

Winter Art Show

BY EMMA CONNORS

On March 8th, the Mary Peterson Community Room at Eagle Mount was transformed into an art gallery. Drawings of plants, dinosaurs, apples, and dogs adorned the walls. An elaborate castle, an erupting volcano, and a playable guitar all made of cardboard were on display. Participants beamed with pride as they showed off their artwork to their family and friends.

This Winter Art Show, the first at Eagle Mount, marked the end of a 7-week Adaptive Arts session, in which participants, with the guidance of volunteers, learned to draw in pencil and sculpt with cardboard.

In Drawing 101, participants learned the fundamentals of drawing through a variety of fun exercises each week. Starting with basic shapes – rectangles, triangles, and ovals – we built objects like flowers, butterflies, and dinosaurs. We tried adding faces and contour lines to make our drawings look more 3-dimensional too. We practiced the difficult skill of seeing an object in front of us and then sketching it, starting with those basic shapes and adding details as we go. All of these new skills came together when we completed our final drawings of a still-life of plants. When asked about her favorite things to draw, participant Sierra's response was short and simple: "hearts!"



Sierra poses for a photo with her artwork.

In Cardboard Construction, participants' imagination led the way. Special tools made specifically for cardboard enabled participants to cut, fold, and attach pieces into anything they could imagine. The "SafeSaw" has serrated edges that perfectly slice cardboard, but are safe to touch. The "FoldRoller" perforates cardboard to make clean folds anywhere they're needed. The "Scrudriver" comes with reusable 3d-printed screws that can attach two or three pieces of cardboard together. With these tools, the possibilities are endless, meaning participants were able to turn a few Amazon boxes, cereal cartons, and toilet paper rolls into playhouses, animals, mythical creatures, robots, furniture, decorative sculptures, and even wearable costumes. A favorite was Jarrod and Dirk's submarine, equipped with a spinning propeller and periscope.



Dirk poses with his cardboard constructions, including his and Jarrod's submarine!

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Employee Spotlight

We want to spotlight an excellent trio of Eagle Mount employees: Sailor, Amy, and Maddie! These three worked tirelessly to drain, repair, and then refill our **92,000** gallon pool. This was a multiweek project that had many hiccups, but that didn't stop our three rockstars from keeping a positive attitude and charging ahead. This contagiously positive attitude was on full display when the Hyalite Fire Department was refilling the pool and Maddie decided to try and surf in the wake of the firehose! Thank you Firefighters!



Sailor, Maddie, and Amy pose for a photo in the Eagle Mount Pool.

Soar to New Heights Ziplining Adventure

BY MAX RABIDUE

A summer under the Big Sky isn't complete without Adventure Days for so many of our participants. These day camp-like experiences include hiking, rafting, kayaking, campouts, and a participant favorite: ziplining! Ziplining is just one of the many exciting activities awaiting participants this summer. Thank you to our partners at AMB West Basecamp for opening their high ropes courses to Eagle Mount each year.

Ziplining begins as participants gather at Eagle Mount in the early morning hours and depart to AMB West Basecamp. Upon arrival at the trailhead, participants take the 10-minute hike up Moose Track Trail, greeted with panoramic views of towering mountains and lush forests. Climb on!

The real excitement begins as participants gear up for their ziplining journey. Suspended high above the ground, thrill seekers are treated to an adrenaline-pumping 300+ ft ride. Crisscrossing Moose Tracks Gully while being nearly 50ft off the ground offers breathing views of the surrounding Paradise Valley.

In addition to fun and adrenaline filled activities, Adventure Days are all about inclusion and accessibility. "We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the joy of outdoor adventure," says Addi, our Adventure Days organizer. "That's why we're proud to offer adaptive equipment and



support to ensure that individuals of all abilities can participate."

We hope you are as excited for the 2024 Adventure Days season as we are! Please reach out to asherrill@eaglemount.org with any questions.

2024 Adventure Days Groups

Bridger Bounders: Ages 9-14

Eagle Explorers: Ages 13-19

Gallatin Galavanters: Ages 18+



Horsemanship Education Center

Project Update

BY KEVIN SYLVESTER

With temperatures in the 60's and 70's this Spring, conditions have been ideal for making progress on the new Horsemanship Education Center at Eagle Mount. Construction crews started working in early March, first removing the old building, then moving on to site and concrete work.

We've created a live webcam for you to view progress on the Horsemanship Education Center which can be accessed on our website at www.eaglemount.org/media/videos

Over the next several weeks, we anticipate having walls up and a roof on! During our Western Rendezvous event on June 8th, we hope to start giving hard hat tours. We are still on track to finish this project in early fall and are anticipating an opening reception and ribbon cutting in early October, just in time for the much anticipated annual Horse Show.

We are truly grateful to everyone who supported the Horsemanship Education Center project. If you have any questions, want to stop by for a visit, or are interested in learning more about our phase two covered round pen, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kevin Sylvester at ksylvester@eaglemount.org



Thank you to everyone who made this project a possibility!



