

Drew and Silas Friendship & Mentorship



Silas (orange jacket on left) and Drew (orange jacket on right) enjoying the slopes during an Eagle Mount lesson.

Everyone deserves a mentor. A mentor is someone you trust, someone that provides guidance and support, someone you can always count on. Most importantly, a mentor is someone that you can look up to and aspire to be like. Eagle Mount's programs fostered this relationship between Silas and Drew.

Drew's journey with Eagle Mount started in 2018 as a participant after breaking his back skiing. Drew moved up through the ranks from volunteer ski instructor to paid staff, and now he leads the Bridger ski program and cycling program as an associate director of adaptive recreation. Silas and Drew met in the ski program in the winter of 2022. At the time, Drew had just begun with the adaptive teaching team and immediately recognized Silas' potential to grow as both a skier and an individual. Drew understands the importance of mentorship thanks to his mentor, Dave Poole, especially the importance of shared experiences and similar challenges. A mentor with similar experiences allows you to rely on someone who understands your journey, including both the challenges and the achievements. Together Silas and Drew created a bond through their shared love of skiing and shared experiences.

Silas has been participating in numerous Eagle Mount programs since the age of 4, but it was skiing that kept bringing him back year after year. Silas and his family bond over skiing, and through his time at Eagle Mount, Silas has been right beside them on the mountain. With Drew's coaching and Silas' love for being on the slopes, Silas has become confident and skilled on the mono ski. Drew's teachings are in the form of advice that supports Silas as he makes his own decisions, whether they result in success or learning. Drew never shies away from mistakes and always encourages Silas to get back up. Drew's enthusiasm and words of encouragement can be heard from a mile away. When you see their friendship, you see smiles and laughter.

Over the years, Silas has grown both on and off the hill. When Silas joined the program, he was shy and kept to himself. Drew introduced Silas to Bozeman's wheelchair-user community and encouraged his growth both as an athlete and an individual. Silas' passion for skiing has only grown, as have his confidence and independence. He now makes it his responsibility to sign himself up and get to programs. Silas's mother Maggie notes that through his participation in Eagle Mount programs and his relationship with Drew, Silas has grown more outgoing and humorous, less like the shy kid he once knew. In the same way, being a mentor has impacted Drew as well. Their connection brings each of them joy and fulfillment; Silas in being able to grow and find a passion for skiing, and Drew in knowing that he is a support to someone in a similar situation to himself. In Drew's words,

"I've grown coaching Silas just as much as Silas has grown up being coached by me."

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Want to hear more stories like Silas'? Sign up for our weekly newsletter at eaglemount.org!

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Digger Days Wrap Up

The 13th annual Digger Days on August 24, 2024, was a huge success, reaching new milestones with more equipment and vendor booths than ever before! Thanks to strong promotion, the event drew more than 3,000 attendees. This achievement was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors, including longtime partners Sime Construction, TMC Inc., Knife River, and D&D Trucking, as well as around 100 dedicated volunteers, including Eagle Mount board members, volunteers, and equipment operators.



Some of the amazing Eagle Mount staff that helped make Digger Days possible!



Jed proudly showing off his Digger Days Helmet.

Meet Heather Thomas

Hello Eagle Mount friends, I'm Heather Thomas, and I joined the staff of Eagle Mount as Director of Development in late July. It has been a pleasure and a joy to meet so many participants, families, board members, volunteers and donors - and the incredible EM staff! - over the past few months. I've experienced Digger Days (wow, what a community event), a horsemanship lesson at Big Sky, an Adventure Days outing to the Museum of the Rockies with the young adult group, and swimming with the high school group.

I came to Eagle Mount through our daughter, Janie, who is a summer participant with the Gallatin Galavanners Adventure Days group. I've seen first-hand how Janie has developed confidence, made special friendships and had some amazing outdoor adventures. The Adventure Days camp-out at Pine Creek this summer was a highlight for her and gently moved her beyond her comfort zone in good ways.



Lucile, Janie and Chloe on the Adventure Days camp-out.



Hiking this summer in Yellowstone.

With our English Cocker Spaniel Skipper, our family lives in Livingston with some back and forth to Nebraska where my husband Will is a historian, writer and professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Our oldest daughter lives in Virginia, and our son is in his third year of law school at the University of Montana in Missoula.

