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COVID-19 and the Wenas Mammoth Foundation's Educational Program

It has definitely been a difficult year! Several months ago, we were planning for a busy and productive year, then everything came to a sudden halt. Like so many, month by month, we had hoped that it would end and our schedule would get back to normal. Now summer is ending, fall is in the air, and schools are struggling with virtual classes.

Like so many museums, the financial situation has also been difficult. Many museums don't believe they will survive and reopen. The Alliance of American Museums said "...that one out of every three museums may shutter forever as funding sources and financial reserves run dry."

The Wenas Mammoth Foundation so far is managing. Our annual funding normally comes from grants, donations, and fees we get when we visit schools, communities, and dig site events. This year, the majority of grant funders have focused their contributions towards the Covid-19 epidemic, wildfires, and helping families in need, and rightfully so. We are very grateful to have received the grant from the Yakima Fresh Hop Group before the epidemic hit, and a grant from the Plaid Door. However, several grants that help support our mission were not available this year due to Covid-19. We have also received a few private donations through Facebook, as well as donations through Amazon Smile and Fred Meyers. Working with ESD105 was a blessing when we were able to develop and deliver two STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) "Virtual Teacher Paleontology, Archaeology Summer Day Camp" classes across the state. Not only were we able to reach teachers and schools throughout WA State, but also received grant funds. The next virtual class is scheduled to begin on October 14th and run through November 4th, 2020. Teachers will earn 15 STEM clock hours upon completion. Classes include one ZOOM weekly class and on-line curriculum utilizing CANVAS.

However, even though the Wenas Creek Mammoth Dig Site and Mobile Educational Exhibit are closed, we still have financial and business obligations we need to take care of. If you are in a situation where you can support the Wenas Mammoth Foundation through a donation, this would be an excellent time to do so. Hopefully, by spring 2021, we will be back to visiting schools and communities, and having activities at the dig site.

Improvements at the Wenas Creek Mammoth Dig Site



In 2019, Yakima County informed the Wenas Mammoth Foundation that we needed to file the paperwork to be a museum site, since we are in an area zoned agriculture. With the process of doing so, there were requirements that we had to meet. One of these requirements was to construct a turn-around that was large enough for fire trucks. One of the 2020 grants we had submitted was to cover the cost of the excavation work and gravel. However, due to Covid-19 we were unable to get the funding. Yet, county requirements wait for no one. So, we did have enough funds to excavate the turnaround, and have two loads of gravel spread out. Hopefully, next year we can afford to have additional gravel applied to the driveway and turnaround area.



The turnaround will also improve parking and will be utilized for school busses when they deliver and pickup students from the dig site. This is a project that was on our bucket list for a long time and we are excited that we were able to complete the project this year.

Wenas Creek Mammoth Dig Site Building on Hold... For Now

The Wenas Mammoth Foundation Executive Board had hoped that in 2020 we would begin moving forward on getting a building up at the dig site. However, when Covid-19 hit, the architecture firm that was helping us with the building plans, like so many other businesses, had to send their staff home. We were going to apply for a grant for the project, but it required to have it completed within a year. As we watch workers sent home from job sites, we decided it would be foolish to try to meet those requirements and would need to wait until this situation improves. We are hoping that we can get back on track with this project in 2021 when Covid-19 is under control, people are back to work, and funding once again becomes available.

Virtual Classes Now Available Online!

GC1 WMF's Virtual ST... ⋮

Teacher & Youth

GC2 WMF's History o... ⋮

Teachers and Youth

GC3 WMF: Investigat... ⋮

Teachers & Youth

GC4 WMF's Local Ge... ⋮

Teachers and Youth

GC5 WMF: Mammot... ⋮

Teachers & Youth

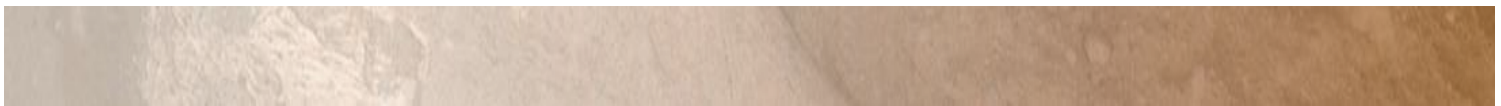
The Wenas Mammoth Foundation has not been sitting idle in 2020. We have been working on our new virtual education platform. We were so excited by the interest from teachers around WA State when we partnered with ESD105 and offered the first Virtual Teacher STEM Paleontology and Archaeology Summer Camp last spring. The platform we used through ESD105 to deliver the class was CANVAS and ZOOM. However, many teachers said that they are using Google Classroom and would like to see our lessons in that platform. They also were interested in additional topics.

