

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

To: Raven Hill friends
From: Cheri
Date: September 16, 2023
Re: *Nights at the Museum*



Leroy the python was among the animals that the Traverse City group got up close and personal with Animal Room residents..

For me, it really felt like being back in the classroom this past week, as 36 Traverse City (TC) 7th and 8th grade Montessori students were dropped off at Raven Hill on Wednesday around noon and headed back to TC on Friday. I enjoyed the kids and shared some of my favorite hands-on science lessons. To the kids, their “Nights at the Museum” visit was quite the unique experience.



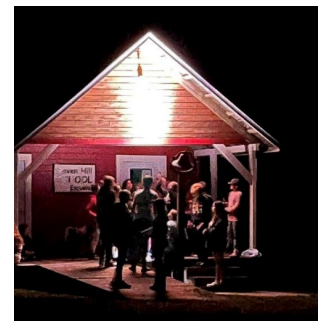
Levitating is always great fun in the hands-on Discovery Room!

Day One meant unloading food and gear; eating lunch; and investigating the Center inside and out—playing in the hands-on room, seeing the animals, exploring the Main Campus and the Ancient World. It meant working as a team cooking hotdogs and hamburgers for dinner; coming inside for the night—pushing the exhibits back to make enough room to set up tables and have a science lesson demonstrating the power of air pressure in four different ways; then bedding down for the night in sleeping bags on the Discovery Room floor.



Thirty-six middle school kids certainly fill up Raven Hill's one room Schoolhouse, leaving little room to move around!

After a questionable night’s sleep, **Day Two** started with everyone packing up their sleeping bags; putting the Discovery Room exhibits back in place; eating breakfast; more exploration outdoors, including a walk through the Evolving Technology Building; a reading and math assignment; lunch; two more science experiments—exploring carbon dioxide and water; pizza for dinner; a



“Night at the Museum” also meant “Night at the Schoolhouse” during the campfire time!

NASA problem-solving activity called “Lost on the Moon”; then s’mores at the campfire. According to the teachers, Night Two was much quieter than Night One!



The polar nature of water, with its positive and negative “ends”, helps explain the surface tension of water and the ability to pour water down a string without it dripping.



Teams of four students come to consensus during the “Lost on the Moon” scenario. Each group had to decide what salvaged items would help them the most and what ones wouldn’t help at all in preparation for traveling from their rocket crash site to the moonbase.

Day Three included breakfast; packing everything up; clean up duty for everyone; a tour of the pond; and seeing the Smithsonian ***Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America*** exhibition. Finally, the bus arrived; everything was packed away, and the students boarded the bus to head back to a more traditional school setting. Thanks Angela and Alice for making this adventure happen for your students. We look forward to your next visit!

In addition to hosting TC middle school students, TV9&10 visited Raven Hill this past week to learn more about ***Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America***. They want to share a little about the Smithsonian exhibit with their television audience. Keep an eye out this week and watch for Lifestyle Reporter, Rachel Rademacher, sharing the ***Spark!*** exhibition on TV9&10.



*After eating pizza and visiting with everyone, volunteer Nancy Hellman took time to explore the ***Spark!*** exhibit.*



Ralph the rat snake is perfectly content to be held by volunteer Darrell Jacob. Soon, Ralph will be ready to debut with visitors!

Raven Hill volunteers also got together this week. They enjoyed a pizza lunch, took advantage of some social time to catch up with each other and visited the ***Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America*** exhibition at Raven Hill. Volunteer Darrell Jacob spent extra time working with Ralph, the rat snake. Ralph comes to Raven Hill by way of Nicole Elya and family. This is Ralph’s third home, having lived its first 5 years in a Petoskey classroom.

Please note: In case your mouth was watering for the **History of Food** event, it has been rescheduled to Spring 2024! Look for the date and more details to follow, so you can get it on your calendar and enjoy foods from Stone Age to the Information Age with us in 2024!



Blueberries are native to North America and have been a favorite food for 13,000 years. Native Americans used them as natural flavoring and for medicinal purposes.



*Students can interact with the **Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America** exhibit, plus Raven Hill has added some opportunities for students to use their own innovative design skills.*

Finally, remember that school field trips begin next week to see the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit that is currently on display at Raven Hill. Field trips are sponsored by the Charlevoix and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundations, who are covering cost of admission to Raven Hill for students. All slots are filled for Charlevoix County schools, but there is room available for Emmet County students to visit Raven Hill and see the Smithsonian **Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America** exhibition, as well as experience the new and old technology displays found right here at the Center. Emmet county teachers and administrators are invited and encouraged to call Cheri at 231.675.6025 as soon as possible to make reservations for their students to take advantage of this unique experience.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of Raven Hill and its programs. We appreciate all that you do to help us connect science, history and the arts for our visitors. If you haven't made it out to see the Smithsonian exhibit yourself, please try to make time. We are open 10am to 4pm weekdays, noon to 4pm Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm Sundays through October 7th, when the **Spark!** exhibit moves to its fourth Michigan site—Benzonia Public Library.

Have a great week and come visit soon,

Cheri