

May 26, 2020

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton receives funding through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada’s (NSERC) PromoScience program

And created a virtual nature exchange, scavenger hunt program called ONE.

EDMONTON, Alberta –The funding provided the help the science centre needed to launch the first phase of *The Traveling Nature Exchange Outreach program*. *The Online Nature Exchange (ONE)* component, which during this time of physical distancing, has been a way for the public to remain connected to nature knowledge through online scavenger hunts.

The overall *Travelling Nature Exchange Outreach Program*, allows individuals, community members, and teachers, now looking for remote content, to learn and have fun virtually.

- Content currently includes curriculum-based digital scavenger hunts for teachers to conduct with their students online, connecting students to the nature in their neighborhoods.
- This funding will help the science centre continue to develop a *Traveling Nature Exchange*, which will be taken on the road to Northern Alberta schools and communities, once the science centre’s *Science in Motion* program is operational.
- This program will give rural students and teachers the opportunity to learn and teach about the natural world in their immediate environment.

While guests are not able to visit TELUS World of Science – Edmonton currently, they now can earn *Nature Exchange* trading points! *The Nature Exchange* is the science centre’s newest exhibition dedicated to exploring, investigating and learning about nature. In exchange for nature knowledge, they receive trading points which can be used to “buy” something special from the collection of natural artifacts.

Specifically, the *Online Nature Exchange* program posts new challenges each week, using the GooseChase app, which provide participants with a unique way to get out in nature and complete a Scavenger Hunt.

To date 124 teams have participated and over 75 teachers have requests curriculum-based hunts, sharing over 1,300 submissions.

Participants have expressed their praise:

“Kids are very excited to learn and do a fun scavenger hunt”
“I love this because it really gets me outside to have some fun!”
“Love this, hope to see more in the future”
“My daughter loved it”
“10! [rating] It is a lot of fun!”
“I can’t think of anything that might improve it”
“This is fantastic. My 10-year-old is VERY excited about this.”
“This is perfect.”
“So much fun!”

About TELUS World of Science - Edmonton

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton’s mission is to: Ignite curiosity. Inspire discovery. Celebrate science. Change lives. We are the destination to engage Albertans’ hearts and minds in science. The Edmonton Space & Science Foundation is a non-profit organization that operates TELUS World of Science – Edmonton.

About The Nature Exchange

*This new exhibition is where guests can become natural history researchers, simply by exploring your own backyards! Visit the **Trading Centre**, where you can analyze, discuss, interpret and catalogue your natural item. Trade your item to earn points. The more information you learn about your item, the more points you can earn! Once they’ve accumulated enough points, you can use them to shop **The Nature Exchange’s** collection of natural items – each of them found in Alberta. Add something new and exciting to your home collection, like a small meteorite or even a amethyst stone! **The Nature Exchange** encourages guests to explore their surroundings when they are in nature, to find something cool that intrigues them – like tree bark or pinecones; the list goes on! – and return to **The Nature Exchange** again and again to share information and make trades. Find something you can’t remove from nature, like a bird’s nest, eggs, or living plants? That’s okay! You can trade drawings, photographs, or field notes about your discoveries instead to earn points. So, what are you waiting for? Get outside in nature and go explore!*

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Ursula Pattloch
Director, Marketing and Communications,
TELUS World of Science – Edmonton
upattloch@twose.ca