



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Archaeology Center Museum Reopening

(August 24, Camp Verde) After temporarily closing its doors in March to protect the health and safety of visitors, staff and volunteers, the Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum announced it will officially reopen to the public on September 1, 2020. The Center will open with reduced capacity while enacting new safety measures, including advance online ticket purchases, timed-entry to follow social distancing guidelines, face covering requirement, and enhanced sanitizing and cleaning protocols.

To help ensure public safety and prevent crowds, timed ticket purchases will be required for self-guided tours at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays (closed Sundays and Mondays). A new free self-guide booklet will be available. It is strongly recommended that visitors pre-purchase Museum admission online in advance. On-site tickets will not be available. To help defer some of the added costs, the Center will, for the first time, charge a \$5 admission fee for anyone between 18 and 64. Center Members and those under 18 or over 64 will be free, but will still require an

advanced ticket. Tickets are now available for advance purchase at www.vvarchcenter.org.

The Center has carefully developed reopening guidelines with the help of peer institutions across the state and country, the American Alliance of Museums and various local health experts. Center staff has also worked hard to gather necessary safety supplies, including masks, gloves, an air purifier, touchless sanitizing stations and directional signage. Executive Director Ken Zoll stated that “These new procedures will ensure we’re meeting the highest public health standards, while maintaining the excellence of the Museum’s visitor experience. We’re looking forward to reopening.”

Throughout the reopening, exhibits and experiences will be available with controlled attendance by limiting each timed-entry ticket to a single family group to allow for social distance between visitors. Guests will arrive through the main entrance, follow a guided path, and leave through a designated exit to prevent visitors from crossing paths. The Yavapai-

Apache interactive exhibit will be accessible with a free disposable stylus, which will be provided to visitors upon arrival.

Cleaning will be enhanced throughout the Museum, including increased frequency of disinfecting high-traffic surfaces. Hand sanitizer stations will also be available. In accordance with current guidelines, the Museum's staff and volunteers, as well as all visitors, will be required to wear face coverings; complimentary masks will be provided for all guests who need one.

Visitors will also experience an expanded exhibit area of the Paul Dyck Cliff Dwelling artifacts. This exhibit is just a small part of the more than 50,000 artifacts from this one site. Paul Dyck (1917-2006), a descendent of Sir Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641) was a painter and rancher in Rimrock. He preserved the prehistoric cliff dwellings and caves on his property and had them professionally excavated in the 1960-70s. The entire collection was donated to the Archaeology Center in 2015. The donation includes the largest collections of textiles and tools, weapons, agricultural materials, and

game pieces ever found in a single site in the Sedona/Verde Valley area. Among the new items are the image of a deer-like animal made from Yucca. There is also an intricately woven basket holder for corn cobs used in a game. The basket for holding the playing pieces are reminiscent of how professional dart throwers protect their dart. In addition, the Center will display three new acquisitions of rare Apache woven water vessels that were coated with pinion pine pitch, most of which has fallen off, revealing the tight and expert weaving of the vessel.

The Center is located at 385 South Main Street, Camp Verde. The Verde Valley Archaeology Center is a nonprofit educational organization with the mission to preserve the sites and material of the people who have occupied the Verde Valley for the past 12,000 years. Additional information at www.vvarchcenter.org.

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Images attached to email:

ApacheWovenVessel.jpg (with horse hair handles)

YuccaDeer.jpg

CornCobGameBasket.jpg