Just like the teachers, we had to set-up and learn how to maneuver around Google Classroom in this virtual world. We also had to format our curriculum so that it could be easily utilized by all grade level teachers and students, but also wanted it to be available to communities. Classes include: 1. Virtual STEAM Paleontology, Archaeology, and Geology Camp; 2. History of the Wenas Creek Mammoth Project; 3. Investigative Processes; 4. Local Geology and Wenas Mammoth Mountain; and 5. Mammoths, Mastodons, and Bisons.

The WMF feels that this is only the beginning. We want to thank Central Washington University Professor Pat Lubinski and Professor Nick Zentner for their continued support of the Wenas Mammoth Foundation's educational outreach program.

On the left, are the classes we are offering at this time. We do hope to add additional classes as

continue on page 4



GC4.1 WMF: Geological Mysteries of Wenas ... :

- GC4.1 WMF Lesson Plan: Geological Myster...
- GC4.1a WMF Slide Presentation: Geology o...
- GC4.1a WMF Presentation Question: What ...
- GC4.1b WMF Video 1: Ice Age Floods
- GC4.1b WMF Video 1 Question: What are th...
- GC4.1c WMF Video 2: Volcanic Mudflows
- GC4.1c WMF Video 2 Question: What is a "...
- GC4.1d WMF Video 3: Mt. St. Helen's Erupti...
- GC4.1d WMF Video 3 Question: Where is M...
- GC4.1e WMF Quiz: Local Geology and Wen...
- GC4.1f WMF Discussion Question: How do...

we move forward.

We have set-up each lessons with a Lesson Plan. This document introduces both teachers and students with an outline of the class and what is required for them to complete. Lessons include a Power Point slide presentation which is followed by a presentation question. Videos are also included, and each video is followed with a question related to that video topic. Videos are then followed by a quiz. The lesson ends with a group discussion question. The questions and the quiz are all given points, with each lesson totaling 100 points. An example of the Geological Mysteries of Wenas Mammoth Mountain lesson is shown on the left side of this page.

We have been told that for those schools that are using CANVAS, that CANVAS is working with Google Classroom and they should be able to access Google Classroom.

Like with anything new... we still have a lot to learn about Google Classroom. However, we do hope that those of you who are proficient with it may have some great advice to share.

If you are interested in any of our classes, whether it is for an individual or a classroom of students, please do contact us.

The Wenas Mammoth Foundation's Educational Program is constantly looking for ways to bring local earth science to our schools and communities. We are still planning on offering the Teacher STEM Paleontology, Archaeology, and Geology Camp through ESD105, where teachers can earn their 15 STEM clock hours upon the completion, next spring.

Wildfires in the Wenas Valley

Thank You firefighters... and to everyone who contacted us offering to help us evacuate when the wildfires were heading towards Wenas Mammoth Mountain. Fortunately, the winds stopped, and a fire break 1.5 miles away kept the fire from reaching us. Several others were not that fortunate. Our heart goes out to everyone locally, and on the west coast who have lost everything.



Did you know that the Wenas Mammoth Foundation is registered with the WA State Community Fund Drive, which is administered by the WA State Secretary of State? You can make a difference in bringing local earth science to our youth throughout the state. If you are a WA State employee, you can easily donate to the WMF every month. Go to <https://give.WA.GOV/MyCFD>. Under Charities, search for the Wenas Mammoth Foundation. Just follow the steps. Your donation is really appreciated and makes a difference. Thank You!

AT HOME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You Can Make A Difference!

The Wenas Mammoth Foundation is a volunteer based 501 (c)3 non-profit Charity organization. We do not have any paid staff. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities for all ages. Volunteer hours vary depending on your availability and commitment. We may not be out in the community, or at the dig site offering hands-on experiences at this time, but we still need volunteers that can work from home. As we are developing our virtual program, we need talented volunteers that can help with curriculum, fund raising, community outreach, and more. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact us today and we will send you our Volunteer Application. WMF also has Executive Board and Advisory Board opportunities.



Please consider the WMF. Your generous contribution gives youth the opportunity to learn about local Earth Science in a unique hands-on learning environment. You do make a difference!

Due to its' popularity, the **2020 Virtual STEM Teacher Paleontology, Archaeology Summer Day Camp, Cohort 3** will be offered October 14th – November 4th, 2020! Teachers will earn 15 STEM clock hours upon completion. Go to ESD105.org and watch for us under the ESD105 ONLINE Professional Development Classes.

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WENAS MAMMOTH FOUNDATION'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND BRINGING LOCAL EARTH SCIENCE TO OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check Payable to the Wenas Mammoth Foundation
Mail to 2741 S. Wenas Road, Selah, WA 98942



PayPal or credit card: Please donate securely at <http://www.wenasmammoth.com/donations.html> or <https://www.facebook.com/WenasMammoth>

This gift may be tax deductible

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Please add me to your Newsletter emailing list.

THANK YOU so much for your donation! You will make a big difference in a child's local earth science education opportunities.



Would you be interested in "Planned Giving" opportunities? Contact us today!

Help us inspire students to be excited about science and desire to learn more.