

VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee

Agenda

August 21, 2021, 9:00 a.m. Distance Learning Classroom

- Welcome and introductions
- Education Updates-
 - Quarterly updates- (see table below)
 - At-the Museum highlights: Summer Camp recap (4 camps, 34 total campers), Bug Day educational activities
 - Outreach highlights – Waynesboro Drive thru (May), MHC After 3, Library programs, and Boys and Girls Club programs, Charlottesville educator programs in Waynesboro
 - Distance Learning – wrap up of 2020/2021 school year virtually (104 programs, 1,975 students served)
 - Social Media/Website – Continuation of Museum Minute, updating Education Guide and Distance Learning Program documents
 - Homeschool Open House (August 11th)
 - Henry County School District new teacher packets
- Upcoming:
 - Sleepovers and Birthday party programs
 - Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy (in-person)
 - Doodle Bugs (in-person)
- Grant Updates:
 - Boxley Grant for Virtual Programming (\$10,000 total - \$4,000 towards scholarships March 2021 through December 2021)
 - Hooker Furnishings (\$2,500 total - \$1,500 towards scholarships March 2021 through April 2022)
- Exhibit Subcommittee –
 - Science of Flight exhibit development (bilingual exhibit text)
 - AR Topo Table instructional video development (with visitor activities)

No public comments will be taken at this meeting

DEPP Quarterly Numbers

	Outreach (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern)		At-the-Museum		Distance Learning	
MONTH	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED
April 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0
June 2020	0	0	1	101	0	0
	0	0	1	101	0	0

	Outreach (Martinsville, Central, South Central, Eastern)		At-the-Museum		Distance Learning	
MONTH	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED	PROGRAMS	SERVED
April 2021	0	0	2	50	29	761
May 2021	1	163	1	3	14	356
June 2021	7	88	9	64	0	0
	8	251	12	117	43	1,117

Notes:

June 2020- Reptile Drive Thru event at VMNH

VMNH Board of Trustees Education and Public Programs Committee **May Minutes**

May 13, 2021, 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Board Members Present: Cord Cothren (Chair), Joan Montgomery (foundation)

Board Members Absent: Faye Cooper, Nathan Sanford, Siri Russell, and Makunda Abdul-Mbacke

Staff Present: Christy Deatherage, Ryan Barber

- The committee reviewed the February meeting minutes.
- The committee was briefed on Education Updates-
 - Quarterly numbers update- (see table below) Program numbers and numbers served were discussed for January through March 2021. 2020 numbers available for comparison. COVID shutdown occurred Mid-March 2020 and is reflected in the numbers.
 - At-the Museum highlights - The Education Department provides “Saturday Education Activity Tables” for visitor interaction. The material coincides with the “Museum Minute” videos on social media that highlight specimens on display.
 - Outreach highlights– The museum hosted a Drive Thru “Treasures from the Vault” event in Waynesboro (May). Curators provided tables with material particular to their field. Education provided pre-packaged craft bags (color-you-own animal mask, dinosaur notebook, and VMNH pen) to children.
 - Distance Learning – The committee discussed the various virtual programming currently offered. Scholarships (details below) are available for public/private schools to participate in virtual programs (13 choices).

Virtual programming provides the ability to connect to the entire grade level at once versus traveling to individual classes with previous in-person outreach programs. Programs are 60 minutes, interactive, grade/SOL specific and highlight exhibit areas and the related specimen material. The (virtual) Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy will wrap up next week. 17 sessions were offered (twice a month) focusing on STEM topics. A parent/caregiver survey will be distributed to gather demographic information as well as details for next school year.

- The Education Department collaborated with B.F. Yancey Community Center (Albemarle County) in April for a “Science Explosion Week.” We offered 9 virtual programs (free to the public) throughout the week for pre-K through adult. Over 100 participants registered for the programs and around 75 attended. The week coincided with Albemarle County/Charlottesville student’s spring break.
- The Education Resources page on the museum website has been updated with activities and the link to the museum’s YouTube page. The Education Department worked with Research and Collections staff on videos that teachers can use towards recertification points and/or supplemental curriculum in their classroom. Videos are correlated to the Virginia Science Standards of Learning.
- The Education Department (and other staff) participated in the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) Virtual Conference in February. This was an opportunity to network with other educators to discuss program options during COVID.
- Upcoming:
 - 2021 Summer Adventure Camps – 4 camps will be offered (2 in June 2 in July) for ages 6-8 and 9-11. Maximum number of participants: 10 per camp. COVID Guidelines strictly enforced. Camp fee: \$130 non-member/ \$120 member. Camps are M-F, 9:00-4:00 with before and after care options. Scholarships are available on a need basis and follow federal income requirements.
- The committee was briefed on current Education Related Grants:
 - Boxley Grant for Virtual Programming - \$10,000 total - \$4,000 towards scholarships for virtual programs (equivalent to 44 programs). Teachers and Administrators were notified of the opportunity through press release/ social media/email and teachers can request virtual program for an individual class or their entire grade level. The Education Department has completed 32 programs to date, serving over 1,200 students. \$6,000 towards virtual content such as “*Tales of Ancient Life*”/ “*Ben in Nature*” and

marketing expenses. The Boxley Grant is from March 2021 to December 2021.

- Hooker Furnishings -\$2,500 total - \$1,500 towards scholarships for virtual programs for students in underserved public schools qualifying for free or reduced lunches. Teachers and Administrators were notified of the opportunity through press release/social media/email and teachers can request virtual program for an individual class or the entire grade level. \$1,000 towards the “Museum’s for All” initiative through the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) in which EBT cardholders will receive free museum admission. The Hooker Furnishings Grant is from March 2021 to April 2022.
- Exhibit Subcommittee –
 - The *Wild Watersheds* exhibit has been updated with an AR (Augmented Reality) Topography Interactive table and stream interactive floor (images provided during meeting).
- Report/Recommendation to BOT: Committee Chair Cord Cothren will report on:
 - Virtual programs/scholarships
 - Virtual Homeschool Science and Engineering Academy sessions
 - 2021 Summer Adventure Camps
 - Waynesboro Drive Thru event