I am eager to work with the staff and board to build on Eagle Mount's 40+ history and deepen the culture of philanthropy for this special organization. Eagle Mount relies on many individual benefactors, and corporate sponsors, grant funders and donors like you. Your support every year means that Eagle Mount touches thousands of lives. Please stop by the campus and say hello, I'd love to show you the beautiful garden this fall maintained by the horticulture clubs or the newly remodeled Storey Mills Horsemanship Education Center. I look forward to meeting you! Reach out to me at hthomas@eaglemount.org



Horsemanship Center Ribbon Cutting

Since March 2024, when we broke ground on our dream of a new Horsemanship Education, countless hours of hard work and support have been put in to making this center a reality. The vision for the new Storey Mills Horsemanship Education Center has truly come to light. In this center, existing programming will be elevated, skills will be built, knowledge will be gained, friendships will be formed, mistakes will be learned from, and victories will be celebrated.

On Friday October 11, 2024, we cut the ribbon to the Storey Mills Horsemanship Education Center and our new journey with the horsemanship program began. Community members and participants were invited to celebrate this monumental night.

To kick off the opening of the new center, the 6th annual Eagle Mount Horse Show took place the following Saturday. Glenna DeRham was the posthumous honorary chair of the horse show for her generosity and her family's unwavering commitment to Eagle Mount. At the dedication four awards were given: Horse of the Year, Teacher's Hope Riders of the Year, Myrt Woosley Volunteer of the Year, and Pocahontas Kindest Participant Award. These awards were handed out by Claire Brunner, the Director of Horsemanship. The Horse of the Year Award is given to the horse that maintains a therapeutic relationship with their riders and handlers and has made an impact on the quality of life of those they serve. Wilbur received the 2024 Horse of the Year Award. The Teacher's Hope Riders of the Year Award goes to participants that display sportsmanship, commitment to their goals, courage, and are role models to others. This award went to Ruth Spinelli and Emily Ruff. The Myrt Woosley Volunteer of the Year Award goes to a volunteer that encompasses the traits of commitment, dependability, empathy, and support. Carol Johnson received this award. The Pocahontas Kindest Participant Award goes to a participant that embodies aspects of kindness such as patience, empathy, positivity, and encouragement. This award was received by Sanders Watson.



The Teacher's Hope Riders of the Year: Ruth Spinelli and Emily Ruff with Barn Manager, Joanna Rodgers-Liston and Horsemanship Director, Claire Brunner.



The opening celebration of the new Horsemanship Education Center on 10/11/24.

We want to thank everyone who supported the Horsemanship Education Center project: Sandee and John Mills for the lead gift, Kenyon Noble for lumber and building materials, Eagle Mount board member Neal Baggett and Thombagg Architects for his design and oversight of the project, Laura Stanley (Story Street Studio) for her expertise with the interior space, and the many generous donors, foundations and businesses who made this project possible.



Sandee Mills (right) cutting the ribbon on the Storey Mill's Education Center.



Myrt Woosley (left) - one of Eagle Mount's first volunteers. Cyndi Fonda (right)- the second ever staff member at Eagle Mount.



Drew and Silas (Continued from Page 1)

For Silas's mom, Maggie, independence is an open door. One uses their own inner power to go through the door and works hard to stay there. Eagle Mount opens the door for people like Silas and so many others; a door to grow, learn, and connect with others. But it is ultimately the power of hard work and determination that gets those through the door and into the opportunities beyond. Eagle Mount has opened the door for Silas, and through Drew's mentorship, Silas has continued to grow and take every opportunity that has come his way. Silas and Drew connected on the ski hill, but this friendship will last far beyond it.



Silas rock climbing at Spire.

Make sure to look for our Silas and Drew video debuting later this fall!

Grant Spotlight: The Treacy Foundation

Did you know Eagle Mount is entirely privately funded, in part by dozens of grants each year? One long standing grant partner has supported Eagle Mount at numerous important moments. "The Treacy Foundation feels very fortunate to work with Eagle Mount and many other very worthy non-profit organizations who provide such vital services to people throughout Montana." Mike Cooney, Treacy Foundation Executive Director.

