



NEWSLETTER **FALL 2021**

22 Years And Counting



Have you met Ty? If you've had the pleasure, then you know Ty truly is that...a pleasure. Ty welcomes every person he meets with a smile and a story, asking thoughtful questions about your day, and almost always remembering your name. This year, alongside friends he's known for years, Ty is thriving.

Ty has participated in Eagle Mount programming for twenty two years! Over the years, he has participated in just about every activity Eagle Mount offers. He started skiing at age 8. Shortly after that, he started riding. His favorite horse is Strut, but he's ridden many over the years and enjoys time with them very much. Horseback riding is hard, it's a complex skill that takes focus and dedication. Ty has learned to walk and trot and enjoys equitation.

Ty recently asked "Did you know that I am a gardener?" while pointing to the raised beds in the Eagle Mount program garden. This summer, Ty has his own garden bed in the Eagle Mount program garden. He's growing tomatoes, carrots, white pumpkins and nasturtiums. When asked, Ty says one of his favorite things about gardening is getting a little dirty. At home, he gardens with his mom, Linda, and his dad, John. John volunteers with the horticulture program, too! While they enjoy these times together, Eagle Mount provides the whole family independence and stress-free time apart.

Linda, Ty's mom, has also come to Eagle Mount to present "Life After High School" information to staff. "It's important to understand that the needs are the same after high school

for people with disabilities, but the opportunities for support and activities are not," Linda says. Eagle Mount provides an important element in the lives of our participants, and we also know we are part of a community of resources. Linda was a huge contributor to Path4Care.com, an online resource that is a collaborative partnership of Bozeman area parents and organizations that helps guide caregivers as they plan to support the needs of an individual with developmental disabilities or other special needs.

Ty has a whole lot more going on than just Eagle Mount. He works at The Springs Assisted Living in Bozeman. Ty has participated in Special Olympics in skiing, basketball, bowling and track. "I like to ski fast," Ty says with a grin. Ty also gets to spend a lot of time with his friends, many of whom are also his peers here at Eagle Mount like Becky, Remi, Nick, Max, Sarah and Lucy. In their lives outside of Eagle Mount, the parents of this longtime group of friends have kept them connected to one another for fun and engaging activities, as well as other supports like finding roommates and transportation.

Ty finds real joy in Eagle Mount activities and the ways they weave into the rest of his life. Beyond connecting with his longtime friends, he has developed useful and healthy skills like horseback riding and gardening that have benefits far beyond the time he spends on Eagle Mount's campus. Ty's favorite memories at Eagle Mount are Adventure Days where he particularly enjoyed zip lining, hiking and kayaking around Bozeman and Hyalite. Last summer, Ty wasn't working so he took part in many of the hikes and family events that Eagle Mount hosted. This included the weekly Zoom calls where he and his friends played games, told stories, and kept in touch when gathering wasn't possible.

When asked what his favorite thing about Eagle Mount is, Ty lights up. "I love people and I love Eagle Mount. I really enjoy being at Eagle Mount." Ty loves participating with Eagle Mount and friends.

Want to hear more stories like Ty's? Sign up for our weekly newsletter at eaglemount.org #eaglemountbozeman #HEREWECAN

JOIN THE SOCIAL PARTY!



Keep in the loop as we go on some adventures. But be careful – the fun we're having is contagious!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



40 YEARS

This fall, Eagle Mount will begin to celebrate its 40th Anniversary! We are planning a year of activities and events that highlight our programs and engaging our long-time participants, volunteers, and supporters. Visit www.eaglemount.org/40 for up-to-date event information, and we hope to see you on campus or throughout the community as we celebrate 40 years!

If your business would like to partner with Eagle Mount on a product or activity, please reach out to Stephanie Uter at suter@eaglemount.org.



CRYSTAL BALL

November 6, 2021 - 6pm-Midnight

Each year, Eagle Mount hosts three of Bozeman's most beloved events - celebrating milestones this year are the 10th Annual Digger Days, and 25th Annual Western Rendezvous. Crystal Ball is just around the corner! Stay tuned to eaglemount.org/events for details as they evolve and to reserve your tickets when they become available.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for all events. Contact Stephanie Uter at events@eaglemount.org for more info.



