the ski area, from equipment rentals to lift operations, grooming, snow-making and ski instruction. This provides students with valuable skills and experience for future employment in the field.

As part of the SAM program, students receive technical and academic study and internships at major ski resorts throughout the country. They earn credits through onsite training courses such as ski area layout, snow-

making fundamentals, emergency response and slope grooming. The program also includes classroom courses, such as in business-related issues. Graduates of the program may choose to pursue a bachelor's degree in ski area business management through an agreement with Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

For more information, visit [Gogebic.edu](http://Gogebic.edu).



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## Gogebic County

### Wolverine Nordic Ski Trails

Wolverine Nordic Ski Trails in Ironwood offers 24K of ski trails, including several loops, for classic striding and skate skiing. There are five marked snowshoe trails and 7K of snow bike trails.

Lake-effect snow provides the area with snow that tends to arrive earlier, pile deeper, and last longer than anywhere else in the Midwest. The rolling terrain offers trails for all levels of skiing, snowshoeing and snow biking.

Ski and snowshoe trails can be accessed at the chalet trailhead at 5851 Sunset Road. There is also a trailhead behind Aspirus Ironwood Hospital. The Snow Summit Road trailhead provides access to snow bike trails, as well as ski and snowshoe trails.

The warming chalet offers a view of the historic wooden ski jump structure that was part of the club's original activities.

Wolverine Nordic Ski Club volunteers maintain and groom the trail system. This nonprofit group promotes Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, biking and lifelong physical fitness. The club also supports youth ski and other programs in area schools and community organizations.

Wolverine will host a women's learn-to-ski event on Dec. 16. It also will host the Individual Snowshoe Challenge for three weeks from Feb. 3-Feb. 25. The challenge can be done on your own time, either individually or as a team.

Thanks to a grant from the Gogebic Range Health Foundation, Wolverine also has developed a new trailhead behind Aspirus Ironwood Hospital, along with a short access loop to that trailhead on part of the old Ottawa Trail.

Donations and membership fees help to maintain and groom trails, to service equipment and facilities, and to provide operating funds.

For more information, visit [wolverinenordic.com](http://wolverinenordic.com) or email [wolverinenordic@gmail.com](mailto:wolverinenordic@gmail.com).

### ABR Trails

Active Backwoods Retreats Trails are located in Erwin Township, south of Ironwood at E5299 W. Pioneer Road.

ABR offers over 100K of trails groomed for classic and skating styles. The trails run through woods and along the Montreal River in the area of Ironwood's Norrie Park.

Dogs are welcome on some of the trails, which are designated on ABR's map.

Snowshoe trails totaling 16K also exist.

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A range of fee options are available, along with lodging accommodations, ranging from rustic cabins to luxury houses.

Trails open at 9 a.m. seven days a week during the ski season. Trails close between 4 to 6 p.m., depending upon when it gets dark.

Ski equipment can be rented or purchased at ABR's ski shop. The chalet, back room and wax room are open at 9 a.m.

ABR Trails typically is part of the annual Sisu Nordic Ski Fest. See sisuskifest.com for details.

See abrski.com for details, continuing news, and possible changing conditions.

### Iron Belle Trail

The continued growth of the Iron Belle Trail gives winter silent sport enthusiasts one more option when ex-



ploring the western Upper Peninsula.

So far, the trail runs more than nine miles from the Montreal River, bordering Hurley and Ironwood, to Ramsay

Road in Ramsay.

Open to snowshoeing and back-

continued on page 20

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country cross country skiing, this trail will be difficult for traditional cross country skiers due to much of it being un-groomed.

The trail, which follows the old Soo Line Railroad right-of-way, runs mostly through wooded areas, but it crosses numerous intersections that offer multiple access points, so as to tailor the length of the excursion. The trail experience is enhanced by crossings over historic, old railroad bridges.

The Depot Park Trailhead is at 150 N. Lowell St. in downtown Ironwood. The Moore Street Trailhead is just south of the stop light on U.S. 2 in Bessemer, and the Ramsay Trailhead is across Ramsay Road from Memorial Park and the Keystone Bridge.

The section from Bessemer to approximately Country Club Road may be groomed on a volunteer basis. This section has been described as a flat tract that will be ideal for entry-level cross country skiers. It also should be good for experts who wish to practice their double-poling technique on a flat, fast course.

Sometimes referred to locally as the Western Gateway Trail, it is the western end of a more grandly schemed Iron Belle Trail, which promoters hope eventually will link Ironwood to Belle Isle Park in Detroit.

Friends of the Iron Belle Trail, composed of local trail enthusiasts, help to maintain the trail and also coordinate occasional trail activities. They also have a Facebook page.

The trail is also part of what organizers hope becomes a regional trail system that is planned to run between ski trails in Montreal, Wisconsin, and Sunday Lake in Wakefield, with spurs connecting to other trails and points of interest locally and in northern Wisconsin.

### Miners Memorial Heritage Park

Established in 2010, the Miners Memorial Heritage Park offers quick and easy access to cross country skiing and snowshoe trails in the center of Ironwood. The main trailhead is located at the Ironwood K-12 School's baseball field at 775 E. Ayer St.

Volunteers with the Friends of Miners Memorial Heritage Park regularly groom 5 kilometers of easy to intermediate ski trails winding through the 170-acre park. Headlamps are recommended for night skiing.

For snowshoeing, the park provides another 10 kilometers of packed trails that climb to the high point overlooking two ponds left from Ironwood's mining past. One trail leads back into downtown Ironwood.

This park is maintained by the Friends of the Miners Memorial Heritage Park. All funds to create and maintain the space are raised by the Friends, through donations and fundraising events, including a candlelight snowshoe each December.

Donations for trail use can be made at the trail head or by visiting the Friends of Miners Memorial Heritage Park at <https://fmmhp.com>.

### Wakefield Trails

The Split Rock Trails Association has a trail system available for snowshoeing in Wakefield. Depending on volunteer help, the trails are tracked, but not formally groomed. For this year's trail access point, call the city of Wakefield at 906-229-5131.

Although there are no groomed trails at the city's Eddy Park, on Sunday Lake, some local residents also snowshoe in that area.

### Watersmeet

On the eastern end of Gogebic County, Watersmeet offers rolling hills and what it promises is "some of the best cross country skiing in the Midwest." Snowshoeing is allowed on some of the trails. Call 906-358-4766 for more information.

The Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center in Watersmeet has a small selection of free snowshoes, with which to explore an "interpretive trail" within the forest on that property. Call the Ottawa Interpretive Association at 906-358-4724 for more information about the trail, which is four-tenths of a mile and described as easy to intermediate.

