

# *Raven Hill Discovery Center —*



—Where science, history and art connect

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Raven Hill Discovery Center is the only place in northern Lower Michigan where children and adults can link science, history & the arts with hands-on activities and explorations both indoors and outdoors. Connections emerge through classes, exhibits and facilities that provide opportunities for all ages to learn, create, grow and play. The Center is located on 157 acres in northern Lower Michigan adjacent to Little Traverse Conservancy's Raven Ridge Nature Preserve. Since it incorporated in 1991, Raven Hill's focus on the connections between science, history and art has strengthened. Visitors experience the strands of science and technology, culture, history and the arts interwoven throughout the Center's hands-on exhibits and displays. Facilities include the Main Museum, Fiber Studio, Print Shop, Art Pavilion, School House, alternative Energy House and the Tree House. Outdoor exhibits range from a half-acre pond; Medicinal Gardens; Beyond Jurassic Park: The Earth's Geologic History with its new Coral Reef exhibit, illustrating Michigan's early geologic history; The Ancient World; Labyrinth; Wetlands Boardwalk; the Taxonomic (Taxi) Trail with trees grouped by families; the Earth Tones Music Garden with oversized, tuned musical instruments and the Art & Architecture in Smallville with miniature houses of all kinds. Programs change with the seasons. On weekends and during the summer, the public, especially families, visit the hands-on museum, the animal room and explore the grounds. Science, history and art classes are offered year round for children and adults. Field trips meet group needs and teachers can complete work for graduate credit in history, art or science through Central Michigan University Off-Campus Programs. Outreach programs are available for schools, camps, libraries, or for any special occasion. Major accomplishments include a museum expansion and renovation in 2010 that added 1280 square feet to the main museum and refurbished the original part of the building. In addition to adding five out buildings and six major outdoor exhibits, Raven Hill has garnered twelve consecutive grant awards from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, plus a variety of other grant awards for programs, exhibits and facilities from public and private funds, including many from the Charlevoix County and Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundations, as well as donations from other foundations, service organizations and private donors. Raven Hill Discovery Center was also recognized as the 2005 Crooked Tree Arts Center eddi Award recipient for Arts and Cultural Organizations and is a member of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab Museum Alliance.