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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: March 19, 2022
Re: Spring is here!

Local meteorologists are predicting sunshine for tomorrow! In the northern hemisphere, the Spring or Vernal Equinox will be at 11:33 AM on Sunday, March 20, 2022, with March 21st being the first full day of spring. I plan to visit the Ancient World tomorrow at 11:33 AM to check out two of Raven Hill's time indicators. Both the pyramid and the obelisk illustrate the spring & fall equinoxes, the pyramid with sunlight and the obelisk with shadows! The Vernal Equinox signals the beginning of spring. At that moment in time, the sun crosses the equator, making the night and day almost the same length. In fact, the word **equinox** comes from Latin and means "equal night". **Vernal** means spring, so the **Vernal Equinox** is celebrated as a time of new beginnings.



Raven Hill's pyramid (right) is oriented, so that the four sides face north, south, east and west, making the "Serpent of Light" visible on both equinoxes! Just as at Chichen Itza's Kulkukan pyramid (left), the light on the vernal and autumnal equinoxes hits the steps to form a "serpent of light" slithering down the side. All we lack is the serpent's head! (center)



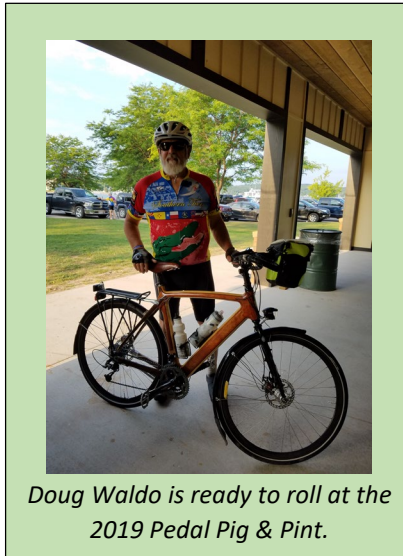
*Raven Hill's obelisk tells the date & time. Ancient obelisks were built to honor Ra, the sun-god, but the Egyptian pharaohs and scribes **also** used their obelisks as calendars and sundials. Being able to predict the future made them look all-powerful to the common people. To the left is a close-up of the obelisk shadow on March 20, 2021 at noon. The far left photo shows the obelisk and its entire shadow.*

Currently, Raven Hill is open to the public noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, plus any other time by appointment. You can call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org for reservations. Be sure to sign up soon for Discovery Camps and workshops, as well as schedule your field trips, birthday parties and/or scout groups.



Sand candles are fun & easy to make at camp. First you make a hole in some sand. Then, you tie a string around a stick to lay across the hole. Next you pour melted wax & some broken crayons in the hole. Once the wax cools, lift out your candle and remove the stick leaving the string wick!

Note: With the lifting of local mask mandates, visitors can choose to mask or not indoors at Raven Hill. However, the Center's masking policy may be reinstated, if there is a new spike in coronavirus cases, such as the BA.2 sub-variant, which is currently surging in the UK.



Doug Waldo is ready to roll at the 2019 Pedal Pig & Pint.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Cheri



* Another reminder to save these dates

AND to reserve your spot/s in camps & workshops!

*Events may be adjusted for COVID surges. For more information or to register, call 231.536.3359 or email info@miravenhill.org

- **Open now until the end of 2022** | The Smithsonian *Labor Days: History of Work* exhibit remains on display during regular hours or by appointment.
- **FREE Second Saturday** on each second Saturday in **May through October from noon to 4pm** | Free admission for families to promote "Families Reaching for Educational Excellence".
- **June 23-24 | Luke Buck's Watercolor Workshop** is open to beginners, intermediate and advanced students. This year's topic is "Rowboats". Limited to 10 students. Sign up soon!
- **June to August** | Enroll in **Discovery Camp!** Campers will experience different science, history, art, STEM and nature activities each week. Email info@miravenhill.org for dates, times & other information.
- **August 7 | Pedal, Pig, & Pint Bike Tour** for road bikers and mountain bikers | Meet at Stiggs Brewery in Boyne City afterwards for lunch. Register on BikeReg.com
- **August 11 at 7pm | Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra concert** at Raven Hill in conjunction with the Smithsonian *Labor Days: History of Work* exhibit.