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We are currently open noon to 4pm Saturdays & 2pm to 4pm Sundays | Open holidays & 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.

To: Friends of Raven Hill
From: Cheri
Date: February 11, 2023
Re: Masks then and now

For many of us, the mention of masks takes us back to past Halloweens, but the history of masks dates back thousands of years in many cultures and civilizations all over the world. Masks have been used for religious and spiritual rituals. They were and are often still used in performances and entertainment. Some masks honor cultural traditions and holidays. After the recent pandemic, as we know all too well that masks are also a protection against diseases.

The oldest known masks are 9,000-year-old stone masks made in the hills near Jerusalem. Other early examples of masks come from the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Greece, where masks were used in religious ceremonies and performances. Masks were also used in traditional African tribal rituals, where the masks were believed to possess spiritual power.



On display at Raven Hill is a Calusa Indian-style raku clay mask created by Chuck Koucky of Pine Island, Florida



This wet felted mask started out as white wool. Colors were added and finally the texture was achieved by drying the mask on bunched up newspaper.



Next time you visit, look for this wooden carved tiger mask complete with whiskers and real teeth. Donated by Martha Dodge

Design and draw your own animal mask, using features of your favorite creature. Can you turn your drawing into a real mask?

In the Middle Ages, masks were used as a form of protection against the spread of disease, like the bubonic plague. These masks often featured long beaks that held herbs or spices, which were thought to purify the air and protect the wearer from infection. They probably made things smell better too!

Today, masks are used as a tool for controlling the spread of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19. They are also common in various industries, such as healthcare and construction, as protective equipment.



Jane, Annie, Andrew and Max got creative with their wet felted masks during one of the Center's **Summer Classes for Kids** in the late 1990's. Classes will replace camp this summer and "Masks" is one of the classes being offered. Registration begins soon.

Masks come in a variety of shapes, sizes, styles, materials and they fulfill many different purposes. Overall, the history of masks is long and diverse, reflecting the various ways that people have used them throughout the centuries.

Summer classes will replace Discovery Camps for 2023. Classes are subject-specific and can better meet the interests of young Raven Hill participants. Three classes—science, history and art—will be offered in the morning and a different three in the afternoon. Classes are being finalized and brochures will go out soon. If you are interested in receiving more information on **Summer Classes for Kids**, please call Cheri at 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org

Meanwhile, this is a great time to visit the Center. Raven Hill is open weekends—noon to 4pm on Saturdays; 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, as well as holidays and other times by appointment.

Families and field trip groups can visit and explore both indoors and outside or book a science, history or art class for all ages and abilities. The Center is a perfect place for scout and 4H activities, birthday parties for youngsters & adults, retreats, weddings and other gatherings.

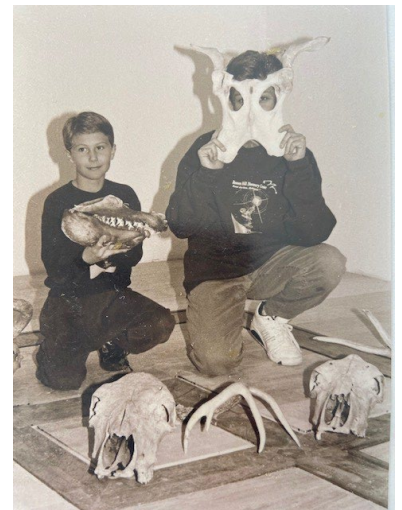
Outreach programs, like "Reptiles To Go" or "Under Michigan—This State's Geologic History" that come to **YOUR** site are also available for booking. Small group "assemblies", classes and touring exhibits, like **History Heritage & STEAM**, can travel to schools and public libraries, as well as other venues.



Last summer, campers used Sculpey clay to make small African Spirit mask pendants to wear! You can call to set up a class any time of the year!



Most African masks are carved out of wood, because it is readily available, although some have been made of bronze, brass, ivory, clay and fiber. What material would you use, if you decided to create a mask?



A cow pelvis makes a great mask to hang on the wall, but it's a little too heavy to actually wear for any length of time! —T. Thor and Prescott Tarn

For more information about onsite or outreach programs, email info@miravenhill.org or call 231.536.3369. Have a great week,

Cheri



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