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THE WILD CENTER SHORTLISTED FOR
2015 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE
Public Invited to Share Stories of Center’s Excellent Programs and Public Services on IMLS Facebook Page

Tupper Lake, NY – The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced that The Wild Center is among the 30 finalists for the 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community. For 21 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service to make a difference for individuals, families, and communities.

“Museums and libraries are the lifeblood of our communities, serving as trusted providers of critical resources, educational training, skills development, and civic and cultural enrichment,” said Maura Marx, acting director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “We salute The Wild Center for exemplary leadership in promoting lifelong learning while engaging and inspiring the public.”

“From the beginning we wanted The Wild Center to not just be a tourist attraction, but an integral part of our community,” said Stephanie Ratcliffe, executive director of the Center. “From the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit where we bring schools from the Adirondacks and beyond together to discuss serious issues to engaging the local Tupper Lake community in our community maple program and training small producers or being recognized as the ‘science wing’ of L.P. Quinn Elementary School our participation in our community is central to who we are. It’s an honor for a young institution such as The Wild Center to be considered for such a prestigious award.”

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited The Wild Center to share their story on the IMLS Facebook page, www.facebook.com/USIMLS. Visit the IMLS Facebook page to learn more about how these institutions make an impact.

The National Medal winners will be named later this spring, and representatives from winning institutions will travel to Washington, D.C. to be honored at the National Medal award ceremony. Winning institutions also receive a visit from StoryCorps, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs.

To Share Your Story, please visit www.facebook.com/USIMLS. To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit www.imls.gov/medals.
About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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