The center also offer ski conditions.

### Sylvania Wilderness

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Continued on page 22

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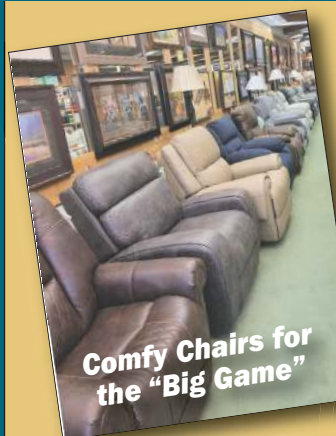
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The Sylvania Wilderness provides 26 miles of ungroomed trails that feature old growth forests along a myriad of lakes. Many of the trails connect with two groomed trails outside the wilderness (the Sylvania Wilderness Outfitters Ski Trails in Michigan and the Land O'Lakes Ski Trails in Wisconsin).

The Sylvania Wilderness website warns that cell phones rarely work in the wilderness. It recommends that all persons exploring the trails take with them the following survival equipment: a good topographical map and compass, water and high-energy trail food, appropriate cold weather clothing, a first aid kit, whistle, flashlight, pocketknife, waterproof matches, lighter, and a candle for use as an emergency fire starter.

For more information, visit the Sylvania Wilderness website.

## Lake Gogebic

According to the Lake Gogebic Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Gogebic State Park also has cross country ski trails on the west side of the lake, off of M-64. For more information, call the park at 906-842-3341.

## Ontonagon County

### Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

On the shore of Lake Superior, the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park offers 42K of cross country ski trails, as well as snowshoeing throughout the park.

Skis and snowshoes are available for rent at the Porcupine Mountains Ski Area chalet, which also includes fireplaces and a café during open hours on long weekends.

Describing the region as "wild and gorgeous," the park website notes the following three major options:

—Ski Area Trails: These trails are groomed for cross country skiing, but snowshoers may use the same paths as long as they stay to the side of the groomed portion. A variety of loop lengths are available via Nonesuch Trail, Log Camp Trail, Deer Yard Trail, etc. Big Hemlock Trail offers views of Lake Superior, and Union Spring Trail includes Michigan's second-largest natural spring.

—Lake of the Clouds: M-107, also known as 107th Engineers Memorial Highway, leads to Lake of the Clouds, a must-see viewing area for many tourists. Its access road is not open in winter, but a snowmobile trail leads to the lookout, and snowshoers may walk next to that trail, which park officials warn includes a "serious climb."

—Backcountry Trekking: The overall park includes 60,000 acres of forest and waterfalls. Park officials, however, warn snowshoers to be mindful of the dangers in exploring the forest without the benefit of a groomed path.

Persons wishing guidance in their adventures may register for free two-hour snowshoe hikes that start with a chairlift up the Porkies Ski Hill by calling 906-885-5206. The park also offers candlelit snowshoe hikes with bonfire breaks.

Continued on page 23

For general trail information, call 906-885-5209 or see the Porkies website.

### Bergland

The 3.2-mile Bergland Ski Trail is one mile north of Bergland, off M-64. According to the Ottawa National Forest website, the trail promises "scenic hardwoods and pockets of hemlock," along with the possibility of seeing white-tailed deer, other winter mammals and songbirds.

An auxiliary trail loop of 3.4 miles includes hills and short slopes of medium difficulty. The trail is groomed on a weather-permitting basis, and skiers are encouraged to call the Ontonagon Ranger District at 906-884-2085 for grooming conditions.

The Bergland Ski Trail includes no warming hut.

### Mass City

Located in Greenland Township, Mass City lies in the foothills of the Porcupine Mountains and offers a cross country ski trail that includes parts of the Ottawa National Forest.

According to the ONF, the Old Grade Ski Trail — considered easy to navigate — is located at Courtney Lake, eight

miles east of Mass City on M-38. This 4.2-mile long trail includes mild slopes and parts of a historic, wooded railroad grade that was used for logging during the turn of the previous century. The trail provides a shorter two-mile loop as well.

Before using this trail, which has no warming hut, call the Ontonagon Ranger District at 906-884-2085 for a status report.

## Iron County, Wisconsin

### MECCA Trails

MECCA Trails (Mercer Cross Country Ski Club, Inc.) in Mercer, Wisconsin, maintains 21K of cross country skiing trails that are groomed regularly for classic and skate skiing techniques. Terrain is suitable for those of all abilities.

The trails also include three miles of looped, ungroomed snowshoe trails through forest and wetlands. The 2-mile Mercer Springs Trail connects with the 1-mile Klondike Trail. Trails are well marked, and the terrain has rolling hills.

The MECCA Cabin Trailhead, at 4686 N. Fierick Road, is a full log chalet that is heated by a wood stove and includes

Continued on page 24

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benches, tables, a wax bench, changing room and vault toilets. The chalet is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the winter season.

The Flowage Trailhead, off Joe's Shack Road, is at Little Turtle Flowage and Waterfowl Management area, which is maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. There is a porta potty in the parking lot.

Winterfest will be held "live" at MECCA on Jan. 20. Three ski races will be held in the morning: Claire d' Loon 5K, Flowage 15K and MECCA 30K will be timed competitions for both classic and skate skiers.

The Winterfest "Virtual" format will run from Dec. 16 through Feb. 19 and will offer four race courses and a snowshoe tour. It's a great alternative for someone who can't make the live event and wants to ski or snowshoe



multiple events. The Claire 5K, Flowage 15K, and MECCA 30K courses will be marked for skiers. Also offered in the virtual format will be the

Turtle River Pursuit, which is an 11K course that is skied twice, one leg with

Continued on page 26

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classic skis and one leg with skate skis. The Pursuit is offered for individuals and 2-person teams. Times for both legs are combined to determine the fastest skiers. Skiers will keep and report their own times to be eligible for prizes awarded by age and gender categories.

The Mercer Springs Snowshoe Tour is a non-competitive, fun event for snowshoers that also runs virtually from Dec. 16 through Feb. 19. The 1-, 2- and 3-mile looped trails can be enjoyed throughout the winter.

All participants who register for Winterfest will receive a Nordic ski hat. Winners of the timed events will receive prizes, including merchandise from local sponsors.

On Jan. 27, the annual MECCA Candlelight Ski Shoe Hike event will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. As a decades-old tradition, a 1-mile candlelit trail has been offered as a family-friendly event with bonfires, hot chocolate and cookies keeping participants warm. The Candlelight is free to the public with no registration required. You can even bring your dog, as MECCA is a dog-friendly trail system.

