

# News Release

---



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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** January 9th, 2021

**CONTACT:** [elise@jhchildrensmuseum.org](mailto:elise@jhchildrensmuseum.org)

### **JACKSON HOLE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM BEGINS FREE FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

*Educational Childcare Program Supported in Part by CFJH Grant*

**Jackson, Wyoming** - Beginning January 15th, the Jackson Hole Children's Museum (JHCM) will provide free after school programming for a dozen Colter Elementary students enrolled in the Friday "CREST" Program, thanks in part to a grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole.

JHCM Afterschool programs are just one of the many ways the Museum delivers on its mission to facilitate play, creativity, discovery, and exploration through engineered play and student-centered experiential learning. The students that have been selected to enroll in the program will have opportunities to play and learn both indoors and outdoors in order to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) concepts and guide their creation of both scientific and artistic pieces of work.

In December, Colter Elementary students enrolled in Kindergarten through 3rd grades *and* participating in the "no school" Friday CREST program were invited to apply for the winter session of this free Afterschool program. The program is intended to provide children from working families with high quality educational experiences and mitigate after school childcare needs for working parents trying to complete a full work day.

Out-of-school care has been identified as the second highest critical health and human service need in Teton County, after affordable housing. In a 2020 survey, 25% of local families reported having to pick-up their children before 4:30pm while only 11% reported this being their ideal pick-up time. Typical working hours between 9am and 5pm often creates a two hour gap between the end of the school day (3pm) and a more ideal pickup time for working parents (5pm). Amplifying these disparities further is the financial expense. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, childcare is considered to be "affordable" if it costs no more than 7% of a family's income. In Teton County, the average cost of childcare (\$2100/month) represents over 30% of the current median family income of \$83,000.

The Jackson Hole Children's Museum will also be partnering with Teton Science Schools and the Young Stewards and Leaders (YSL) program to train high school Latinx students to be teachers, leaders, and mentors in the community. This partnership will provide YSL participants with opportunities to practice their skills at the Colter Afterschool program under the training and guidance of JHCM's expert Education Team.

The winter session of this Afterschool program begins on Friday, January 15th and through March 19th. JHCM plans to provide two additional free Afterschool program sessions in the spring and fall of 2021.

###

## **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.