

BRANCHING OUT

Sustaining meaningful connections to the natural world with strong support from good-natured friends like you!



Friends,

At the end of 2019 we posed the question, “Can you envision 2020 as the year we get outdoors every day?” Let’s face it, none of us envisioned what 2020 would bring. But it has been a year when more of us than ever turned to the outdoors for refuge.

As a non-profit whose primary source of funding comes from program revenue, responding to pandemic safety measures has brought a unique set of logistical and financial challenges for Quarry Hill. But we are navigating these difficult times with creativity and flexibility. As experienced outdoor educators, we are well-versed in adapting to a changing environment.

Through distance learning and virtual programs, we have branched out to reach a wider audience and we have slowly returned to face-to face-programs, closely following safety guidelines.

However, because we can only operate at a fraction of our normal capacity we must offset major losses to program and summer camp revenue with donations to help sustain access to vital nature-based learning and robust programming.

To maintain our mission through the challenges that are still ahead, we need your strong support now.

Thank you for ensuring the Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center can sustain our mission of opening eyes and minds through natural science discovery — no matter what the future brings.



Challenge. Adaptation. Growth.



Each year, more than 28,000 students learn about science and nature at Quarry Hill. Unwilling to give up that connection with our students amid the pandemic, we dove into creating videos featuring the familiar places and faces of Quarry Hill. Now, more than ever, we are committed to turning **SCREEN TIME INTO GREEN TIME.**



2020 couldn't slow us down! We decided to "run" with our annual **5K & WILD CHILD DASH** as a virtual event. Funds raised help us make sure that everyone in our communities has access to nature-filled programs at Quarry Hill.



Inspired by the vision of a MN Master Naturalist to **ENHANCE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** for generations to come, the land surrounding the Prairie House is now being restored to native prairie.



The decision to replace 2020 on-site summer camp with **CAMP IN A BOX** opened an opportunity for 640 campers to explore alongside our naturalists with tools and video tutorials right in their own neighborhoods. With new tools in our box, we are planning for a successful 2021 camp season!



As soon as we could bring kids on-site safely, we began **FIELD DAYS & GOOD NATURED KIDS** for preschoolers through eighth graders. These fun, field-tested programs, modified for health and safety, will continue throughout the year to provide big adventure in a short time!

CHALLENGE. ADAPTATION. GROWTH.

We are educators dedicated to opening eyes and minds through natural science discovery. For decades, Quarry Hill staff has provided hands-on, experiential learning to thousands of children and adults. But 2020 has challenged the way we look at teaching, and it's opened a range of new opportunities for learning.

In March, the pandemic forced us to close our building. Nature remained open, though, and we worked harder than ever to adapt to the new landscape around us. Like teachers throughout the nation, we found ourselves charting a new path forward. Kids need familiar faces, and while they cannot visit the nature center in person, we've created unique avenues into their classrooms. This Week in the Wild, filmed by our naturalists and focused on phenology, is a series teachers across Southeast Minnesota are using to enhance their science curriculum.

We became videographers, so we could reach audiences who can't easily access nature right now. Producing a series of educational videos for senior communities, Mayo Clinic Children's Hospital, schools and our social media channels opened our reach into the community in ways that have only begun to scratch the surface of possibility.

With your strong support, we will continue to expand our mission beyond those who can set foot in the park or come into our building. It is clear that we must keep working to reduce barriers, so everyone has access to nature and natural science learning, no matter where they are. We are embracing a fresh approach to keeping nature open to all and we will continue to use the resources Quarry Hill offers in innovative ways. **And your donation will help make it happen!**

Support Quarry Hill Nature Center today
by returning the enclosed envelope
or online at QHNC.org

All donations and recurring donations are welcome.



EVERY GIFT IS IMPORTANT

Every gift matters. It's true. We are the Nature Center the community built, and together we will continue the legacy of Quarry Hill Nature Center for generations to come.

Your strong support is key to our ability to sustain vital access to nature-based learning and robust programming for everyone in our community – no matter where they are. We believe in the power of this community to keep Quarry Hill Nature Center growing, thriving and accessible to all.

During this special appeal, all gifts of \$100 or more received before December 31, 2020 receive 2 years of member benefits.

Nature brings us together – even when we're apart.

Quarry Hill Nature Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible to the full extent the law allows.



QUARRY HILL NATURE CENTER

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"Opening eyes & minds through natural science discovery."

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