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Moving Through 2021



The WMF, like everyone else, was optimistic that 2021 would be a better year and that we would be able to open our educational program like it was prior to 2020. Fortunately, we were able to offer our STEM Teacher Paleontology, Archaeology, and Geology 2-Day Day Camp in May and the STEM Youth Paleontology, Archaeology, and Geology 3-Day Day Camp in June. It was more of a challenge as we were required to meet CDC camp guidelines. However, both camps were a lot of fun, and everyone remained healthy.

We were also able to have a couple scheduled tours of the dig site and brought the educational program and mobile exhibit to the Yakima School District's Summer Program.

However, as Covid numbers began to increase, record breaking heat, and unhealthy air due to the Schneider Springs Wildfire, we again had to cancel our outdoor educational program.

Now we are in December and 2021 is quickly coming to a close. We are again hopeful and planning for 2022. Currently we are working on some exciting projects and are excited to let you know what they are.

WMF's Outreach STEM Earth Science Education Program

The mission of the Wenas Mammoth Foundation is to promote, preserve, and utilize the Central Washington Wenas Creek Mammoth Dig Site, and its natural earth history, to inspire K-12 youth to develop a passion for learning local earth science, encourage curiosity, develop critical thinking skills from evidence, and to motivate the pursuits of educational opportunities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Learning opportunities that are unique and meaningful include the Mobile Educational Exhibit and educational program, classroom presentations, hands-on activities, Wenas Mammoth Foundation's teacher and youth paleontology, archaeology, and geology camps (offered both on-site and virtually), museum, site tours, events, and virtual online courses.

The Wenas Mammoth Foundation's educational program actively forms partnerships with public school districts and youth organizations within the ESD105 region, as well as around Washington State. Research conducted by the National Science Foundation illustrates that there is a need to improve science and critical thinking skills for all K-12 students, and better prepare them to succeed in STEM careers. The WA State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Report Card for 2019-2020 supports the need to engage students in relevant academic content to activate their curiosity, to connect academic content to rewarding STEM careers, and to increase their ownership of their education and stay in school. The Wenas Mammoth Foundation's focus is to provide engaging, regionally based academic experiences and resources that can activate a passion for learning Science that is both fun, enjoyable, and educational.

The success of ALL students in our region is of high concern for our leadership, board of directors, program staff, and volunteers. In addition to reflecting our priority student populations, our board consist of individuals with significant first-hand experience in K-12 STEM education. They have served in a variety of roles, positions, and have a deep and personal understanding of the barriers that many of our youth face including those that are furthest from educational justice.



Positive Social Connection Skills

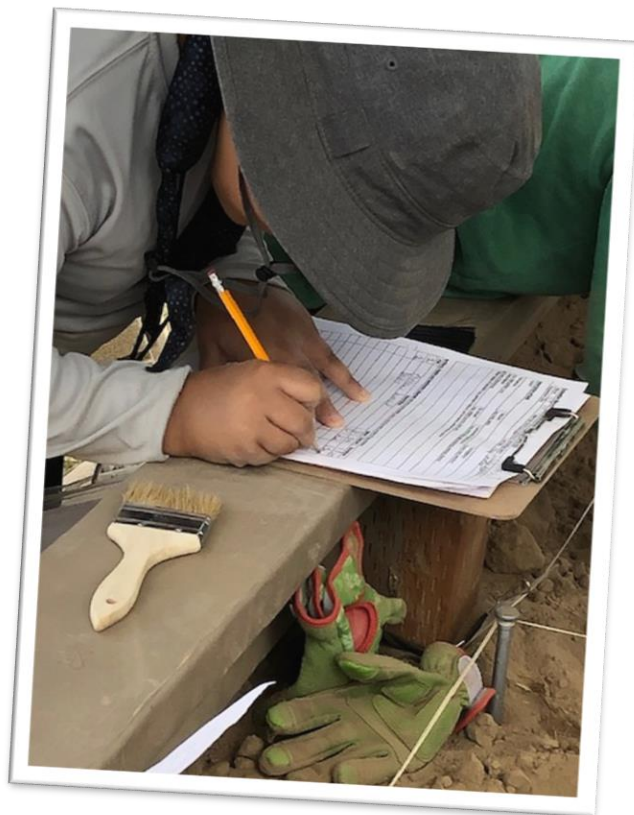
Positive social connectiveness is essential when developing social and emotional skills, and educational success. The Covid-19 Pandemic has adversely impacted students, resulting in a significant number of youth struggling with isolation, loneliness, loss of connection with peers, and the inability to succeed in and out of the educational setting.