MECCA trails are on public property owned by the Town of Mercer, Mercer Sanitary District, Iron County Forestry and Parks, and the State of Wisconsin.

MECCA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that is community-focused and volunteer-driven. Donations and memberships help to fund trail grooming and facilities maintenance.

For more information regarding trail conditions and



events, go to [www.MECCATrails.com](http://www.MECCATrails.com).

#### Uller Ski Trail

The Uller Ski Trail runs through the Penokee Range in northern Iron County and is billed as the most isolated ski trail in Wisconsin. These truly unique, remote trails stretching for 24 kilometers get some of the most perfect snow in the upper Midwest. Uller is groomed for classic Nordic skiing by the Iron County Forestry and Parks Department and has been maintained by the Penokee Rangers for the last 50 years. Thanks to these organizations and generous donors like the Gogebic Range Health Foundation, Uller has been open and free to use for five decades now.

There is a trailhead and parking area in Upson at Weber Lake at the base of Whitecap Mountains Resort, just off County E. Heading east from that trailhead are a series of three loops. These loops, constructed in 2017 and 2018, provide 6.8K of groomed trails in the beautiful Penokee Range. A log cabin warming house was added to this part of the Uller Trail in 2019.

True back-country skiing is available, extending east from the loops. The main stem of the Uller trail runs west to east, terminating in Pence at the old ball field on WI-77 across from the Do Drop In. The Krankkala Spur begins at the Lagoon Trailhead, located just north of Iron Belt, and runs north 3.5K to the main stem.

Snowshoers and dogs are welcome on the Uller, but are asked to respect the set track by staying to the sides of the trail.

Please note that Uller is a genuine back-country experience, and all activities on the trails should be done with proper planning and a companion.

The Penokee Rangers, a volunteer organization, was founded in the mid 1970s and has been caring for these

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trails since. Donations are accepted via boxes along the trail and at penokeerangers.com.

For more information, visit penokeerangers.com, norwiski.com or skinyski.com.

#### Montreal Historic Ski Trails

The Montreal Historic Ski Trails, in the former mining company town of Montreal, Wisconsin, range from easy

to difficult. These trails are perfect for all skill levels, including kids and dogs.

Interpretive signs along the trail explain many mining infrastructure developments that still exist. A new fire ring was added last year in the old mine company's Core Shack near the Rose Wreath Trailhead on Trail Number 4. Trails are extensively groomed for classic skiing and snowshoers during the winter season to provide free, quality winter outdoor recreation opportunities.

Easiest access to this 15K trail system is at the Rose Wreath Trailhead, located on WI-77 behind the wreath factory.

Members of the Penokee Rangers, a nonprofit, volunteer group for more than 50 years, groom these trails. Donation boxes are located throughout the trail system and also can be made at penokeerangers.com.

For more information, visit penokeerangers.com, norwiski.com or skinyski.com.

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# Snowmobiling

## Gogebic County

The western Upper Peninsula and northeast Wisconsin offer scenic and well maintained trails. There are literally hundreds of miles of groomed and rustic trails that run along former rail grade, wooded settings, scenic mountain vistas, and frozen lakes and streams.

The Gogebic Range Trail Authority manages around 100 miles of snowmobile trails and 20 miles of ORV trails, some of which border Wisconsin.

The GRTA system runs through the Ottawa National Forest and two-thirds of Gogebic County, thanks to cooperation from several dozen private landowners allowing access to their property.

Featured along the routes are more

than 15 bridges, including Ramsay's Keystone Bridge. Lookout points on GRTA trails include Lookout Mountain North, Bald Mountain South, the Montreal River Gorge, the Superior Falls Waterfall Complex and Gabbro Falls.

On Bald Mountain, a 16-foot metal tepee structure serves as a public warming shelter.

Parking and access points to GRTA trails traditionally have included Ironwood, Bessemer, Wakefield and Ramsay.

GRTA snowmobile routes are suffering a major blow this year from the closure of Trail 2, from Upper Blackjack Road to Chicago Mine Road near Sunday Lake. The closure of about four miles will hamper east-west traffic that once flowed freely.

Hence, snowmobilers traveling east from Wisconsin will have to use the 11S trail connector through Vilas County, Wisconsin. Some county roads also are available for snowmobile use.

GRTA, the state Department of Natural Resources, and local officials are continuing to seek alternative routes in order to reestablish Trail 2.

In general, snowmobilers should be mindful of safety concerns in relation to using public roads or attempting crossings in areas of low visibility.

GRTA is an all-volunteer club of men and women who work thousands of hours every year in hopes riders will appreciate the area's beauty as

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**continued on page 30**

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much as they do.

For updates on activities and trail information, see GRTA's Facebook page and its website at [gogebicrangeta.org](http://gogebicrangeta.org). A county snowmobiling map from the state Department of Natural Resources is available on the website.

Gogebic County snowmobiling trails may open on Dec. 1, depending on snow conditions.

### Lake Gogebic Trails

Shared by Gogebic and Ontonagon counties, Lake Gogebic offers a wealth of snowmobiling trails in the lake region.

Members of the Bergland-based Lake Gogebic Area Groomers maintain roughly 150 miles of groomed trails.

For more information, visit [gogbi-careagrooming.com](http://gogbi-careagrooming.com), as well as the group's Facebook page.

For trail routes, visit [lakegogebic.com](http://lakegogebic.com).

### Watersmeet

The Watersmeet-based Thunder Riders Snowmobile Club works to groom more than 70 miles of snowmobile trails on national, state and private forest land in that area.

Sometimes referred to as the Watersmeet Thunder Riders, the club advises riders to learn the restrictions for operating snowmobiles on and off roads within the Ottawa National Forest. For more information, see [upthunderriders.org](http://upthunderriders.org), as well as the club's Facebook page.



# Snowmobiling Ontonagon County

The Porcupine Mountains and Ontonagon County are home to more than 350 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. The routes include views of wilderness, waterfalls, and lakes, according to the Porcupine Mountains and Ontonagon Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The north end of the county has trails near Lake Superior, whereas the south end has trails around Lake Gogebic, which is the largest natural, inland lake in the Upper Peninsula. Throughout the routes, you can venture deep into the Northwoods while viewing some of the most beautiful parts of the state.

The visitors bureau recommends traveling from Silver City along Trail 1, which parallels the 107th Engineers Memorial Highway along Lake Superior. The trail leads to the renowned Lake of the Clouds and includes major elevation

as you near the site. The bureau also recommends taking Trail 3 to see Bond Falls, a few miles east of Paulding.

