



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727
(231) 536-3369 | <http://www.MiRavenHill.org>
info@miravenhill.org

Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, 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: January 29, 2022

Re: More on reflections!

Greetings, Everyone!

Little did I know that last week's feature on the interactive mirror reflections at Raven Hill would so naturally lead into this week's focus on a different type of reflection: we have been asking the community to think back, reflect and contemplate their career choices.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" That is a pretty standard question asked of kids. Whether it's a musician, an astronaut or a professional athlete, today's career goals are the stuff of dreams, as they always have been. Northern Michigan students are no different than other kids. When they grow up, they can be anything they want to be, as proven by the careers being featured as part of Raven Hill's coming exhibit, **Labor Days History Heritage and STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Artistry Mathematics)**.



Brie VanDam is an atmospheric chemist in Alaska. This image shows her sampling snow as part of her studies on the long term impacts of environmental change in the Arctic.

Photo courtesy of Marcin Szczepanski



Archaeologists reconstruct the past by excavating such things tools, clothing, and pottery. Kerri Finlayson (left) leads the archaeology career session at Raven Hill's Todd home site (circa 1860) during the 2005 annual Math Science Career Expo.

Raven Hill has been busy asking current and former "locals" to reflect and share their vocations with northern Michigan students! The Center wants to share career experiences with local youth and get them excited about different possibilities that can start right here at home and end up anywhere in the world. The **Labor Days History Heritage and STEAM** exhibit will travel to schools, libraries, other museums, etc. during the spring and fall of 2022. The exhibit is in collaboration with the Smithsonian **Labor Days History of Work** exhibit that remains on display at the Center through the end of 2022. Thanks go to the Baiardi Family Foundation, the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and a donation in honor of Diane Strzelinski for financial support of this exciting new exhibit.

So, in case you haven't been asked, this is an open invitation to Raven Hill supporters and others. If you are interested, please take a few minutes to **reflect** on your vocation and help us make this an absolutely awesome exhibit by sharing your current or former career with local youth. We are trying to wrap up the text and photos by the **end of this coming week**, so they can go to the graphic designer. If you are interested, please write a short "career spotlight" of 100 words or thereabouts, including the following:

- A short (2-3 sentences) **explanation of your career** and what it entails
- **Education needed** or preferred
- **Reach of the career** or product to the state of Michigan, nation, continent and/or world
- A **connection to northern Michigan** (born, grew up or moved here)
- A short "**quote**" would be wonderful, if possible.
- An **action picture** or two of the featured career with you actually working "at your job"

If you email info@miravenhill.org, I can send a template of the above bullets to streamline the process!

Here's an example for you. We are including this former summer resident in the exhibit! **Ernest Hemingway** spent summers on Walloon Lake in northern Michigan. As a youngster, he learned to hunt, fish & camp and his experiences here shaped his lifelong passion for the outdoors. He attended public school in Oak Park, Illinois. After graduating from high school, Hemingway worked briefly as a reporter, opting to write instead of going to college. He was a prolific author of novels and short stories, several of which were made into movies. In 1953, Hemingway received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and in 1954 the Nobel Prize in Literature. He once said, "In order to write about life, you must first live it."



Author Ernest Hemingway—public domain

We know we are on the right track with this unique **Labor Days History Heritage and STEAM** traveling exhibit, as evidenced by responses from local (or once local) professionals. "I would love to help!"—George Lasater, East Jordan Chief of Police. "Thanks for reaching out! It was a fun exercise to write this up and think of where I was in high school, not knowing where I would end up."—Cacia Lesh, Little Traverse Conservancy. "My career is definitely unconventional. Thanks for including me."—Josiah Middaugh, Professional Triathlete. "I was honored to be considered and happy to participate."—Scott Nachazel, EJ (East Jordan Ironworks). "What a cool exhibit."—Gina Thornbury, Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. "Thanks for the opportunity to participate."—Renee Guerriero, The Landing Restaurant. "Thanks for all you do for northern Michigan!"—Brie VanDam, atmospheric chemist. "Your exhibit idea is real cool and what a wonderful thing for kids to see. Kids are generally only exposed to traditional careers."—Kerri Finlayson, archaeologist.

Volunteer Nancy Hellman offered her thought on another type of reflection: "It would be nice for people to 'reflect' on what Raven Hill has meant to them." If you are so inclined, feel free to send your thoughts about Raven Hill. We would love to hear from you and add your reflections to the "Testimonials" on our website.

Currently, we are open to the public noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, plus any other time by appointment. You can email info@miravenhill.org or call 231.536.3369 for reservations. The Smithsonian **Labor Days: History of Work** exhibit is on display during regular hours or by appointment.

We continue to ask visitors to mask indoors for the sake of the vaccinated and the unvaccinated. Come visit soon!

Cheri



Raven Hill Discovery Center is supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts through a 2022 Operational Grant Award.