

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High Desert Museum Partners with Oregon Adaptive Sports for an Evening of Adaptive Climbing

Special night is part of Museum & Me program

BEND, OR — The High Desert Museum and Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS) are teaming up to put on a special edition of a Museum program designed to offer opportunities to children and adults with physical, intellectual and/or social disabilities. Museum & Me: Adaptive Climbing will take place on Saturday, September 8 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm to celebrate the climbing ability of all.

During Museum & Me, the Museum opens after-hours to give those with disabilities and their family and friends a chance to explore the Museum at their own pace without extra stimulation. The event is free and takes place once per quarter.

For this evening, we're adding the opportunity to try the climbing wall in our exhibit *Ascent: Climbing Explored*. Trained OAS staff and volunteers will supply all the climbing equipment to meet individual needs and goals, including cutting edge adaptive equipment and modified gear to accommodate a wide range of abilities.

The High Desert Museum has a strong commitment to inclusion and accessibility and is proud to partner with OAS for this unique opportunity. The Bend-based nonprofit organization (oregonadaptivesports.org) offers experiences, lessons and outings for all people of all abilities.

Museum & Me: Adaptive Climbing marks the final days of the Museum's exhibition, *Ascent: Climbing Explored*. Open since April, *Ascent* explores the dynamic history, evolution and culture of climbing and mountaineering in the West. Included in the experiential exhibit are a knot-tying station, an interactive protection gear display and rock crack, and the climbing wall for children ages 5 to 12.

"Opening up the *Ascent* exhibit climbing wall to Museum & Me visitors is a wonderful opportunity," said High Desert Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. "With the expertise and passion of Oregon Adaptive Sports volunteers, we want to celebrate climbing as an inclusive activity."

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RSVP for Museum & Me: Adaptive Climbing at highdesertmuseum.org/museum-and-me-adaptive-climbing.

Museum & Me is made possible by Mark and Kathy Kralj with Ferguson Wellman Capital Management.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM:

THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in 1982 and brings regional wildlife, culture, art and natural resources together to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's high desert country. The Museum uses indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, and living history demonstrations to help people discover and appreciate the high desert environment. The Museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate. highdesertmuseum.org

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