

Raven Hill Discovery Center—

—Where science, history and art connect

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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt corporation
2005 Crooked Tree Arts Center eddi Award recipient for Arts & Cultural Organizations – Member of NASA JET Propulsion Lab
Museum Alliance -- host to NOthern Michigan Astronomy Club (NOMAC) – Presenter in the 2012-15 Michigan Arts & Humanities
Council Touring Directory.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Raven Hill Discovery Center (www.RavenHillDiscoveryCenter.org) 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 exhibits, facilities & classes, 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 opening in 1992, Raven Hill's focus on connections between science, history & art has strengthened. Visitors experience the strands of science & technology, culture, history and the arts interwoven throughout the Center's hands-on exhibits and displays. Raven Hill Discovery Center's mission - to provide a place where children and adults can build life-long connections linking science, history and the arts in a hands-on learning environment - continues to guide its growth and development. Raven Hill is a teaching institution whose students are its visitors and its teachers are the collections and displays, just as much as the staff and volunteers.

Facilities include the Main Museum, Fiber Studio, Print Shop, Wood Shop, School House, Alternative Energy House and the new Evolving Technologies (ET) Building, which is scheduled to open in the spring of 2015. Outdoor exhibits range from Medicinal Gardens; Art & Architecture in Smallville; Earth Tones Music Garden; Beyond Jurassic Park: The Earth's Geologic History; Tree House; newly extended Wetlands Boardwalk; Taxonomic (Taxi) Trail; The Ancient World; Whisper Dishes and Learning Gardens. The Mobile Access Project (MAP) permits guests to learn more about and from exhibits both indoors & out, via their own smart phones or by checking out a tablet at the Center.

Programs vary by location, age and interest. Indoor & outdoor exhibits are regularly open weekends year round and every day in the summer to the public and appeal to everyone, especially families. Science, history and art classes take place year round for all ages. 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 travel to schools, camps and libraries or for any special occasion.

Major accomplishments include an expanded main building, five outbuildings, five major outdoor exhibits, fifteen consecutive grant awards from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and a variety of grant awards for programs, exhibits and

facilities from public & private funds. Raven Hill is a member of NASA JET Propulsion Lab Museum Alliance & host to Northern Michigan Astronomy Club (NOMAC). The Center received the prestigious Crooked Tree Arts Center eddi Award for Arts and Cultural Organizations in 2005 and is currently a presenter in the 2012-15 Michigan Arts and Humanities Council Touring Directory.

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