Menominee Nation

Logging Camp & Cultural Museums

in the valley of the Wolf River

Keshena, WI

Menominee Culture and History Await You!

The Menominee Indian Tribe's *Cultural Museum*

The new Menominee Cultural Museum was completed in the spring of 2010. This new state-of-the-art, environmentally-controlled facility is the focal point of Menominee culture, history and language. The 6,000 square foot facility is home to Menominee artifacts the tribe has repatriated from museum through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The Cultural Museum is located next to the Menominee Logging Museum on the banks of the Wolf River just North of Keshena.

Learn more about the Cultural Museum's Gift Shop here.

The Menominee *Logging Camp Museum*

The whole family will enjoy a trip through the largest and most complete logging museum in the United States. Guides are available to explain the many old logging artifacts as you tour the bunk-house, cook shanty, wood butcher's shop, blacksmith shop, saw filer's shack, horse barn, and old time camp office.

Located on the Wild Wolf River at Grignon Rapids just below the famous Keshena Falls, the seven log buildings of the complex will bring back the roaring times of the earliest days of Wisconsin's first industry , logging.

Learn more about the history of the logging camp museum here.

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Hours, Rates and Location

The Menominee Indian Tribe's

Cultural Museum

Hours
Open Year Round
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Group tours by appointment

Rates
Adults - $5.00
Children (5-7) - $3.00
Seniors (55+) - $3.00
Groups (10+) - $4.00

Location & Contact

W3426 Cty. Hwy. VV West
Keshena, Wisconsin 54135

(715) 799- 5258

www.menominee-nsn.gov

MAP

The Menominee

Logging Camp Museum

Hours
Open May through October
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Group tours by appointment.

Rates
Adults - $10.00
Children (5-7) - $5.00
Seniors (55+) - $8.00
Groups (10+) - $7.00

Group Tours

Picnic Lunch $9.00 per person
Sub sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, potato chips, lemonade or coffee, and cookie.

Cost of lunch is added to tour rate. Please allow three hours for tour and lunch.

Cultural Museum Gift Shop

The Menominee Cultural Museum has a Gift Shop filled with authentic Native American made items. These include:

- Original artwork
- Beadwork
- Jewelery
- Local Native artist's CDs.

The gift shop also offers **clothing items**, and **traditional Native foods** such as wild rice and maple syrup. In addition there is a large array of all-natural, authentic Native made **beauty products** such as lotions, lip balms and others.

Throughout the year there are also season items such as handmade Christmas ornaments.

Cultural Museum Photos

Logging Museum Photos

The Menominee Logging Camp Museum History

The Menominee Logging Camp Museum was started by The Menominee Indian Historical Foundation, Inc. which was a non-stock, non-profit corporation started in 1968. Incorporators of the Foundation were Jerome A. Grignon, James G. Ferchette and Myron W. Grignon. The purpose of the Foundation was to organize and operate a historical logging museum, the preservation of the history and culture of the Menominee people, and the promotion of other historical projects.

Mr. & Mrs. Jacque D. Vallier were the initiators and principal sponsors of the logging camp museum. They desired to establish a logging camp museum complex to house their extensive collection of Lakes States logging artifacts, and it seemed that the site on the Wolf River where the logging museum was constructed was the perfect setting for such a museum. Through the efforts of Mr. James Frechette, Chairman of the Menominee Enterprises Historical Committee, the present site was selected which was done so because its history was vastly rich in logging lore.

Construction of the first building of the logging camp museum complex was started on September 29th, 1969 when ground was broken for the bunk-house and cook shanty. Afterward a wood butcher's shop, blacksmith shop, saw filer's shack, horse barn and old time camp office were constructed.

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The Menominee Logging Camp Museum History

It was the view of the Foundation that it was imperative that the rapidly disappearing logging artifacts of the by-gone chapter in Wisconsin history be saved for posterity. Through the years Mr. and Mrs. Vallier collected thousands of logging items which included saws, axes, cant hooks, snowball hammers and log-marking hammers and much larger items such as stoves, logging sleighs, boom sticks and even an old logging locomotive once owned by two Wisconsin logging companies. This helped to make up the largest and most complete logging museum in the United States today.

The Foundation's efforts in constructing the Museum were made possible through assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Vallier and Menominee Tribal Enterprises. The Valliers had devoted money to pay for the cost of labor and material for the construction as well as their large collection of logging artifacts. Menominee Enterprises supplied the project with logs and lumber, as well as made available the site on which the museum was erected. Finally the Foundation's project would never have progressed as far as it had without the labor and interest of many Menominee people who had individually worked on various aspects of the construction of the project.

Video Artifacts

The Menominee occupied a vast territory, over ten (10) million acres of land, of what is now Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Menominee Dreamers foresaw the coming of a light skinned people in large boats that would come into the bay of Green Bay and change our lives forever. This prophesy came true in 1634 when French explorer Jean Nicolet arrived at Green Bay (La Baye). Nicolet was looking for a route to the East. Soon after Nicolet's arrival, the Menominee would become involved in the fur-trade and a once independent people would now become dependent upon trade goods and a new way of life.

The Menominee have survived for over 10,000 years of existence in this area, and are indigenous to the State of Wisconsin. We have managed to keep a fraction of our ancestral territory for a home which is now our reservation. We continue to have strong leadership and it was this type of leadership that has taken us through much adversity. We continue to speak our language and practice our traditions and our traditional religion. Spiritually, we continue to speak with our creator through tobacco, prayers and other offerings. We will continue to survive because we are a sovereign nation, a nation that refused to be pushed from our territory, a nation that will remain strong and independent.

Here you will find artifacts that document some of our ancestral heritage.

(click to view each artifact)

Head Dress (War Bonnet)

Head Gear

Menominee Bible

Moccasins

Wooden Ladle

World War I Helmet