Ontonagon trails also provide access to several restaurants, a variety of lodging options and other businesses that cater to snowmobilers. Other communities accessible by snowmobile include White Pine, Rockland, Greenland and the village of Ontonagon.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides a map of designated snowmobile trails in Ontonagon County. The map is available at [upsnowmobiling.com/trail-maps/Ontonagon](http://upsnowmobiling.com/trail-maps/Ontonagon). That website also provides reports on trail conditions.

The North Country Snowmobile Club, whose members groom many of the county trails, also has a website and a Facebook page.

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Mercer Lions Fishing Jamboree: February 17, 2024

TFFA Ice Fishing Jamboree: February 24, 2024



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# Snowmobiling

## Iron County, Wis.

Snowmobiling Iron County, Wis.

With Hurley and Mercer serving as hubs, Iron County offers more than 500 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.

Annual snowfall often exceeds 200 inches. The county serves as a snowmobiling center, with trails connecting to Vilas, Price and Ashland counties in Wisconsin and to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

With plenty of lodging and snowmobile rentals, the county comes alive with sleds during snowy winter weekends. Snow-blanketed forests filled with the sights and sounds of the Wisconsin Northwoods are what attract many snowmobilers to Iron County.

The scenic trails here are groomed by the Iron County Forestry & Parks Department, along with the White Thunder Riders and the Mercer Sno-Goers, which again was named the Club of the Year for 2023 by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs. Both of the Iron County clubs

host various events each year and make charitable contributions. One of the most anticipated is the Sno-Goers' Winter Blast, which is typically in January of each year at the club's Mercer Snowmobile Barn. For more information on either club, see [whitethunder-riders.com](http://whitethunder-riders.com) and [mercersnogoers.com](http://mercersnogoers.com).

### Iron County Snowmobiling Trails

From the Iron Horse Trail in Hurley, the ride to Saxon and Gurney covers 12 miles, with places to stop for gas, food and refreshments along the way.

A ride on Trail 3 to Saxon Harbor, with its spectacular view of Lake Superior, is a pleasant diversion for the avid snowmobiler.

A journey on Trail 17 guides riders south of Hurley along the Michigan border past beautiful Pine Lake. The trail crosses many rivers and creeks, offering excellent viewing of wildlife and the natural splendor common to Iron County.

Heading farther south, the same trail leads to Mercer, the Loon Capital of the World and a bustling small town eager to welcome riders.

Trail 77 takes a southwestern course through the rich, historic mining towns of Montreal, Pence and Iron Belt, with a unique opportunity to view the Plummer Mine headframe, the only remaining such structure in Wisconsin.

From there, a choice trail of interest is Corridor 8, which travels west of Mercer, past the Lake of the Falls scenic area and the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. This trail meanders through beautifully wooded, well-groomed trails.

Also in southern Iron County, Springstead, on Trail 182, welcomes riders to enjoy well-marked trails that wander through dense, snow-covered forests for a unique winter experience.

For 24-hour snow reports on Iron County trails, call 715-476-SNOW (7669).



# Wisconsin Winter Fun

## Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce

The Hurley area offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, snowboarding, snowshoeing, tubing, skating, cross country and downhill skiing, hiking and more.

Hurley and surrounding communities were established in the late 1800s when mining and logging were a way of life. Now a tourist destination, the area is known for fun, food and friends. Even on the coldest, snowiest of days, there is plenty of scenic, outdoor activity to keep anyone busy.

The Hurley Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Fun, Frost & Family Event on Dec. 9 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Hurley K-12 School. It will include pictures with Santa, a coloring contest, goodies, a Reindeer Walk, and the movie “Elliot: The Littlest Reindeer.”

Ice fishing is available at multiple sites in the greater Hurley area. One option is Saxon Harbor, which is located along the shoreline of Lake Superior and is beautiful at any time of year. Northern Iron County also has an abundance of inland lakes. The Gile Flowage alone spans over 3,380 acres with a maximum depth of 27 feet. The flowage is home to wall-eye, smallmouth bass, muskie, northern pike, crappie, bluegill and perch. Ice fishing tournaments are family-friendly activities wherein lifelong memories can be made.



The Hurley Area Chamber of Commerce promotes local activities and provides maps to guide visitors through miles of area trails, both motorized and non-motorized. The chamber website, [hurleywi.com](http://hurleywi.com), offers a complete, up-to-date calendar of events. For additional details, follow the chamber on Facebook and Instagram.

Visit the chamber office at 316 W. Silver St., or call 715-561-4334 for details on any of the events noted here or any other questions about the Hurley area.

## Mercer Chamber of Commerce

As the “Loon Capital of the World,” Mercer is no stranger to tourists. But even though the area’s thousands of loons spend the chilliest months in tropical sites, the town continues to offer a wide variety of events through the winter for visitors and residents alike.

The Mercer Chamber of Commerce will host a day of Christmas holiday activities on Dec. 2, including the traditional placing of a wreath around the town’s Claire D’ Loon statue next to the chamber office on U.S. 51. On the same day, the Northwoods Winter Wonderland celebration will consist of several activities in the afternoon and early evening. A 3:30 p.m. Candy Cane Christmas parade will move down the main street. Afterward, the Mercer Area Community Center will feature Santa’s Workshop, which will include a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, kids’ crafts



and goodie bags, and cookies and hot beverages.

Mercer features about 105 lakes

and a large portion of the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. These bodies of water provide great opportunities for year-round fishing and related tournaments.

Ice fishing tournaments are popular events in the Northwoods. The Mercer Lions Ice Fishing Jamboree will be held on Feb. 17 on Mercer, Grand Portage and Echo lakes. Food, beverages, raffles and games also will be available at the Mercer Community Center. On Feb. 24, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Ice Fishing Tournament will be held at Donner’s Bay Resort. Cash prizes will be given for the largest fish in several categories. Raffles, food and beverages will complete the day.

The Mercer Public Library also offers a winter respite with its charming reading room, which includes a fireplace and soft seating.

For more information, visit [mercerc.com](http://mercerc.com) or call 715-476-2389.

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# Jack Frost Festival



The Jack Frost Festival is a series of events that take place over a period of two and one-half months to celebrate winter in the Western Upper Peninsula.

The festival will kick off with the annual tree-lighting ceremony at the Historic Ironwood Depot Park on Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. A carol sing-along with a 1905 reed organ will take place, and Ironwood's Luther L. Wright High School Choir also will provide music. Refreshments will be served afterward.

The Warren Miller ski film "All Time" will be shown at the Historic Ironwood Theatre on Nov. 25 at 5 p.m. The event will be a fundraiser for local youth ski programs.

