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EAGLE MOUNT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM OFFERS EXPANDED ACTIVITIES

BOZEMAN, MT—When the COVID pandemic paused in-person activities, Eagle Mount Bozeman started phoning participant families to discuss ideas and concerns. That feedback provided a platform for in-person, individual-family events offered through their new Family Engagement program.

“We called all participants from the past year, and this informed what we did in 2020,” says Anna Smoot, associate director of development. “We started family events with participants and caregivers—family hikes, kayaking at Bozeman pond, weekly firepits, and horticulture events.” The program was so successful, in fact, that the Family Engagement program has expanded this year.

The 2021 program, led by Maggie Lowry, includes weekly bonfires, a flyfishing event for dads and yoga retreat for moms, family rafting excursion, as well as weekly hikes. New, monthly Eagle Mount Days offer swimming, horseback riding, music, dancing, and horticulture programs.

According to Smoot, “We hope by summer to be much closer to typical program capacity. We’re scaling up efforts to include unserved populations. We know our area has grown and there are new people out there who can benefit from our programs.”

Eagle Mount provides adaptive recreation and sports activities to people of all ages overcoming injuries, enduring cancer, or those with permanent disabilities. The new Family Engagement program was started through a 2018-2020 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Programming is sustained through individual donors and foundations, including the Gianforte Family Foundation.

According to Gianforte Family Foundation Executive Director Catherine Koenen, “Eagle Mount is a long-time pillar in our valley, providing kids and grown-ups with disabilities enormous opportunity for recreation, sports, and fun activities. We’re excited to help them expand this program, knowing it strengthens families and builds a strong, connected community.”

Upcoming family events and activities include:

- Eagle Mount Days, monthly, on June 7, July 12, and August 16
- Family Bonfires, weekly on Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., through the end of June, and in early fall
- Family Hikes, weekly on Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon, through September 9
- Family Theater, weekly on Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., through June 22
- Dad’s Flyfishing Event – June 5
- Family Rafting Day – July 10
- Family Camp – August 6-8
- Mom’s Yoga Retreat – September 24

Eagle Mount also offers regular activities in art, horsemanship, cycling, and aquatics, among many others. The nonprofit welcomes new participants and volunteers. Those interested should call Smoot at 406-602-4416 or email familyengagement@eaglemount.org.

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