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Heart Mountain Interpretive Center Receives Media Award

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation was awarded the 2012 Interior Exhibit Award from the National Association of Interpretation at their National Workshop in Hampton, Virginia on November 17, 2012. The award was presented to Split Rock Studios, the exhibit design team responsible for creating "Across a Wire: Voices from Heart Mountain" at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. The Interpretive Media Awards Competition is conducted by the National Association for Interpretation and its Interpretive Media Section to promote excellence in the delivery of natural, cultural, and historical non-personal interpretive services.

Opened in August 2011, the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center includes 11,000 square-feet of permanent displays and exhibits which showcase the denial of basic rights to people of Japanese ancestry by the U.S. government following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Told from the perspective of the internees, the exhibits highlight their pre-war lives on the West Coast, forced evacuation and travel to Heart Mountain, where they settled into their barracks and lives as prisoners.

This is the third award the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center has received. Earlier this year the Alliance of American Museums awarded Heart Mountain the Excellence in Exhibition Award for Eloquent Presentation of Topic and the Wyoming Education Association honored Heart Mountain with the 2012 Harriett "Liz" Byrd Award, which annually honors an organization that has made an outstanding educational contribution in the areas of human relations, multiculturalism and diversity.

"We are delighted with the work of Split Rock Studios and our collaboration with them on this project," notes Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Executive Director, Steve Leger. "The exhibit has truly met all of our hopes and expectations-and then some...I can say nearly everyone who visits the Center is deeply moved. Tears, earnest conversation, expressions of regret and apology, inspiration to make sure another episode like this never occurs again, and high praise for the exhibits are common."

Located between Cody and Powell on Highway 14a, the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center's winter hours are 10am to 5pm, Wednesdays through Saturdays and by special appointment. Admission is \$7.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for seniors and students and children under 12 are free. For more information please call (307) 754-8000 or visit www.HeartMountain.org.