Multiple events will occur on Dec. 1 as part of Ironwood's First Friday promotion. It will be Customer Apprecia-

tion Day at Ironwood's St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with coffee and treats. Ironwood Carnegie Library will feature a "Make and Take" crafts session for children from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The day will end at the Historic Ironwood Theatre with the movie "Elf" at 7 p.m.

On Dec. 2, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Incredible Bank in the afternoon. In addition, the \$10,000 Jack Frost raffle will be drawn. Carnegie Library also will offer an open house from 5:30 to 6 p.m. with cookies and hot cider.

The highlight of Dec. 2 will be the Jack Frost Festival of Lights Parade at 6 p.m. in downtown Ironwood. Afterward, the Gogebic Range Band Christmas Concert will take place in the

Historic Ironwood Theatre.

On Dec. 3, the Ironwood middle and high school bands will present their holiday concert at 2 p.m. at the Historic Ironwood Theatre.

The Chamber Singers will present their 33rd annual Christmas concert at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m.

On Dec. 9, the LLW School choirs known as Accent! and Ayer Street Voices will present their holiday show at 7 p.m. at the Historic Ironwood Theatre.

On Dec. 13, HIT will present "The Wizards of Winter Christmas Rock Opera" concert at 7 p.m. An 11-member ensemble will provide a rich storyboard that evokes memories and emotions of past Decembers. From

ballads to rock, along with a visit from Mrs. Claus, there will be something for everyone.

On Dec. 15-16, Mt. Zion will host snowmobile racing in the form of Fire on the Hill — AMSOIL Championship Snocross on the campus of Gogebic Community College in Ironwood.

"Christmas for Kids" will take place on Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ironwood Township Hall on Lake Road.

On Dec. 17, HIT will show the feature film "The Flight Before Christmas" at 2 p.m.

At 4 p.m. on the same day, "A Tuba Christmas" will be presented by a tuba ensemble playing holiday favorites at Ironwood's Cold Iron Brewing

The Sisu Nordic Ski Festival will take place Jan. 5-7. Along with registration on Friday will be a vendor display at the Ironwood Memorial Building from 4 to 10 p.m. Races will start on Saturday at the ABR Trails in Ironwood Township and will end at Ironwood's Downtown City Square. A Fat Tire Bike Event will be held on Sunday. Sisu Dirt Crew is the sponsor.

The festival wraps up on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. with the annual "Light Up the Night" Christmas tree burn, sponsored by the Norrie Amateur Sports Club. The club collects and burns used Christmas trees in a giant bonfire as community members enjoy treats, beverages and fireworks.

The full lineup of events is coordinated by the Jack Frost Committee of the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce. Monitor local media, the chamber website and the festival Facebook page for continuing details.



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# Sisu Ski Fest



The 15th annual Sisu Ski Fest is set for Jan. 5-6 in Ironwood. Races range from the 5K Hauska Hiihto Fun Ski to the 15K Heikki Lunta and the event's signature race, the 30K Sisu.

Organizers are excited about some tweaks they've put in place for Sisu XV, including: cloth bibs (by popular demand), 5-year age groups for the 30K and 15K races, 2024 racer hat for all skiers, course improvements to smooth some sharp curves, a 5% increase in race capacity, and larger indoor warming area near the start line

The event's website describes sisu as: "A combination of stamina, perseverance, courage, and determination held in reserve for hard times."

The starting line is at ABR Trails with the "Finnish" line in Ironwood's Downtown City Square.

"Racers can expect well groomed trails that pass through

forested landscapes, ups and downs among rocky outcrops, gentle sections along the Montreal River and a former railroad grade, and a few twists and turn through the Miners Memorial Heritage Park," according to sisuskifest.com.

Registration and bib pickup takes place at the Memorial Building in downtown Ironwood from 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday and 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday. There will also be an expo at the same place from 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The 30K Sisu starts in waves for both classic and skate styles beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday with the 15K to follow, also in classic and skate waves, at 11 a.m. The 5K fun ski is at 1:30 p.m. at the city garage.

Food for volunteers and racers will be available at the Memorial Building from noon to 4 p.m. Awards pick-up is at 1:30 to 4 p.m. there.

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# Pat O'Donnell Civic Center

The new Patrick O'Donnell Civic Center, which opened in the fall of 2022, provides a lively venue for a variety of indoor winter events in its location next to Gogebic Community College at E4972 Jackson Road in Ironwood. It is also a year-round multi-purpose venue.

The new building includes improved climate control, lighting and sound. A concessions area includes lobby seating with a television showing the action on the ice, along with windows to observe skiers and tubers on nearby Mt. Zion.

The rink now has an upper-level observation lounge for guests to view the

rink from the comfort of a heated room behind plexiglass windows.

Arena seating is equipped with a handicap-accessible elevator. It is there to assist people in wheelchairs or anyone who has difficulty with the stairs to the spectator bleachers area.

The rink features local hockey games, as well as open hockey and skating hours for the general public. Skate rentals are available, and Civic Center employees are trained to sharpen ice skates. A digital jukebox allows skaters to play their favorite music while having fun on the ice during open skating hours.

The facility also accommodates

pickleball games. Participants in other sports such as baseball, softball, soccer and golf also use the facility as a practice zone.

In addition, many other community events and shows take place at the center, including craft and car shows, a resource fair, various tournaments, bazaars, and a circus.

The lobby and upper-level rooms are available for public rental for meetings and events, as is the entire facility for everything from conventions to sports events, concerts, reunions, wedding receptions, or other activities.

For more information, call 906-932-0602.



# Ice Fishing



## **Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties**

The Ottawa National Forest has more than 500 named lakes on which to ice fish.

Ice fishing on lakes within the Ottawa is permitted, except on Sylvania Wilderness special provision lakes. However, the forest has very few plowed roads that lead to lakes. Moreover, anglers need to get a Michigan fishing guide, which will help to familiarize them with all rules and regulations related to fees, seasons, species and licensing.

Snowmobilers also must be in accordance with the motor vehicle rules of the forest.

Generally, spring (May-June) is the best time for lake fishing on the Ottawa. Summer (July-August) is somewhat slower, and fall (September-October) is somewhere in between.

Stream fishing for lake-run salmon and steelhead usually picks up around April 1 except for streams with an ex-

tended trout-salmon season, such as on the East Branch of the Ontonagon River, north of M-28, or those with no closed season.

The best fishing on those streams starts around mid-September and lasts until the snow flies.

Stream fishing for resident trout is generally best near the end of the legal season, especially for brook trout, which start upstream migration around this time.

Walleyes and crappies tend to bite best under low light conditions (early morning, late evenings and overcast days).

