

News Release



Jackson Hole Children's Museum
155 North Jean Street, PO Box 995
Jackson, WY 83001
Phone: 307-733-3996
www.jhchildrensmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 2, 2020
CONTACT: gina@jhchildrensmuseum.org
(307) 733-3996

Jackson Hole Children's Museum Reopens October 5th!

Jackson, WY – Play, Create, Explore and Discover. This seemingly simple mission of the Jackson Hole Children's Museum has become more difficult in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. In response to the Covid-19 outbreak in March, JHCM temporarily closed its doors for the safety of staff and the community. Like the rest of the world, the “temporary” closure extended far beyond what anyone expected.

After their six month closure, Jackson Hole Children's Museum will officially reopen to the public on October 5th. Can local families expect to see the same Children's Museum that they knew and loved in the past? Yes and no.

The beloved Museum exhibits have not gone away but have been given a tune-up to make them fresh and easy to clean. Soft toys like stuffed animals, costumes and pillows have been removed and replaced with items that can withstand repeated cleaning. JHCM staff has also implemented many procedural changes to promote social distancing and cleanliness. The Museum now offers two daily play periods with a maximum capacity of 12 guests at each time to provide visitors ample space. In

addition to cleaning after each play time, JHCM has implemented health screenings at check-in, a new reservation system and a mask policy to round out their efforts to enhance space and safety.

“We live in a time of uncertainty and JHCM feels fortunate to have been able to take the necessary steps to help keep our community safe. We also feel fortunate to be able to adapt and discover new ways to honor our mission and provide safe and enriching opportunities to the youth of our community. Opportunities to Play, Create, Explore and Discover are essential to the healthy development of children and reopening our Museum space fosters this growth in the youngest members of our community”, remarked Executive Director Ethan Lobdell.

Despite their closure, the world of JHCM has been far from quiet for the last six months. Throughout the spring, JHCM provided weekly virtual engagement to bring hands-on exploration and discovery into the homes of local families. June marked their return to in-person programming; offering seven weeks of summer camps to the youth of the Jackson community.

Education Director Anna Luhrmann was thrilled to see the familiar faces of many local kids, “We were so excited to welcome the kids back to JHCM in June after three months of virtual programs. As educators, the energy and connection that’s generated in the process of learning and exploring together can’t be duplicated online. As staff, we certainly had some safety concerns after the isolation of spring, but our low numbers, careful planning and diligence with upholding new protocols provided a safe space for campers all summer.”

Jackson Hole Children’s Museum hopes that implementing this same cautious approach to reopening their Museum will payoff when they welcome back the public. Visit their website www.jhchildrensmuseum.org for more information.

###

About Jackson Hole Children’s Museum

Play. Create. Explore. Discover. At the Jackson Hole Children's Museum, we encourage families to examine the world together through interactive, hands-on exhibits and educational programs in the arts, sciences, literature, and history. Our goal is to help children and grown-ups of all ages build a love of learning through collaborative play and creative problem-solving in a nurturing environment.