During the WMF summer camp experiences, youth are placed into 4 teams, and each team is assigned to an excavation area. Past experience has taught us that youth do not need to be divided by age or grade level during this camp to be successful. Team members rotate between stations such as working in the excavation unit, processing soil through the dry screens and wet screens, placing material on the drying rack for sorting, and identification of specimens. During the excavation processes, youth will need to communicate with their teammates, other teams, and team leaders what they have discovered and the processes they utilized. The WMF encourages collaboration, communication, a positive growth mindset, and having a sense of humor. The use of these skills results in the establishment of peer-to-peer relationships and lasting bonds.



Learning the Methods of Archaeology, Paleontology, and Geology

Youth participating in the outdoor summer experiences will learn in a multi-sensory, hands-on, visual, and auditory environment. Youth gain skills and knowledge through hands-on activities at a genuine archaeological dig site. Outdoor activities include setting up gridlines for an excavation unit, proper utilization of tools, methods for locating and excavating fossils, writing journal entries, photographing, logging and identifying fossils, determining soil types and geological formations, and processing soil through dry and wet screens. As students lay out their dig site unit, they will use a compass, north arrow, stakes, string, measuring tapes, and string levels. Youth will learn and practice the excavation process and utilization of excavation hand tools. Students will learn how to identify soil types, rocks, bones, bone fragments, teeth, and other specimens. They will communicate daily with their team members and other teams on what they have experienced and discovered.



Why is the WMF's Educational Program Responsive to the needs of our Youth Population?

Research conducted by the National Science Foundation shows that there is a need to improve science and critical thinking skills for all K-12 students, and better prepare them to succeed in STEM careers. The WA State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Report Card for 2019-2020 supports the need to engage students in relevant academic content to activate their curiosity, to connect academic content to rewarding STEM careers, and to increase their ownership of their education and stay in school. However, not all youth have the same educational opportunities. The highest population of BIPOC youth in ESD105's region is Hispanic youth at 64.5%. Data from ESD105 reports that 11 school districts in this region, 72% and higher of their students qualify for free/reduced price meals. "ESD105 2019-2020 Report Card" shows that 27.3% of our students are mobile and migrant, 45.5% are homeless. The report also conveys that only 33.3% of the Yakima School District 8th grade students met science standards. Those percentages are much smaller in several other underserved districts.

The Wenas Mammoth Foundation's focus is to provide engaging, regionally based academic experiences and resources that are culturally relevant and activate a passion for learning earth science that is engaging and enjoyable. Giving all the youth within our region the unique opportunity to experience authentic earth science in a local, outdoor environment contributes to making the content accessible and relevant to students furthest from opportunity. The WMF's summer youth program is designed to give all students, including the underrepresented youth that are furthest from educational justice, the opportunity to become excited about local earth science, inspired with local paleontology, archaeology, and geology, spark curiosity, acquire problem solving skills, develop collaboration skills, and foster a desire to learn more.



What are the Plans for 2022?

The Wenas Mammoth Foundation and its education partners (the South-Central Washington STEM Network, Educational Service District 105, and the Yakima School District) are committed to providing access and the necessary support to the students of our region including those from underrepresented populations in STEM fields. These include our BIPOC, low socioeconomic, LGBTQ, rural, and female students. The board members for the Wenas Mammoth Foundation are highly reflective of our priority populations (88%). The board is comprised of individuals of color, females, rural, and low socioeconomic backgrounds.

The success of ALL students in our region is of high concern for our leadership, board of directors, program staff, and volunteers. In addition to reflecting our priority student populations, our board consist of individuals with significant first-hand experience in K-12 STEM education. They have served in a variety of roles, positions, and have a deep and personal understanding of the barriers that many of our youth face including those that are furthest from educational justice. Our board members include current and retired teachers, a juvenile corrections officer, an at-risk youth counselor, the ESD 105 Regional Science Coordinator, the director of the South-Central Washington STEM Network, and STEM professionals.

The WMF's Educational Program will continue to visit schools and community events, offer online learning opportunities, and offer teachers professional development training opportunities both on-line and on-site. The WMF will also be focusing on summer STEM Archaeology, Paleontology, and Geology camps for youth and teachers.

The Executive Board Members will be working on funding opportunities to expand our camp program and reach underrepresented youth. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines and hope that we will be able to provide camps during 2022. We hope, in time, we can also locate funds to construct a building at the dig site that would include a classroom, restrooms, museum, lab, and repository. Until we have the building, extremely hot weather and wildfire smoke can be a barrier we will be facing as we offer a unique educational experience in an outdoor environment. Let's hope that 2022 is a better year!

**Would you like to be a volunteer?
Are you interested in donating to the WMF?
Contact us today! We'd love to talk with you.**



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!

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!

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>

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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.