



WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

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We are currently open noon to 4pm Saturdays and 2-4pm Sundays. Open holidays and other times by appointment.

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.

Raven Hill Discovery Center's Story

Raven Hill Discovery Center provides a place that enhances hands-on & lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history and the arts. Located in northern Lower Michigan, Raven Hill is a place where children and adults can link science, history & the arts with hands-on activities and explorations both inside and out. Connections emerge through exhibits, facilities & programs that provide opportunities for all ages to learn, create, grow & play. For 30 years, Raven Hill's focus on the connections between science, history & art has strengthened. Visitors experience the strands of science & technology, history and the arts interwoven through the Center's hands-on exhibits. Raven Hill Discovery Center's mission continues to guide its growth and development.

Facilities include the Main Museum, Fiber Studio, Print Shop, Wood Shop, School House, Energy House and the Evolving Technology (ET) Building. On Raven Hill's 175 acres, outdoor exhibits range from the Watershed Model; Medicinal Gardens; Earth Tones Music Garden; Beyond Jurassic Park: The Earth's Geologic History; Tree House; Wetlands Boardwalk; Taxonomic (Taxi) Trail; The Ancient World; the Viewing Platform at Deer Creek, plus the new Evolving Technology Addition that illustrates the clothing, shelter, transportation, road construction and energy from the Stone Age to the Information Age. Soon to be completed is the Solar SMART exhibit that will illustrate the energy efficiency of solar panels placed in different direction and with various slopes. The new Connections Trail with its learning stations spaced out along a half-acre pathway allows students and families to enjoy hands-on science, history and art activities in an outdoor setting.

Normally, Raven Hill's programs change with the season. In the spring, schoolchildren come by the busload to experience the hands-on museum, the exotic animals and the outdoor exhibits. Summer brings tourists and summer residents to explore and attend classes and camps. Fall and winter are filled with outreach programs into schools and libraries. The Center continues to explore ways to expand exhibits on the existing 175 acres.

Recent highlights include **NASA in Your Neighborhood** in 2016 (the only site in Michigan) & Smithsonian Museum on Main Street (MoMS) **Water/Ways** exhibit in 2018 (one of six sites in Michigan). In 2019, the Smithsonian selected Raven Hill to collaborate on a pilot project (one of ten sites in the USA) about the history of work. The Smithsonian **Labor Days: A History of Work** opened in August of 2021 and remained open through the end of 2022, along with a companion exhibit, **History, Heritage and STEM of Work**, which is still available to travel to schools, libraries and other venues. In late 2022, Raven Hill was chosen to host a second Smithsonian MoMS exhibit called **Spark! Places of Innovation**, which will be on display from August 26 to October 7 of 2023 at Raven Hill. The Center was

also chosen to participate in a program, ***Youth Innovation in Rural America***, which asked local youth to identify a challenge in their community and then use the innovation design process to come up with a solution to that challenge. Student groups showcased their challenge, innovative process and solution during an open house on May 6, 2023.

Raven Hill appeals to everyone, especially families. The Center is open to the public year round on weekends—noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, plus holidays and other times by appointment. Hours expand to include weekdays—10am to 4pm—between Memorial Day and Labor Day and for special exhibits.