HALLOWEEN FEST

October 28, 2021 - 5-7pm

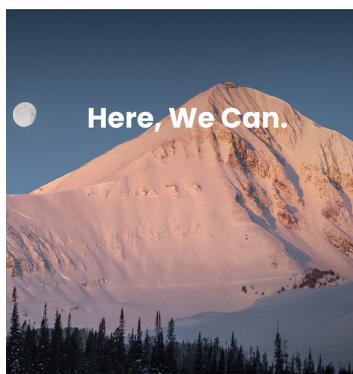
Eagle Mount participants and their families are invited to a Halloween trick-or-treat event on the Eagle Mount campus. Come in your costumes and enjoy lots of Halloween spirit, crafts, treats, and of course, candy!

CHRISTMAS ON CAMPUS

December 2021

Open to the Community!

Join us as the Eagle Mount campus becomes a winter wonderland full of holiday décor, lights, crafts, and lots of festive cheer. Get into the holiday spirit with us! More info to come.



HERE, WE CAN.

At Eagle Mount, winter recreation fills the cold weather months with lots of activities and tons of fun! Downhill skiing and snowboarding at Bridger Bowl and in Big Sky, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, and ice skating will all be back this year. During the upcoming seasons, we'll also offer cooking, arts and crafts, dance, theater and so much more!

Visit eaglemount.org for updates to fall and winter programming, camps, and events.

Participant Application: eaglemount.org/participate

Volunteer Application: eaglemount.org/volunteer



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ANDERS WELLENSTEIN



Anders was born and raised in the Rattlesnake, on the outskirts of Missoula. His mom is a counselor, and his dad works at University of Montana in social work. Anders' and his two siblings were raised with a strong sense of values from their parents, including compassion, kindness, openness to differences and a willingness to get to know people who are different from you. Anders is currently a senior at MSU studying Human Development and Family Science, with graduation in sight this December.

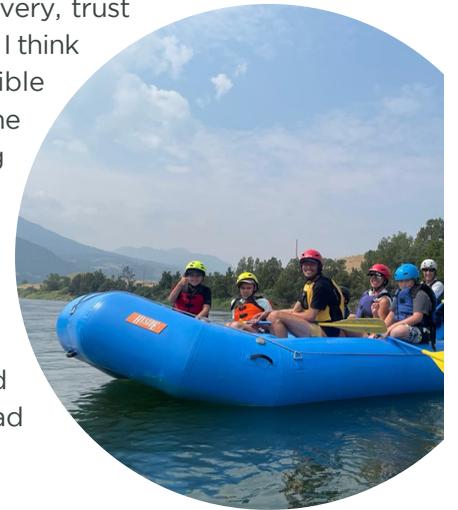
Anders chose his coursework and fell in love with EM for some of the same reasons - he's fascinated by people, and he has a particularly personal connection to overcoming adversity. As a child, Anders had a number of health ailments and spent lots of time in hospitals and working with doctors. But his family has always been very active, regularly cross country and downhill skiing, biking, running, hiking and swimming. Activity and recreation were always a priority. Anders remembers always being prepared and in touch with a phone, inhaler and epi pen in his pockets at all times. The importance of recreation and the importance of powering through adversity were always hand-in-hand.

"Working with kids has always come very naturally to me. Through working with EM, I've learned so much about working individuals in new ways, the importance

of building relationships and trust, asking permission, weaving humor and compassion into conversation alongside directives."

Anders has volunteered with Eagle Mount for 3 years, starting with cross country skiing and downhill skiing with the Bridger Bowl Program. This summer, Anders worked nearly full-time with Eagle Mount Adventure Days, utilizing his volunteer hours to satisfy an internship requirement for his degree. Anders says he loves the Adventure Days programming that "welcomes participants to engage with peers, volunteers, and staff with the shared goal of instilling the love of recreation into each participant." Anders remembers one participant who had lots of fear around heights at the start of this summer's tour of the Lewis and Clark Caverns. But the following week, that participant flexed and called out for cheers from friends after jumping excitedly off the zip line platform with "confidence, swagger, and joy."