Equipment Spotlight

BY EMMA MORGAN

With this expansion comes a lot of exciting new equipment. At the forefront of this innovative project stands the Racewood Equestrian Simulator, allowing for novice and seasoned riders alike to engage in the benefits of riding through the support of technological advancements. Originally created to help injured jockeys train amid recovery, they are now used in a wide variety of training programs, including adaptive horsemanship. Thanks to the generous support from all of those who made this possible, Eagle Mount is lucky enough to be acquiring one of these phenomenal machines. It will allow our riders to experience therapeutic movements, hone in on specific skills, increase mounted confidence, and so much more.



An example of a Racewood Simulator



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Cardboard Construction participants also considered design-thinking challenges posed by various Eagle Mount staff. Syvel designed a slow-feed dog bowl for one staff member's hungry pet, and Hayes built a massage chair to relieve his back ache. One staff member, Pearl, lamented collecting poop eggs from her chicken coop, so participant Phoenix invented an "Egg-scalator," in which a freshly laid egg rolls down a chute to a padded collecting tray, free of contaminants. Faced with a similar problem of yummy apples falling from trees and getting bruised, Phoebe designed an apple trampoline to provide a softer landing.

At the Winter Art Show, the best thing about art was evident: that given the exact same materials, instruction, and time, each person creates something completely unique. At Eagle Mount, we believe that taking part in the arts encourages creativity, nurtures independence,

develops social skills, boosts confidence, and gives folks an outlet for communicating thoughts and emotions in a supportive setting. Whether it's drawing, cardboard sculpture, theater, dance, or painting, Eagle Mount will always provide a safe space for participants to explore. This Winter Art Show was our first, but definitely not our last!



Our very own art museum at Eagle Mount

Give Big Gallatin Valley is Here!

BY MAX RABIDUE

Spring is here and with it comes the opportunity to make a difference in our community through Give Big Gallatin Valley 2024. We want to cordially invite you to join us in this annual 24-hour online celebration of giving.

Participation is simple and impactful. You can donate directly to support our programs, or you can become a Fundraising Superhero (peer-to-peer fundraiser) by creating a personal fundraising page and sharing it with your network. Every dollar raised goes directly towards enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities and children with cancer.

Involvement isn't just about donations. Volunteering your time and skills is equally valuable. See a full list of our awesome events that you can come and join us at below.

Give Big Fest at Ferguson Farms

6-9pm Thursday, May 2nd

Eagle Mount and Cottonwood Day School at the Jump MT

6-8pm Thursday, May 2nd

Eagle Mount at Cowboy Coffee in Big Sky

9-12pm Friday, May 3rd

Eagle Mount at Rockford Coffee

9-11am Friday, May 3rd

Eagle Mount at Montana Ale Works

4-6pm Friday, May 3rd



Visit our
Eagle Mount
Give Big page!

Lastly, spread the word! Use the power of social media to raise awareness about Give Big and Eagle Mount's mission. Remember, every action, no matter how small, contributes to a larger impact.

Join us in making Give Big Gallatin Valley 2024 a success. Together, we can make a difference!

Learn more or sign up to become a Fundraising Superhero at givebiggv.org



We Need Your Support!

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 \$3,000,000, Eagle Mount needs your support to make our 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.



Appreciated Stock

D.A. Davidson - Alex Dabney
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Eagle Mount Tax ID: 84-1383214

Give Today



Because of You

Volunteers Give us Wings



Makayla: Adaptive Arts Volunteer

Makayla is one of Eagle Mount's newest volunteers! She shows up to all of the Family Art Nights with a smile on her face and a positive, caring energy that makes each participant feel welcomed and supported. To Makayla, Eagle Mount means, "inclusivity, kids being able to be kids, and being a safe place for people to live their best life."



Shaina: Snowsports, Climbing, & Family Engagement Volunteer

Shaina is the embodiment of the laughter and fun that Eagle Mount programming provides. They volunteer in so many of our programs and are always eager to step up whenever we need them to help out. From teaching ski lessons at Bridger to adaptive climbing at Spire, Shaina has truly done it all. Fun fact: during the summers, Shaina is a park ranger in Yellowstone!



Gaylene: Big Sky Kids Volunteer

When asked about why the Big Sky Kids Oncology Camps were so important to her, Gaylene reflected on her 12 years with the program and thoughtfully responded, "so many of my memories here involve relationships. When I first volunteered at Camp Braveheart, there was a family that shared their experience and their struggles they had. The family was really falling apart and they credit Braveheart with saving their family."

Each year, Eagle Mount needs over 700 volunteers to carry out our mission! Learn more or sign up today at eaglemount.org

UPCOMING: WESTERN RENDEZVOUS

JUNE 8th, 2024



Help us kick off summer with Western Rendezvous! Come to the Eagle Mount campus and enjoy raising your paddle to support our mission in the live auction and kicking up your boots to live music by the Western Skies Band. Seating is family-style with reserved tables for eight and ten available. Tickets are available at eaglemount.org and at the door.

For more information, visit us online at eaglemount.org or email events@eaglemount.org

