

PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Moonlight Community Foundation (MCF) strives to provide and enhance opportunities for education, conservation and youth development for residents of the Big Sky, Montana community, as well as all visitors to the Big Sky area. MCF seeks to assist all individuals or groups as they experience the rich natural resources of this area, by providing increased educational and charitable opportunities.

MCF was approved as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation in the state of Montana on September 3, 2013, following original incorporation approval on May 24, 2013. MCF began informally in August 2011 with its first general fundraiser. Madison Byways served as MCF's fiscal sponsor until July 2014, when MCF was declared exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. MCF is currently an all-volunteer organization. Funding is provided by donations from the general public and donations from non-profit private foundations.

MCF continues to be involved in hiking and trail signage projects throughout Moonlight Basin, as well as the greater Big Sky Community. The Foundation also plays an ongoing role in Camp Moonlight, having increased the number of educational camp programs and scholarships.



CAMP MOONLIGHT PROGRAM + SPONSORSHIP

With youth development as one of the primary missions of MCF, youth summer camp attendance and program sponsorship became one of its on-going, significant projects. In the summer of 2013, MCF spearheaded the launch of "Camp Moonlight", a nature-based summer camp designed to get children ages 4 and older excited about the great outdoors. The campers' activities included hiking, canoeing, horseback riding, fly-fishing, art, creative writing, wildlife identification & tracking, plant identification, geology, map & compass skills, mountain survival skills, wildlife safety, archery, astronomy and much more. In addition to making camp equipment available to Camp Moonlight, MCF was also able to fully

fund 14 campers on need-based scholarships in 2013.

As the inaugural session of the camp was an overwhelming success, demand grew. In 2014, the camp expanded to two 5-day sessions and significant efforts were made to encourage local families to attend and apply for scholarships. MCF sponsored 30 campers with full or partial scholarships that year. Additionally, MCF funded the Equine Education program, a Native American Specialist, and various educational staff.

Much like last year, in 2015 the Moonlight Club once again oversaw and operated Camp Moonlight, with naturalist Jeremy Harder serving as Camp Director. Jeremy's past accomplishments include the launch of



"Expedition Yellowstone", a week-long excursion into Yellowstone National Park that has become the rite of passage for all fourth graders at Big Sky's Ophir Elementary School. Jeremy has not only been instrumental in developing education and recreation-oriented programs, but has also assisted in identifying scholarship candidates.

HIKING TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The Big Sky, Montana area currently has numerous public hiking trails, and although the natural beauty of the area rivals that of many U.S. National Parks, there has been minimal educational information available to hikers up to this point. In 2012, MCF designed five hiking trail signs which provide information about 1) area wildlife, 2) area geology, 3)

area wetlands and ecosystems, 4) early settlers and 5) the nearby Spanish Peaks mountain range. Five trail signs were installed on the Uley's Loop Trail in the spring of 2014.



While trail signage and the launch of Camp Moonlight have been the primary focus over the past few years, MCF continues to be involved with other local entities. In addition to the two projects described above, MCF has provided donations to the Big Sky Big Brothers | Big Sisters and Madison Byways. MCF recently approved funding for assistance to the elementary school library and trail signage along the Hummocks and Uplands Trails near Big Sky's Town Center.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

Financial support of other non-profit organizations and programs that are in alignment with the mission of the Moonlight Community Foundation will continue to be a consideration of the Foundation's in the future. We are excited to share our plans for further involvement in the Big Sky Community.

STAY TUNED FOR 2015....

KIDS LOVE CAMP – HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN!

The Moonlight Community Foundation continues its fundraising efforts in support of Camp Moonlight. This year, a very special scholarship was named in memory of Harbor DeWard, a Big Sky kindergarten who passed away unexpectedly in January 2015. Harbor attended Camp Moonlight in 2014, smiling brightly and spreading joy to all those around him. This year's recipient, Jayden Jacobson, exhibited dedication and service to her community beyond her 8 years.

5TH ANNUAL SKI BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

SUMMER SOCIAL

Thanks to all of those who attended MCF's summer social on July 26th. It was a beautiful evening, allowing us to once again hold the event outdoors. Auction prizes included everything from original works of art to much sought after football tickets, raising over \$30,000 towards initiatives in the Big Sky Community. More information will be forthcoming about our winter social in the coming months.

MCF will continue to develop strategic alliances with other organizations resulting in positive contributions to the greater Big Sky Community.