"Eagle Mount is one of the coolest things ever! Every day, participants encounter things they're fearful of, or haven't tried. It's so exciting to be a part of it as they develop their skills, bravery, trust and sense of adventure! I think that it's nearly impossible for anyone to spend time at EM without leaving feeling amazed, grateful and impressed by the organization. Everyone should spend time here. It's so impactful, full of joy, beauty, and connection. I'm so glad to be a part of it."



Everybody Has Challenges. We Have Adventures.



EAGLEMOUNT.ORG

6901 GOLDENSTEIN LANE • BOZEMAN, MT 59715



Letter from Our Leadership

Dear friends,

This fall, Eagle Mount will start to celebrate its 40th anniversary. Which means for 40 years, tens of thousands of people with disabilities and young people with cancer have learned to ski, to ride a horse, to swim, hike, bike, garden, ice skate, rock climb, and have adventures in the outdoors because of Eagle Mount. For 40 years, Eagle Mount has not only supported people with disabilities, but celebrated the uniqueness of each participant that we are lucky to recreate with.

You know our tagline, “everyone has challenges, we have adventures”. But this tagline should really be expanded to say “everyone has challenges, we have adventures, and everyone needs community.” Because it is the spirit of community and the relationships that are built that is really the magic behind Eagle Mount.

So as we kick off our anniversary celebrations, we’ll be highlighting 40 years of building a sense of place and community for the participants, families, supporters, and volunteers we work with. We hope to see you as the upcoming year unfolds and thank you for making this a special community.

With sincere gratitude,

Kevin Sylvester
Executive Director

Anne Baccus
Board Chair

Donor Spotlight **Peder Billion - President of Billion Auto**

Meet Peder Billion, president of Billion Auto Group. Peder grew up in a family where community, generosity, and giving to others were everyday conversations around the dinner table. In the spirit of giving back, Peder was introduced to Eagle Mount at a very young age. As a teenager and young adult, Peder remembers volunteering with his mother in Eagle Mount’s aquatics program. When asked today about that experience, Peder says “it was really about helping others experience happiness and joy... people who might not be able to do it on their own.”

Supporting Eagle Mount, other organizations in the community, and his neighbors are part of his faith and fabric. When asked why Eagle Mount has remained one of the primary organizations he financially contributes to, Peder responded “God has blessed us with good business, and with those blessings we feel it’s necessary to give back. I believe in Eagle Mount’s mission and the work that it does. Eagle Mount does so much more than help people get outside... it really creates a community, creates a sense of family amongst those who participate in the programs.”

Today, Peder’s responsibilities with Billion Auto Group and to his young family keep him busy. But, one of his favorite Eagle Mount activities is Western Rendezvous – an event the whole family can enjoy. For the past several years, this event was held in early June, often falling on his birthday. Rendezvous is close to his heart because he thinks it’s a wonderful testimony to the work that is done at Eagle Mount. Its people of all ages, all abilities, all backgrounds coming together, it’s a celebration of the community that Eagle Mount builds and fosters. This year, Eagle Mount celebrates its 25th annual Western Rendezvous on September 24.

As Eagle Mount nears its 40th anniversary, Peder, his mother Sue, his father Joe, wife Melanie and their children are all synonymous with the Eagle Mount name. Peder’s mother, Sue has been a champion and supporter of Eagle Mount since nearly the beginning. Among

many other roles, she served two terms on Eagle Mount’s board including a term as chair. Peder and Billion Auto group are helping kick off the 40th anniversary celebrations as instrumental partners to Eagle Mount yet again, helping bring three new vehicles to the Eagle Mount fleet including a 15-passenger, wheelchair accessible van and a pickup truck for towing gear.

You’ve seen the commercials, you know the tagline: “Nobody beats a Billion deal, nobody”. Well, we’re here to say that nobody beats the depth and breadth of wrapping their arms around Eagle Mount like the Billions... nobody!