Fish for bass, crappies, pike and panfish near logs, brush or in weedy areas.

In bright sunlight, and after storms or cold snaps, most fish tend to go deeper and are harder to get to bite. Use live bait, and fish deeper and slower under these conditions.

Feb. 17-18 will be a free fishing weekend in Michigan. In addition, vari-

ous ice fishing tournaments take place throughout the Western Upper Peninsula.

## **Iron County, Wisconsin**

With several inland lakes in northern Iron County, anglers of all ages can enjoy this winter sport. Saxon Harbor also features ice fishing on Lake Superior. The county hosts a number of ice fishing tournaments for locals and visitors to the region.

The Mercer Lions Club Ice Fishing Jamboree is always a popular event, with this season's event set for Feb. 17 on Mercer, Grand Portage and Echo lakes.

The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Ice Fishing Jamboree, formerly known as the Claus Kraetke Memorial Ice Fishing Jamboree, is scheduled for Feb. 24 at Donner's Bay Resort.

Watch chamber websites and local media for details on fishing tournaments in both Wisconsin and Michigan.

# Places of Worship

## MICHIGAN

### MICHIGAN BERGLAND

**Calvary Baptist (Fundamental).** Sunday, 11 a.m.; Wednesday prayer service, 7 p.m.

**St. Ann Catholic.** Sunday Mass, 11 a.m.

**Trinity Lutheran (Missouri).** Sunday, 9 a.m.; Bible study, Tuesday, 6

p.m. a.m. 906-575-3976.

**United Methodist.** Sunday, 11 a.m. Communion first Sunday.

### BESSEMER

**Christ Community Church of SDA.** 507 E. Cinnabar. Saturday, 11 a.m., Sabbath school, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday prayer meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**Our Redeemer Lutheran (Missouri).** E8223 Sanders Road. Sunday, worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bible studies, Wednesday, 6:30 pm.

**St. Sebastian Catholic.** Saturday Mass, 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 8:30 a.m.

**Sharon Lutheran (ELCA).** Sunday worship, 8:30 a.m. with fellowship following.

### BRUCE CROSSING

**Apostolic Lutheran.** Sunday School, noon, worship, 1 p.m. Communion second Sunday.

**Bruce Crossing Bible.** Sunday 10 a.m. EDT; adult Sunday school to follow.

**Bethany Lutheran (Wisconsin).** Sunday worship service, 5 p.m.; Bible class, 6:45 p.m.

### COVINGTON

**Bethany Lutheran.** Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

**Trinity Lutheran (Missouri).** M-28. Sunday worship, 9 a.m.

### EWEN

**First Lutheran (ELCA).** First, second and fourth Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Fellowship following worship. Part of New Evangelical Parish. 906-988-2594.

**Sacred Heart Catholic.** Mass 4 p.m. Saturday

**United Methodist.** Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m. Communion, first Sunday.

### GREENLAND

**United Methodist.** Sunday worship, 11:30 a.m.

**Greenland Seventh-day Adventist.** 31369 N. Firesteel. Saturday church service, 10 a.m. Sabbath Study, 9 a.m.

### IRONWOOD

**Apostolic Lutheran.** 326 W. Aurora. Sunday, 10:45 a.m. worship, Wednesday, Bible Study, 7 p.m.

**Assembly of God.** 2100 E. Cloverland Drive. Worship, 10 a.m.

**Immanuel Lutheran (Missouri).** Little Girl's Point, Sunday worship, 2 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

**Jehovah's Witnesses.** 1112 Superior. Sunday, public talk, 9:30 a.m., Watchtower study, 10:30 a.m.

**Lighthouse Faith Center.** 301 E. Aurora; Sunday worship, 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 6:30 p.m.

**Our Lady of Peace Catholic.** 108 S. Marquette. Saturday confession, 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.; Mass, 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 8 and 11 a.m.

**St. John Lutheran (ELCA).** E5071 Airport Road, Ironwood Township. Service on third Sunday of the month at 9 a.m.

**St. Paul Lutheran (ELCA).** 111 S. Curry. Worship with Holy Communion, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship at 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Coffee Talk at 11 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month.

## Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church



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Saturday at 4 pm • Sunday at 8 & 11 am  
Tuesday at 5 pm • Wednesday - Friday at 8 am

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906-932-0174 olopmi.org

**St. Simon Eastern Orthodox.** 226 E. Harding. Sunday, liturgy, 10 a.m. 906-932-0674.

**Salem Lutheran (ELCA).** 333 E. Aurora. Services first and third Sundays of the month, 9 a.m.

**Transfiguration, Episcopal.** 336 E. Aurora. Sunday, 11 a.m., first Sunday of the month

**Trinity Lutheran (Missouri).** E5104 Margaret. Sunday worship, 9 a.m.

**Wesley United Methodist.** 500 E. McLeod. Sunday, service, 10 a.m. wesleyumcironwood.org.

**Woodland Church (Converge Baptist).** N10234 Curry. Thursday Bible study, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10 a.m.; fellowship to follow. 906-932-1102 or woodlandcc.org.

**Zion Lutheran (ELCA).** 100 W. Midland. Saturday praise worship, 5 p.m.; Sunday services, second and fourth Sundays of the month, 9 a.m.

#### MARENISCO

**St. Catherine's Catholic.** Sunday Mass, 1 p.m.

#### MASS CITY

**St. Paul's Lutheran.** Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Weekly Communion.

#### ONTONAGON

**Assembly of God.** Sunday school, 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship, 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, youth group and adult Bible study, 6:30 p.m.

**Holy Family Catholic.** Michigan Avenue and Pine Street. Daily Masses: Monday, 9 a.m.; Tuesday, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.; confessions, Saturday, 11 a.m., and half an hour before each Mass.

**Redeemer Free Lutheran.** Sunday worship, 9 a.m., Sunday school, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday, Bible study, 7 p.m.

**St. Paul Lutheran (Missouri).** 107 E. River St. Sunday worship, 9 a.m.; Wednesday, Bible study, 10 a.m., church school, 3:30-5 p.m.

**Siloa Lutheran (ELCA).** Sunday worship, 9 a.m.; church school, Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. 906-884-2655.

**United Methodist.** Sunday, 9 a.m.

#### PAYNESVILLE

**Our Saviour Lutheran (ELCA).** Worship on third and fifth Sundays at 10 a.m. Part of New Evangelical Parish. 906-988-2594.

#### RAMSAY

**Cornerstone Christian.** Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m., children's church, following worship; Youth group on Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

**Grace Open Fellowship.** 9 a.m., worship, 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Bible study, prayer meeting, 6:30 p.m.



