

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

To: Raven Hill friends

From: Cheri

Date: September 21, 2024

Re: *Autumnal equinox*

The 2024 autumnal equinox occurs Sunday, September 22, at 8:43 am. This marks the moment when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, resulting in nearly equal daylight and nighttime hours for most places on Earth. It marks the “official” start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

The equinoxes represent a moment of balance between day and night, similar to the balance that Raven Hill seeks to create between science, history and the arts. An equinox is a point of equilibrium in a yearly cycle. Raven Hill encourages a balanced equilibrium between the natural and human worlds, encouraging visitors to see their surroundings through both lenses.

Serpent of Light



Visitors can actually see the “snake of sunlight.”
“**Kukulkan**” at Raven Hill’s pyramid on both the spring and fall equinoxes. On those days at Chichen Itza in Mexico, the shadow cast by the angle of the sun and edges of the steps of the actual Mayan pyramid, **plus** the stone serpent head carvings at the base of the pyramid create the illusion of a massive serpent descending the pyramid--an illustration of the balance between natural phenomena & human endeavors!

Serpent head



For the time being, you will just have to use your imagination and visualize a serpent head at the base of Raven Hill’s pyramid! –photo by Jebulon, Wikimedia Commons

The autumnal equinox is a special time and Raven Hill's Ancient World is a special place, especially at the pyramid and the obelisk.

Obelisk



Not quite on the mark, but this photo was taken on September 19, 2021, at the Obelisk in Raven Hill's Ancient World. As the shadows lengthen in fall and shorten in spring, they are equal in length on the vernal (spring) and autumnal (fall) equinoxes—another example of the balance between the natural & human world.

Fall hours are in effect. Raven Hill is open weekend hours—noon to 4pm on Saturdays; 2pm to 4pm on Sundays and all other times by appointment. Due to the bridge construction on Fuller Road, Raven Hill will operate out of the **Pop-up Museum** during September and October, with outdoor exhibits open for visitors on the main campus. Visitors can make an appointment to visit the indoor exhibits and animals in the Main Museum at other times, including holidays. Call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to make reservations. **Weekend hours inside the Main Museum building will resume on November 2, 2024. Visitors can access the Main Museum Building via the 3-mile detour or take Fuller Road if the bridge is complete and the road is open.**

So, for the time being, look for the **Pop-up Museum** in the Open Space on weekends. The two **WHITE** inflatable tents are located at the corner of C-48, Fuller and Pearsall Roads. Parking and the tents can be accessed from Pearsall Road. Please stop there, check in, pay your \$5 (half price) admission AND play a while, before getting directions for the detour and driving around the “country block” to explore the outdoor exhibits on the Main Campus. Visit soon and plan to take some extra time to wander through the Ancient World, exploring these and other remarkable replicas from our past.

Enjoy fall, my favorite season. “Of all the seasons, autumn offers the most to man and requires the least of him.” –Homeland by Hal Borland

Cheri