

Deep Portage Learning Center Director Updates Rotarians

Did you know that the Walker Area has a wonderful outdoor educational center right in our own back yard? Located east and south of Hackensack, Deep Portage Learning Center is focused on helping students and adults appreciate and enjoy the great outdoors.

Deep Portage Learning Center's Development Director Dan Ryan was the guest speaker at the Rotary luncheon meeting on Tuesday May 5. The Center serves as a residential environmental learning center during the school year, providing opportunities for young people to learn outdoor skills and natural history and participate in STEM-related activities. In 2025, more than 7000 people attended Deep Portage, including 4000+ students. Local WHA 4th grade students participated in 2 Day Sessions this year.

Funding for Deep Portage comes from the Minnesota Legislature and Lottery and grants from several organizations, which help keep user fees low. A recent Five Wings Arts Council grant created the Ojibwe Star Map Mural. New canoes were funded by a grant from the Bernick Family Foundation.

Popular annual events include the Saturday Winter Rendezvous. This event is open to the public and includes winter activities competitions. Ice Fishing equipment was improved this year with heaters and Otter hub houses.

Every season presents unique opportunities for exploring outdoors. Ryan encourages everyone to visit Deep Portage and experience the wonders of our environment. For more information, please go to www.deep-portage.org.

Dan Ryan Development Director Deep Portage Learning Center

