



KEWEENAW

4TH OF JULY IN THE KEWEENAW

Author: Kayleigh White on June 16, 2023

From celebrations of independence taking place in communities throughout the region, to awe-inspiring natural beauty and rich cultural heritage to explore... the Keweenaw Peninsula offers a unique and unforgettable 4th of July experience. Join us as we enjoy the warmth of long summer days, the smell of beachside barbecue, and the laughter of friends and families gathered to celebrate Independence Day in the Keweenaw Peninsula. Follow along for the inside scoop on where to go and what to do when visiting the Keweenaw for 4th of July.

4TH OF JULY EVENTS & FESTIVALS

From South Range to Copper Harbor, our Keweenaw communities know how to have the BEST time on 4th of July. Festivities include unique parades, fireworks over Lake Superior, fun activities for kids, tasty barbecues, local tunes, and plenty of good old-fashioned family fun! Not to mention, when you celebrate 4th of July in the Keweenaw, you're never more than a 20-minute drive away from the cool waters of Lake Superior. Beat the heat, dip your toes in the lake, and escape to a nearby trail for quiet moments in pristine Keweenaw forest.

Dollar Bay

This year's Dollar Bay 4th of July celebration is going to be a big one! On Monday, July 3rd, the morning will start with a rededication of the Honor Roll at Veterans Park Ball Field at 11AM. Following the ceremony, the action will move to the Dollar Bay High School Gym, where Dollar Bay alumni will challenge each other in exciting games of 'street' basketball. So channel your inner Steph Curry and come down to earn some local glory.

Starting at 6PM, you're going to want to bring the kiddos to Veterans Park Ball Field for face painting, carnival games, horse and wagon rides, and a bouncy house! Then, boogie the night away during the annual Dollar Bay Street Dance Block Party. This year's music will be provided by a fun local band playing the greatest hits, Rewind. Join locals and visitors as they dance into the night across from Ritchies Store while enjoying food and snacks from the Fire Hall (all proceeds go to the cause). Don't forget your camping chairs in case your dancing feet get tired.

On the 4th of July, the Dollar Bay Volunteer Fire Department hosts their World-Famous Chicken barbecue from 10:30AM to 2PM. And... they don't call it a World-Famous Chicken BBQ for nothing! For just \$15 you will be treated to the best chicken barbecue in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with sides of baked beans, coleslaw and a dinner roll! Make sure to catch the annual 4th of July Parade at 12PM, followed by kid's games at Pioneer Park.

Lake Linden

Featuring two days full of events, the Village of Lake Linden takes Independence Day seriously! Festivities in the park begin around 4PM on July 3rd and continue until the fireworks display goes off over Torch Bay at dusk. The evening of the 3rd includes live music by local performers, park vendors, and a bar set up by the Lake Linden Volunteer Fire Department (LLVFD).

Best get a good night's sleep after the fireworks because the Grand Patriotic Parade starts at 9:30AM sharp on the 4th of July. The lineup starts with the Lake Linden Police Department, Houghton County Sheriff's Department, State Police Department, American Legion Color Guard, V.F.W, and the National Guard. Following the parade, festivities return to the Village Park. Vendors and the LLVFD Bar will again be set up, as well as more live music, kid's games, races in the park, and grand stand contests. Make sure to stick around for the Veteran's Memorial Service which is set to take place at 1PM.

Ahmeek

Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire & Rescue Departments hosts a 4th of July bash at the Gabriel Chopp Park in Ahmeek Village. This family-friendly event includes a kids parade and games starting at 11AM, food and drinks, live music by the Wingnuts starting at 2PM, bingo, and a 50/50 raffle. Raffle tickets support the fire and rescue department and can be purchased from any department member throughout the day.

South Range Celebrations

South Range Independence Day kicks off bright and early the morning of 4th of July. Attend the Flag Raising Ceremony at the Community Building at 8AM before perusing the Flea Market. The South Range Pub hosts an exciting Cornhole Tournament for adults, while children enjoy Fun in the Veteran's Memorial Park from 11AM to 4PM.

Each year, Keweenaw Brewing Company hosts an open house with tours of their South Range production facility and beer tastings. Get to know the brewers who produce your favorite Keweenaw adult beverages, before heading out to catch the parade at 2PM. The day continues with horseshoe tournaments and live music, before concluding with one of the Keweenaw's best fireworks displays starting at dusk. All this celebratory fun is sponsored by VFW Post 6165, and we guarantee South Range's party is one that you will not want to miss.

