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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: friends and family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: July 10, 2020
Re: Update

Greetings to everyone,

First of all, Raven Hill wants to extend a big THANK YOU to all of you who continue to support the Center and its mission to connect science, history and the arts for all ages. Thanks to everyone, who keeps in touch via mail, phone, email or Facebook. Thanks to our volunteers, who continue to work on various projects, both remotely and at Raven Hill, as needed. And thanks to those who are able to support the Center financially, whether those donations are large or small. It all helps. This week, we especially want to acknowledge some longtime supporters for the \$10,000 donation that came in the mail this week! Their support for operations comes at an opportune time and is much appreciated.

The other big news is that the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) contacted us this week. They are working on plans for a new bridge over Deer Creek! Raven Hill has been invited to help with the Jordan Design Work and we will zoom with them on July 20th to explore where they are in the process and help brainstorm next steps. We'll keep you posted!



This picture is for all the campers who are usually “hanging out” here during the summer months. Don’t worry! The berry bushes will be here next summer ready and waiting for you to pick and eat! We are busy planning and plotting for a wonderful 2021 summer of Discovery Camps. Everyone here is looking forward to seeing you and we are making lots of exciting changes, all in the name of science, history and the arts. Meanwhile, we really miss you all!

Taxi Trail is “ripe” with berries

Are you a hunter of rocks and fossils? Most people are! There’s something about them. Maybe it is the fact that they are from a time long past or that they will outlast us all. Maybe it is the stories they could tell. Perhaps the fascination with rocks has been ingrained in us from caveman times, when a rock might be the difference between life and death, be it ground into medicines or used to shape an arrowhead or to start a fire. I know I can’t walk down the road without picking up any little rock that catches my eye. Rocks have been a part of my life forever. I remember helping my mother collect rocks for her rock garden. I once found a broken whetstone that the neighbor had tossed behind their blackberry bushes. The bushes formed a “tunnel”, where I used to play. And, dragging rocks home from every trip has always been “standard operating procedure”. In 2010, a rock wall was constructed at the entrance to the Great Room at Raven Hill to showcase the science, history and art of rocks!



Part of rock wall at Raven Hill

There are some “rules” you should observe, however. You don’t want to take rocks from parks and public places. Always ask before you take your neighbors’ rocks or from along the roadside in front of someone’s house. And watch that you don’t take rocks from places that might lead to erosion. Better to walk down a gravel road and see what catches your eye. You can find quartzite flash rocks, intrusions, chert, fossilized corals and even pieces of fossilized wood.

In our Ancient World, there is a Cairn Field. It’s a pile of rocks. Visitors are encouraged to build and stack the rocks, as they did in times gone by. Cairns were and still are used to mark trails. They were also used in the past to cache food. In the north, the Inuit pile their rocks in the general shape of a human and call them **Inukshuk** (ee-nuk-shuk). In fact the word, **Inukshuk**, means “to act in the capacity of a human”. They were used as hunting and directional aids, coordination points and message centers. “An **Inukshuk** in the shape of a person signifies safety, hope and friendship....**Inuksuit** (pl.) have been transformed into a symbol of hope and friendship that transcends borders to reach people all over the world. **Inuksuit** are placed throughout the Arctic landscape acting as "helpers" to the Inuit.” (Credit blog cultural elements.com) Maybe, an **Inuksuk** can help guide us through these uncertain times of pandemics and social injustice.



I built my **Inukshuk** out on my patio! He’s going to be good company! Maybe you will want build an **Inuksuk** at your house or pile up little stones as markers for the toads, bunnies and chipmunks in your yard, as my sister suggested! Send pictures!

Maybe, my **Inukshuk** will protect me from the bears!

Here are some suggestions for building your **Inukshuk**, complements of **HOW TO BUILD A WHISTLER INUKSHUK** | The Whistler Insider:

1. **Stop moving, take a deep breath, and look around.** If there are **Inuksuit** about chances are you are somewhere pretty awesome, enjoy it for a moment.
2. **Find some rocks.** Look for ones that have flat spots on them unless you are some kind of Zen rock stacking master. Choose a multitude of sizes and remember—a sturdy foundation is always a good call.
3. **Stack ‘em up.** Place rocks atop each other to form any shape or size you like. Don’t feel like your **Inukshuk** has to fit any conventions. The sky (**and** gravity and rock selection) is the limit.
4. **Be patient.** There is no quick trick to crafting the perfect **Inukshuk** other than trial and error and good rocks. If your **Inukshuk** falls over, just build it back up stronger. With great effort comes greater reward.
5. **Choose your spot.** Even though there are more and more **Inuksuit** being built each year, their traditional use has generally been as route finding markers for mountaineers and backcountry enthusiasts, so try not to lead people astray if there is an obvious **Inukshuk** trail where you are. Or, build one right beside the obvious marker. Wind, snowmelt and animals can topple anyone’s hard work so two **Inuksuit** is likely better than one.
6. **Most Importantly.** Have fun.

Hope you are all doing well. Someone the other day referred to the **3Ws**: **W**ear your mask, **W**ash your hands and **W**atch your distance. That continues to be my mantra. Stay safe everybody and keep in touch.

Cheri