



Pilot Program to Impact Younger Students

Ethics and respect for the past are included in all lessons taught by Tyson Hughes, Education Manager for Crow Canyon. Tyson knew that students were “getting it” when an Open Sky teen told him recently, “I feel terrible. I picked up an arrowhead the first day I was here. I didn’t know it was wrong.” Tyson took advantage of this learning opportunity to discuss how projectile points are shaped and how they are connected to thriving cultures of today. Together, they returned the piece to its place of origin.

Crow Canyon educators have piloted a variety of non-traditional lessons during this year of the pandemic; staff availability and COVID concerns limited the schools that could be served. Tyson taught outdoor lessons on fire-making and flintknapping to K-8 students at Battle Rock, a Cortez Charter School. At Open Sky, a wilderness therapy program for struggling teens, he helped participants survey an archaeological site and taught them to photograph features, identify the approximate age of pottery sherds, and map the site. “History trunks” were delivered to a school in Bayfield, Colorado, supplemented by an online lesson about the intersection of history and culture. And online demonstrations were conducted for schools such as Colorado Academy, which traditionally have brought school groups to Crow Canyon.

“As educators, the pandemic has forced us out of our comfort zone,” says Tyson. “We are discovering new ways to have a powerful impact on students and young adults.”



Data Collection from the Haynie Site Continues to Inform

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center’s Northern Chaco Outliers Project (NCOP)—focused on the Haynie site, located near Cortez, seeks to understand the origins, internal social dynamics, and external connections of residents in the Lakeview community, of which Haynie is a part. While archaeological sites within the Lakeview Group appear to have been intermittently occupied, the Haynie site itself was inhabited continuously for at least 400 years, between A.D. 800 and 1200.

The site continues to surprise, and its deeply stratified, multi-component structures reveal its history as an

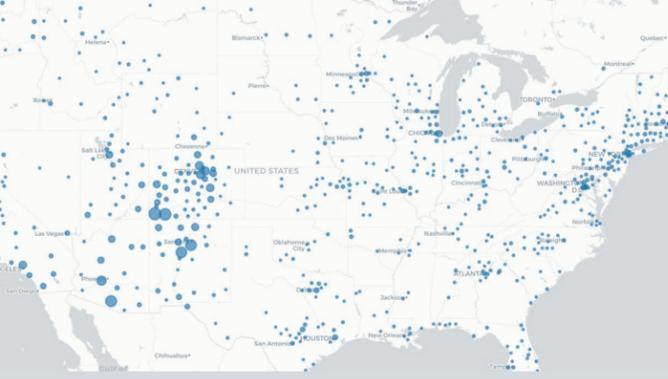
ancestral Pueblo community center. Crow Canyon’s multi-year research into the Lakeview community, with its four great houses, great kiva, and numerous small, residential sites, is yielding useful knowledge. According to Chief Mission Officer Dr. Susan Ryan, clustered great house communities are an important, but poorly understood, facet of the Chaco and post-Chaco periods in the northern San Juan region. Crow Canyon’s research is increasing the understanding of the

For a message from the field crew at Haynie, please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIC_FN5sHPU

settlement patterns in the region at that time.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted Crow Canyon’s public-oriented fieldwork and educational programming, staff continued to conduct work at the site in 2020. To continue mission delivery, we pivoted to reach a broad community of learners by using digital platforms for webinars (the Discover Archaeology webinar series), social media posts, and short, live-streamed presentations from the field and the lab.





Webinar Series Celebrates First Anniversary

It has been just over a year since Crow Canyon launched the Discover Archaeology webinar series to stay connected with our wide community of learners at a distance. Fifty webinars later, this series is a powerful new tool to advance our mission and broaden our reach. As shown in the map above, presentations have attracted viewers from all 50 states and 10 countries on five continents. The virtual format makes Crow Canyon's mission more accessible and increases awareness of Indigenous knowledge and cutting-edge scientific research. Since its inception, the webinars have received over 18,000 Zoom registrations, 23,000 YouTube views, and 54,000 Facebook views with these numbers continually rising.

Along with the outpouring of generous gifts from supporters, and funding from the 2020 CARES Act, we have forged partnerships with organizations including the Department of Anthropology at Washington State University, the Bureau of Land Management, The Hisatsinom Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and the Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society.

The webinars reflect diverse voices that contribute to our understanding of the past, present, and future. The variety of topics provide opportunities to learn about the complex cultures and histories of the Four Corners and expand understanding of the region. A recent, popular presentation featured author Craig Childs, who guided viewers into the ancient landscapes of the Colorado Plateau with a series of homemade dispatches from the field.

Looking ahead, we anticipate the creation of more robust online programming. Crow Canyon will build on its weekly webinar series and evolve into offering more intensive learning models to help people engage with the southwest from afar.