## Salem & Zion Lutheran Churches

**Salem - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 9am**  
**Wednesday Supper (5pm) and**  
**a Service at (5:30pm)**  
**333 E. Aurora St., Ironwood, MI**

**Zion - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9am**  
**Praise Service Saturday at 5pm**  
**100 W. Midland St., Ironwood, MI**

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- [salemlutheranironwood.com](http://salemlutheranironwood.com)
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**Tues. - 5:30pm Mass**

**Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 8am Mass**

**Sat. - 4pm Vigil Mass**

**Sun. - 7am & 11am Mass**

**404 Iron St., Hurley, WI • 715-561-2606 • [www.stmaryshurley.org](http://www.stmaryshurley.org)**

#### ROCKLAND

**St. Mary's Catholic.** Saturday: confessions, 5:30 p.m.; Mass on the first and third Saturdays, 6 p.m.

**St. Paul United Methodist.** Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

#### TROUT CREEK

**Assembly of God.** Sunday worship, 10 a.m.; Sunday school, 9 a.m.

**Trinity Lutheran (ELCA).** Rotating every third Sunday, 11 a.m. Part of New Evangelical Parish. 906-988-2594.

**United Presbyterian.** Sunday worship, 11 a.m.; communion, first Sunday of the month.

#### WAINOLA

**Lutheran.** Saturday, 5 p.m. Communion, first and third Saturdays.

#### WAKEFIELD

**All Saints Lutheran (ELCA).** Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

**Calvary Baptist.** Sunday school, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m.; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday, prayer and praise, 6:30 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception Catholic.** Saturday Mass, 6 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 10:30 a.m.

**United Methodist.** Sunday service, 12:30 p.m.

#### WATERSMEET

**Immaculate Conception Catholic.** Saturday Mass, 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.

**Watersmeet Bible Church.** Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bible study, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

#### WHITE PINE

**Community United Methodist.** Sunday, worship, 11 a.m. whitepinemimcommunityumc.org.

**St. Jude Catholic.** Sunday mass, 6 p.m. on second and fourth Sundays.

## WISCONSIN

#### HURLEY

**First Presbyterian.** Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship, Sunday school and nursery.

**Havenwood Baptist.** 501 Copper. Prayer, 9:30 a.m., Sunday school, 10 a.m., services, 11 a.m., evening service, 6 p.m.

**Range Community Bible.** Worship, 10 a.m.

**St. Mary's Catholic.** Saturday Mass, 4 p.m., Sunday Mass, 7 and 11 a.m., Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, 8 a.m., Thursday, 8 a.m., Friday, 8 a.m.

**St. Paul's Lutheran (Wisconsin).** Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Thursday adult Bible class, 5 p.m.

#### KIMBALL

**Good Shepherd Community Apostolic Lutheran.** Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Bible study 10 a.m. Communion first Sunday.

#### LAC DU FLAMBEAU

**Bible Baptist.** Sunday, 10 a.m.

**St. Anthony's Catholic.** Saturday Mass, 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.

#### LAND O' LAKES

**Hope Lutheran (Missouri).** 1764 U.S. 45, just north of County B. Divine service, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.; Bible study, 8:15 a.m. on Sundays.

**Land O' Lakes Bible.** 5937 U.S. 45. Sunday school 9 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10 a.m.; Thursday Bible study 6 p.m. 715-547-3183.

#### MANITOWISH WATERS

**Community Church (Presbyterian).** Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

**Episcopal.** Saturday: Episcopal Eucharist, 5 p.m. at Community Presbyterian Church, U.S. 51.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic.** Masses: Sunday, 8 a.m., Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, 8:30 a.m., Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

#### MELLEN

**Congregational United Church of Christ.** Sunday, 10 a.m. worship.

**Holy Rosary Catholic.** Tuesday, 5 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 9 a.m.

**Immanuel Lutheran (Missouri).** Sunday service, 9 a.m.; Bible study and Sunday school to immediately follow service.

#### MERCER

**Community Church of Nazarene.** Sunday, worship, 10 a.m.

**Faith Lutheran (Missouri).** Saturday worship: 6 p.m.

**St. Isaac Jogues Catholic.** Masses Sunday, 11 a.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

**United Methodist.** Worship in person or via Zoom, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Call Martha at 715-776-3993 or email pierponm@hotmail.com for virtual invitation.

**Zion Lutheran (Wisconsin).** Sunday, 9 a.m., Bible class, 4:45 pm Tuesday.

#### PRESQUE ISLE

**Bethel Lutheran (Missouri).** Sunday, 11 a.m.

**St. Rita's Catholic.** Friday mass; 9 a.m., Saturday, confessions, 3:30 p.m., Mass, 4 p.m.; Sunday Mass (summers only), 9 a.m.

#### SAXON

**St. Ann's Catholic.** Sunday Mass, 8:45 a.m.;

#### WINCHESTER

**Living Hope.** Sunday, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday, Bible study, 7 p.m.

# Calendar of Events

## November

Open skating offered various days and times through the winter months at Pat O'Donnell Civic Center, Ironwood, 906-932-0602.

Michigan Firearm deer season: Nov. 15-30, [michigan.gov/deer](http://michigan.gov/deer).

Wisconsin firearm deer season: Nov. 18-26, [dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/deer.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/deer.html)

9 — North Lakeland Discovery Center, Nibbles N' Knowledge: Winter Finches and Feeding Tips, [discoverycenter.net](http://discoverycenter.net)

16 — Old Depot Tree Lighting Ceremony at Depot Park, Ironwood, 6 p.m.

18 — Hurley Booster Club Christmas Craft Fair, Hurley K-12 School, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

18 — Ewen Christmas Bazaar, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Ewen Trout Creek School.

18 — Historic Ironwood Theatre film, "Barbie," 7 p.m., Ironwood.

23 — Minocqua Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk. The Turkey Trot begins and ends at the Evangelical Free Church in Woodruff, Wis. The facility is perfect for hosting the event with warm areas for social distancing and convenient restrooms.

24 — Winter Wonderland Arts and Crafts show, Boulder Junction Community Center. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

24 — Friends of the Boulder Junction Public Library cookie walk, 5 p.m.

24 — 35th annual Christmas Walk, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Features a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus carolers, tree lighting, sleigh rides and treats for shoppers at the stores. Downtown Boulder Junction. [boulderjct.org](http://boulderjct.org)

25 — Historic Ironwood Theatre, "All Time," Warren Miller Ski film, 5 p.m.

25 — Craft show at the Konteka, White Pine.

27 — Jack Frost Parade Entries Due at the Ironwood Chamber Depot office.