Copper Harbor

Spend 4th of July in Michigan's northernmost town of Copper Harbor, MI! Copper Harbor is well-known for its beautiful fireworks display over the water, but there's plenty of fun to be had before the fireworks go off. This charming small town features a parade at 10AM, followed by kid's games in the park. This leaves ample time to grill out or explore the great outdoors before the fireworks show at 11PM.

Hubbell

The Hubbell Fire Department hosts family-friendly action on the 4th of July! The annual Hubbell parade starts at 10:30AM, followed by lunch at noon. Make sure to catch the sports program at 1PM and purchase your 50/50 raffle ticket before the big drawing. If you have some time to kill in the afternoon, a hike at Hungarian Falls may be the perfect activity to fill your day with a solid mix of celebration and nature experiences.

Gay

Gay, Michigan is a great place to celebrate the 4th of July! During the morning, The Auxiliary hosts its huge Bazaar and Sale at the Community Hall. At 2PM, people line the streets to catch the crazy, goofy fun of the Gay Parade! Grab a drink at the iconic Gay Bar or explore the historic ruins of the Mohawk Mining Company Stamp Mill before heading to one of the neighboring communities for fireworks in the evening.

Tapiola

Tapiola is a small community south of Houghton that was founded by Finnish Americans. Although the community only spans an area of about 8 miles, the parade draws in quite a crowd! The first 4th of July parade in Tapiola was organized by local resident, Robert Olson, in 2016. Since then, the parade has continued to grow, with a unique focus on the people and culture of the community. The parade ends at the community baseball field, where there are kid's games and free hot dogs for all to enjoy.

Mohawk

Mohawk-Fulton celebrations are all about the kids! Let your little ones get creative for the Kids Parade at 10AM. Then, kick back and relax while the kids enjoy fun games in Mohawk Park afterwards. Of course, 4th of July wouldn't be 4th of July without some hot dogs or burgers. Make sure to grab a bite to eat before your next Independence Day adventure.

Eagle Harbor

This quaint harbor town hosts an early morning parade at 9:30 to kick-off your 4th of July celebrations. Enjoy lighthouse views or dip your toes in the harbor before enjoying fun games and food in the park. This town serves as a great hopping off point for plenty of outdoor adventures. From here, head to Great Sand Bay for a 4th of July Beach Day or check out the festivities taking place in nearby communities.

ROUND OUT YOUR 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS WITH EVEN MORE ADVENTURES

While community events taking place throughout the Keweenaw during the first week of July are certainly enough to keep you busy, we recommend rounding out the holiday with some outdoor recreation and by exploring some of our historic points of interest. Here are a few ideas to help you plan your holiday adventure in the Keweenaw.

Visit Fort Wilkins Historic State Park

Make your way to Copper Harbor over the holiday weekend and check out the Fort Wilkins Historic State Park. This fort was built in 1844 and served as a military outpost that was intended to help keep peace during the peak of the Copper Mining Boom. The park now offers visitors a look back at life on the northern frontier during the mid-1800's when soldiers were stationed in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The buildings feature museum-style exhibits and offer a living history program during the summer months.

Plan a Beach Day

4th of July is one of the best times to hit the beach! Keweenaw days are long and warm, the smell of barbecue wafts through the air, and Lake Superior water feels refreshing for a quick dip. Grab your beach chair, sunscreen, and cooler and hit up one of the Keweenaw's popular swimming spots like Bête Grise or Great Sand Bay.

Go on a Hike

There are many great trails and nature areas to explore throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. Take in the sights and sounds of a Keweenaw summer by stretching your legs in the woods. While the streets in town may be full of lively energy and excitement on the 4th of July, the forests of the Keweenaw will remain quiet and pristine.

BE SAFE & HAVE FUN

4th of July is a time of celebration, but we want to remind everyone to be safe and have fun. Here are some of our top tips to ensure that you and your party have a safe and enjoyable 4th of July.

- Be cautious and courteous when shooting off fireworks. Be aware of local conditions related to wildfire management and refrain from using fireworks during dry conditions and no-burn periods.
- Be respectful of community noise restrictions.
- Follow best practices for campfire safety.
- Designate a sober driver for your group.
- Remember your sunscreen and bug spray!
- Be mindful of pets. Loud noises like fireworks can scare pets who may panic and get lost if off leash.
- Recreate Responsibly and follow the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace.

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day!

Author

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Kayleigh is a U.P. native with a passion for the outdoors. Some of her favorite outdoor hobbies are rock collecting on the shores of Lake Superior, springtime foraging, and hiking. She is also passionate about flow arts and can be found recording technical double hula-hooping videos throughout the scenic Keweenaw Peninsula.

Please Recycle!