Crow Canyon Brings Dendrochronology In-House



Dendrochronology is a scientific method that compares the patterns of growth rings in trees to provide dating for the exact year when the construction of a building occurred, when changes to the environment took place, and archaeological artifacts were made.

To better conduct on-campus tree-ring analysis of archaeological samples, the Research Institute at Crow Canyon has acquired a high-level tree-ring measuring stand and trinocular microscope to conduct analyses of the tree-ring samples recovered from our excavations. Crow Canyon previously relied on out-of-state sources to conduct this specialized analysis.

According to Lab Manager Dr. Ben Bellowado, "measuring stands are the gold standard for crossdating tree-ring samples from charcoal or tree-ring cores from archaeological sites and living trees. This equipment is used by dendrochronologists in tree-ring laboratories around the world to provide the most precise and accurate type of dating available to archaeologists."

Ben explains that, "the measuring stand will expedite crossdating and allow Crow Canyon researchers to conduct in-house analysis of samples collected from our excavations and future field projects." He adds that, "this equipment will also allow us to design new educational modules and to launch an internship program focused on dendrochronology and dendroarchaeology, and to host post-doctoral fellows who specialize in this field."

Ben and IT Director Dylan Schwindt have partnered to get the station up and running. "We are eager to begin our analyses of the Haynie dendro samples," Ben adds, "and everyone is excited about the equipment's potential to enhance our research interpretations and overall understanding of the cultural history of the Mesa Verde region."

Ute Mountain Ute Trails Improved by Volunteers

When COVID-19 caused Crow Canyon to cancel travel programs for health and safety reasons, the Cultural Explorations team, which usually leads travel seminars in the American West and beyond, found a way to assist Native American partners in meaningful ways without traveling very far.

The Ute Mountain Tribal Park is a stone's throw from attractions like Mesa Verde National Park, and Canyons of the Ancients and Hovenweep National Monuments. Accompanied by a Ute guide, Tribal Park tourists can experience rarely seen cliff dwellings in a remote setting. Unfortunately, the Tribal Park closed its stunning Pool Canyon trail years ago because of a lack of maintenance.

With an open schedule they hadn't planned for in 2020, the Cultural Explorations team wanted to give back and connect with our Ute neighbors. Team CE coordinated with other colleagues across the organization to lend hands, feet, tools, and time to work (socially distanced) alongside Tribal members and volunteers from the Hisatsinom chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society and Fort Lewis College to restore the trail.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council is thrilled by the effort and the Trail is now ready for tours and the sharing of Native American knowledge.



Indigenous Knowledge Essential Component of Programs



Incorporation of Native American perspectives into Crow Canyon's work has always been a pillar of the organization's mission, and this mission area has renewed emphasis under the direction of longtime staff member Rebecca (Becky) Hammond. Becky joined the staff after serving as a founding member of the organization's Native American Advisory Group. Now in the dual role of educator and American Indian Outreach Coordinator, Becky brings a Native perspective to Crow Canyon's work as a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Initiatives in progress include:

- Participation as scholar in two Cultural Explorations outings: Ute Mountain Tribal Park Rock Art and Bears Ears Backcountry
- Creation of curriculum on Southwest plant identification and their Ute names
- Inclusion of Native American voices in the "Discover Archaeology" webinar series
- Development of outreach videos to longtime friends of Crow Canyon
- Partnership with Crow Canyon's Pueblo Advisory Group to integrate the organization's working relationships with Native Communities to better inform programs and archaeology
- Remote teaching of Crow Canyon programs to schools across the country
- Coordination with staff and partners to create a story bank of Native American knowledge and traditions

Crow Canyon is grateful to donors who support our effort to include indigenous knowledge in our programs.

Lois Minium Celebrates Crow Canyon with "Forever Gift"

When San Diego resident Lois Minium decided to include Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in her estate plan, she automatically became a member of the Legacy Society, a special group of people who have had the foresight to make a planned gift to support Crow Canyon into the future.

Travel and field experiences with Crow Canyon provided life-changing experiences for Lois, and she has been involved with the organization from its earliest years. She calls her participation "the most wonderful times of my life."

Friends in Cortez led Lois to Crow Canyon, and the organization ensured that she fell in love with archaeology. "My mother said I never did get out of the sandbox," she says. While archaeological research is her favorite part of the organization's mission, Lois was also inspired by her 2002 trip to west Mexico led by Mark Varien, Executive Vice President of the Research Institute. She counts among her keepsakes a personal photo album of that trip. After a career in the Air Force, Lois enjoys time with her Siamese cat Cocoa and visits from nearby family. She misses the Four Corners and wants Crow Canyon's work to continue long after she's gone. "Not that I'm going anywhere soon," she notes with a hearty laugh.

Interested in learning more about making a planned gift to Crow Canyon? Please contact Sarah Grace Pretzer, Major and Planned Gifts Officer, at spretzer@crowcanyon.org or 970-560-7545.

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