“Everyone at Billion Auto Group supports Eagle Mount and believes in what you are doing,” Peder says. Their website describes Bozeman as “a beautiful place to call home, and what makes it even better is when we can come together as a community to make a difference.” Eagle Mount is grateful for the many ways Peder, his family, and the family business have been important partners in delivering our mission.



BECAUSE OF YOU

Participant Spotlight



FENIX

Aquatics Program Participant

"I really like Eagle Mount because you can be yourself. I feel relaxed in the pool, like I'm expressing myself. It's fun, and I've made great friends. During Adventure Days, I really liked all of the activities, but especially rafting - floating down the rivers. You get to see everything around you and the water fights with the other participants were so fun!"

- Fenix Denny

Fenix started participating in Eagle Mount in 2016 and took a break when she moved out of the area for a bit. She was so excited to be back during 2021 and dove into everything including the summer send-off campout.



CHARLIE

Adaptive Horsemanship and Adventure Days Participant

"I love the horses, they're stinky!" Charlie says with a giggle. "I love my friends at Adventure Days. Most of all, Cory. I just like going to Eagle Mount. I like to spend time with my friends and canoe. I loved going to Chico Hot Springs. During the campout I'll canoe to my tent and bring Dog, my stuffed animal."

Charlie has participated with Eagle Mount for a few years but this summer he has been a part of more than ever! From horseback riding to Adventure Days, Charlie has done it all. "Eagle Mount is an incredible resource. I see the joy in Charlie before each activity, the anticipation of going. Eagle Mount's programs are well rounded and full of fun."

- Bijan Fathy, Charlie's Dad



SYVEL

Adventure Days, Aquatics, and Horticulture Participant

"The inclusiveness of Eagle Mount is our favorite thing. It is a safe, thriving, fun, exciting environment for Syvel. I see the impact on not only us, but other families. And we're so appreciative of the volunteers who help make every activity possible - it truly takes a village!"

Syvel's favorite events are usually Adventure Days - they feel like special occasions, especially the campouts. He's attended two overnight campouts, after the first he came back all smiles for a week!

My favorite memory is me driving away from EM, feeling appreciative and thankful knowing Syvel has a place to go where I don't have to worry. I can leave him with EM and feel carefree. It has brought me to tears, the fact that I can take a breath and relax knowing Syvel is part of an engaging, fun activity like Saturday Night Out."

- Angie Lowery, Syvel's mom



Supporting Eagle Mount's Mission

Thanks to the generosity of our community of donors, sponsors, and volunteers, Eagle Mount is approaching 40 years of recreating with people with disabilities and young people with cancer. Our participants and campers look to us for all of the joy, adventure and fun we offer, and we look to you to make it all possible through your support.

Cash gifts, gifts of appreciated stock, grants, sponsorships, bequests, volunteer hours and in-kind donations all make Eagle Mount programming possible.

Support Eagle Mount's inspiring mission today!

Donate – Donors bring Eagle Mount's mission to life. Did you know that Eagle Mount is supported by more than 1200 generous donors each year? Join our donor community today at eaglemount.org/support.

Sponsor – Sponsors support Eagle Mount signature events and individual programs. Learn more at eaglemount.org/sponsor or contact Stephanie Uter at events@eaglemount.org.

Volunteer – Volunteers give thousands of hours of their time and expertise each year. Learn more and sign up today at eaglemount.org/volunteer.

Thank you for supporting Eagle Mount!

Eagle Mount Specialty Plates

For just \$20 per year, you can proudly display your support for Eagle Mount. Remember us when you register or renew your Montana plates this year!

Amazon Smile

You shop, Amazon gives. When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a percentage of your order to Eagle Mount when you choose us.

Smith's Donations

Enroll online, shop at Smith's using your rewards card, and earn money for Eagle Mount. www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow.

Thrivent's Choice

You can direct an annual contribution through your Thrivent Financial member services to Eagle Mount. www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/liiving-generously/thrivent-choice/



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