30 — North Lakeland Discovery Center, Build a Winder Wreath, [discoverycenter.net](http://discoverycenter.net)

## December

1 — Snowmobile trails open in Michigan, weather permitting.

1 — Christmas Music Concert at Ontonagon Theater of Performing Arts, [ontonagontheatre.org](http://ontonagontheatre.org).

1 — Historic Ironwood Theatre, "Elf" Christmas movie, 7 p.m.

1 — Children's "Make and Take" crafts at the Ironwood Carnegie Library, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1 — First Friday in Downtown Ironwood. Businesses open late with kick-off to NoEI market and Jack Frost Festival events.



1-3 — Hometown Christmas in Ontonagon. Parade, community tree trimming, dance, crafts and fireworks.

1-2 — NoEI Market and activities, ice carving contest, vendors, music, Downtown City Square, Ironwood.

2 — St. Vincent dePaul Customer Appreciation Day, Ironwood, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2 — Santa and Mrs. Claus at Incredible Bank in Ironwood from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

2 — Ironwood Carnegie Library Open House, 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2 — Northern Elves' Santa Dash, 5:30 p.m., Aurora Street, Ironwood. Registration at library.

2 — Jack Frost Festival of Lights parade 6 p.m., downtown Ironwood. Lineup begins at 5 p.m.

2 — Gogebic Range Concert Band, Historic Ironwood Theatre, 7:15 p.m.

2 — Christmas at the Crossing, Bruce Crossing.

2 — Garland City of the North Christmas parade, Ashland.

2 — Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center holiday bazaar, 10 a.m.

3 — Ironwood middle and high school bands holiday concert, Historic Ironwood Theatre, 2 p.m.

2 — Northwoods Winter Wonderland celebration in Mercer, Wis. Features: Candy Cane Parade, Wreathing of Claire de Loon and tree lighting ceremony following the parade; Santa's workshop with kids crafts, letters to Santa, and more; European Christmas market at the Pines Restaurant. Visit [MercerCC.com](http://MercerCC.com) for more information.

7 — Chamber Singers Christmas concert, 7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Ironwood.

9 — Fun Frost and Family, kid's games and family fun at the Hurley K-12 School, noon to 3 p.m.

9 — Chequamegon Symphony Orchestra, Northland College, Ashland, 7:30 p.m.

9 — Luther L. Wright Accent! and Ayer Street Voices choirs' Holiday Show, 7 p.m. Historic Ironwood Theatre.

9 — Santa visits the Marenisco Town Hall.

10 — Chamber Singers Christmas concert, 4 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Ironwood.

13 — Historic Ironwood Theatre presents: "The Wizards of Winter Christmas Rock Opera" concert.

15-16 — Fire on the Hill AMSOIL Championship Snocross at Mt. Zion. [snocross.com/mt-zion-snocross-national](http://snocross.com/mt-zion-snocross-national).

Dec. 16-Feb. 19 — Turtle River Pursuit virtual event. A 22k race broken down into an 11k classic and 11k skate segment. [Meccatrails.com](http://Meccatrails.com).

Dec. 16-Feb. 19 — Mercer Springs Snowshoe Tour, a non-timed recreational event on MECCA Trails. [meccatrails.com](http://meccatrails.com).

17 — Historic Ironwood Theatre presents "The Flight Before Christmas" kids film, 2 p.m.

28 — Winter Family Play Day, Mercer, Wis., Features horse-drawn sleigh rides, scavenger hunts, crafts and more. Discovery Center.

31 — New Year's Eve fireworks and other events at various local ski hills.

## January

3 — Superior Snowshoe Mark Fitting Annual Memorial Walk, starting at Michigan Welcome Center on U.S. 2 in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

5-6 — Sisu Ski Fest, races start at ABR Trails and finish at Ironwood's Downtown City Square. [sisuskifest.com](http://sisuskifest.com).

10 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at Aurora Club in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

19-20 — 16th annual Big Water Film Festival, Ashland, [bigwaterfilmfestival.org](http://bigwaterfilmfestival.org)

17 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at Norrie Club in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

20 — MECCA Trails Winterfest live races, including 30k and 15k classic and skate formats, and a 5k race. [Meccatrails.com](http://Meccatrails.com).

24 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at Bonnie Street trailhead just South of Dog Park off Ayer Street in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

28 — "Light Up the Night" Christmas tree burning, Norrie Amateur Sports Club, Ironwood, 7 p.m.

31 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at Miners Memorial

Heritage Park Trail Head 776 E. Ayer St., in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

## February

7 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at Schaumburg Park, U.S. 51 south of Hurley, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

14 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at Miners Memorial Heritage Park Trail Head on Bonnie Street in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

17 — Book Across the Bay, 10K Classic and skate skiing event, travels from Ashland to Washburn. [batb.org](http://batb.org).

15-17 — Mercer Lions Club Ice Fishing Jamboree, Mercer Community Center.

21 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at the Michigan Welcome Center on U.S. 2 in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

28 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at Norrie Club in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

## March

6 — Superior Snowshoe Walk, starts at the base of the Mt. Zion Ski Hill in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

13 — Superior Snowshoe Walk and Potluck, walk starts at the Aurora Club in Ironwood, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. starting times.

16-17 — COR Power Sports Race Series — XC Snowmobile National Championship at Mt. Zion, Gogebic Community College, Ironwood.





# Dining Guide

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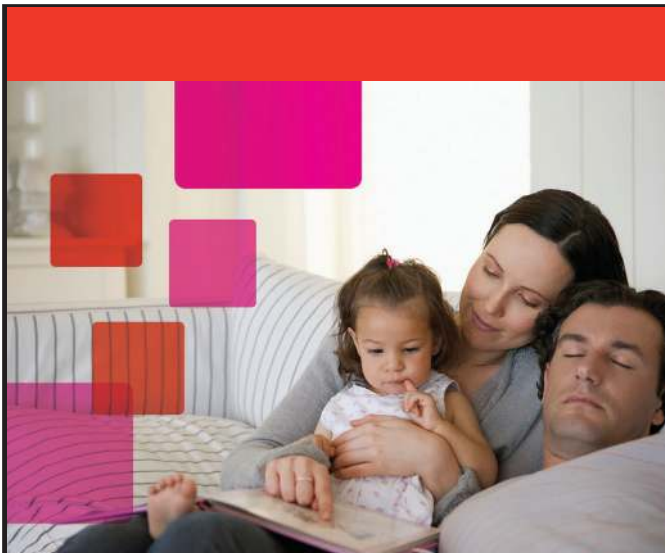
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