The Treacy Foundation was founded in 1946 in Helena by J.E. O'Connell (Eddy) and colleagues. The Treacy name came from Eddy's mother's maiden name. Eddy was a successful businessman in Montana and surrounding states, including being well-known for Eddy's Bakery. His focus was his attention on making good bread for a good price and in the process, he established a legacy of bakeries and distribution centers throughout the northwest. In Helena, a restored Eddy's Bakery sign adorns the 400 block of Last Chance Gulch. Eddy wanted to help his employees' families send their children to college, sparking a legacy of giving. Upon Eddy's death in 1972, his son, James continued the legacy of the foundation until his death in 2010. Today, the Treacy Foundation is committed to supporting and strengthening nonprofit organizations in our community by awarding financial grants and providing financial assistance through scholarships to students pursuing higher education.



Santee Mills (left) and Kevin Sylvester (right) in front of the new Storey Mill's Education Center.

Eagle Mount is the grateful recipient of more than \$438,000 in support across 38 years from the Treacy Foundation. Capital grants have provided foundational support for Eagle Mount's pool construction and maintenance, construction of the equestrian program hay barn, and most recently, construction of the new Horsemanship Education Center.



The Barnard Pool is one of the many Eagle Mount Projects that the Treacy Foundation has supported.



The Treacy Foundation was instrumental in the construction of Eagle Mount's hay barn.





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Supporting Eagle Mount's Mission

Donations make Eagle Mount adventures possible!

A gift to Eagle Mount isn't just a gift to an organization - it's support for joy, adventure, connection, strength, confidence, and so much more!

Donate

Eagle Mount's wide array of programs, activities, events, and groups are made possible by the generosity of our community of donors. With an annual budget of more than \$3.2 million, your support makes Eagle Mount's mission come alive. Donations of \$10,000, \$1000, \$100, and \$10 each make a special impact on the work we are able to do.

Thank you for the important gifts you give!

Sponsor

Sponsors support Eagle Mount's mission, underwrite specific programs, and also make Eagle Mount's premier events possible. We are grateful for the more than 150 corporate, foundation, individual and family sponsors who partner each year with us.

Volunteer

What's more valuable than your time? Eagle Mount is only possible because of the time and expertise of our volunteers.
THANK YOU!

Participate, Volunteer, and Donate today at eaglemount.org

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

Eagle Mount Specialty Plates

Remember us when you renew your Montana vehicle registration, and sport an Eagle Mount license plate for \$20 per year.



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Thank you for supporting Eagle Mount!

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Intern Spotlights



Ella Roe: Adaptive Recreation Intern

Ella Roe joined us this summer with a positive attitude with a willingness to learn. We expected great things, but Ella exceeded our wildest expectations. She helped facilitate 50+ adventures; rafting, kayaking, ziplining, hiking, camping, swimming, etc. There was no situation or problem she couldn't handle with her personal brand of compassion and patience. Ella will always have a place in the hearts of Eagle Mounts participants, volunteers, and staff! Thank you again Ella for every smile and every laugh!



Emily Fettig: Marketing & Engagement Intern

Emily is an amazing addition to the Marketing and Engagement team! She brings outstanding organization, creativity, and ambition. She is always enthusiastic to learn new things and to tackle any project handed her way. Emily also helped without hesitation with events like Western Rendezvous and Digger Days. From emails to photographing big events for social media, she excels in it all! We are so thankful for all of Emily's continued hard work and passion towards Eagle Mount's mission.



Erika Chapin: Adaptive Arts Intern

A HUGE thank you to this year's Adaptive Arts intern, Erika Chapin! This summer, Erika dedicated 10 weeks to writing, directing, and designing our annual Adaptive Theater Performance. Her hard work and creativity were evident in the production of "The Quest for the Princess," which drew the largest crowds in the history of our theater program. Thanks to Erika's exceptional efforts, our friends and families enjoyed an unforgettable performance by 13 talented Eagle Mount participants!!

Thank you to our interns for helping to carry out our mission! Interested in interning? Find future openings at eaglemount.org

Featured Event: Crystal Ball

NOVEMBER 2, 2024



The Gallatin Valley's first and most elegant black-tie gala, Eagle Mount's Crystal Ball provides donors with an evening like no other. At this event, guests enjoy a hosted bar, a three-course dinner, both a live and silent auction, and an after-party with dancing and live music. On top of it all, The Crystal Ball provides vital support to Eagle Mount's mission and makes adventure possible!

To participate in the Silent Auction or donate, please use this mobile link, <https://e.givesmart.com/events/Exv/i/>.

Thank you!

