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The Rice Museum of Rocks & Minerals launches a new virtual kids club

Hillsboro: The Rice Museum announces the launch of a new virtual kids club free to all. Aurore Giguet, Executive Director of the Rice Museum, said, "We are excited to launch Tucker's Kids Club." Giguet continued, "We hope to inspire future paleontologists and provide a fun educational experience for families at home."

Funded through grants from Cultural Coalition of Washington County, Regional Arts and Culture Council, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Hillsboro Arts and Culture Council, this new program follows the Museum's Free Summer Reading Challenge that encouraged readers at all levels to read earth science-related books. Monthly activity packets will include games and activities to enjoy. This club is perfect for children interested in dinosaurs, junior rockhounds, or those just looking for something new.

Although the program is free to, all those that signup as official members on the Museum's website will receive:

- Free passes;
- Official member badges; and
- Invitations to special club events at the Museum.

The Museum is committed to seeking, including, and welcoming all audiences. In addition to this new free online club, the Rice has joined the access programs [Museums for All](#) and [Blue Star Museums](#). The Museums for All program supports those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits by visiting the Rice Museum for a reduced fee of \$3.00 per person, up to four people, with the presentation of a SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. The Blue Star Museums program begins on Armed Forces Day—Saturday, May 15, 2021, and ends on Labor Day—Monday, September 6, 2021. Active-duty military personnel, including the National Guard and Reserves, and their families will receive free admission to the Museum with the presentation of a valid military id.

About the Rice Museum

Housing a world-class collection of rocks and minerals, the Rice Museum is recognized as the finest in the Pacific Northwest and one of the best in the nation. Its educational

programs include organized school field trips and ongoing educational outreach throughout the community at large. The Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its unique architectural style and natural stone, and extraordinary native Oregon woodwork.

The Rice Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate, one of only three in Oregon. The Affiliation serves as an endorsement of the quality of a museum's facilities, the training and professionalism of its staff, and its mission to educate the public. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at www.affiliations.si.edu.

For more information about the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, call (503) 647-2418 or visit www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org.

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