

Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake

WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

Message from the Chairman of the Board STEM Camps for Kids



2015 was an exciting year for us at the Montana Learning Center (MLC) at Canyon Ferry Lake. Our summer science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-themed camps for kids saw a record attendance of 159 campers. Our camps served students entering Kindergarten-9th grade. Students from around the northwest region attended our camps, with one camper who traveled all the way from Japan.

The success of our summer camps would not have been possible without the generous support of "Friends of the MLC." We were fortunate to offer all students seeking assistance a scholarship. We hope to continue to do this again for summer 2016.

We are pleased to welcome the support of the following for our 2016 camps:

- Boeing Helena
- SAE International Rocky Mountain AWIM Initiative
- Helena Kiwanis
- Treacy Foundation
- Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology
- Jan & Curt Smith

Engineering was our main theme for 2015 summer camps, and we have chosen to continue that for our 2016 camp offerings.

Teacher Trainings



Our teacher trainings were a huge success, with both sessions receiving rave reviews. We held two workshops for Montana K-8 STEM teacher leaders — Springtime in the Rockies and STEM in the Rockies. 50 teachers participated in the trainings that were held in April and in October. Each involved teachers learning about engineering through inquiry hands-on methods and integrating this into their classrooms.

Boeing and SAE International join to donate nearly \$40,000 to the MLC



Boeing Helena and SAE International Rocky Mountain AWIM Initiative continued their support of the MLC. In December, the two organizations came together at the Boeing Helena facility for "Giving Tuesday" to donate nearly \$40,000 towards supporting our programs. Their gracious support will help expand our teacher trainings and summer STEM camps for kids.

As a part of their grant awards, we will offer two trainings for teachers. Teachers will come to the MLC, be immersed in the engineering mindset, and leave with the skills and materials needed to integrate engineering into their classroom.

Their donation will also support promoting engineering in our summer STEM camps for kids. We are excited to be expanding to 4 weeks of camps for summer 2016. Each camp will have the engineering theme as the focus. Campers will also experience different elements of STEM in each of our camps at all levels.

Supporting the MLC

Learning at the lake is truly a unique experience that we are proud to offer students and teachers throughout the region. However, we cannot continue to provide this opportunity of learning without your support.

For the year 2016 camps, we are in need of your financial support for the following:

- Scholarships for summer STEM camp kids
- 2 -15 passenger vans
- 65 - twin-sized mattresses with covers
- Boat dock maintenance
- 2 pontoon boats

Please consider supporting the MLC. Your donations help make a child's learning activities at our camps a truly memorable and invaluable experience. Any donations are greatly appreciated and don't forget, all your donations are tax deductible. (Further details on supporting the MLC can be found at the end of this newsletter.)

Yours truly,

Ryan Hannahoe, Chair
Board of Directors

Who we are

The MLC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of promoting education, particularly in the STEM fields.

Our facility consists of 15 buildings on a 10 acre campus on the north shore of Canyon Ferry Lake. The buildings originally housed the families of workers who built the dam over half a century ago. Today they serve as classrooms, meeting rooms, labs and dormitories for the delivery of our programs. While the 10-acre campus is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, the buildings are the property of Montana's Office of Public Instruction (OPI). OPI also supports the MLC each year with a \$10,000 grant.

MLC staff includes:

Ryan Hannahoe - Director of STEM camps
Lorri Nisbet - Office Manager
Mel Barber - Facilities Engineer
Bob & Christine Cox - Caretakers
Joan Fava - Cook

The MLC is governed by a board of directors who come from a variety of backgrounds and normally serve 2 - 3 year terms.

Ryan Hannahoe - Chairman
Mary Buck - Secretary
Mike Bishop - Treasurer
Craig Beals, Marco Ferro, Sam Gane, Andy Valkenburg, Walt Woolbaugh, Merrill Taylor, and Arne Siegel

What we do

The MLC delivers programs to students, teachers, families and a wide variety of groups on our unique and inspiring campus; all designed to promote learning and inspiration under the following mission statement:

The MLC provides and promotes quality immersion experiences for all in STEM in a unique lakeside environment.

Our vision statement further illuminates what we aspire to accomplish:

The MLC is the Montana center for STEM learning and teaching which expands and extends the traditional education provided by school curricula and state or federal mandates. MLC assists in building a world in which students and

adults, particularly teachers, use STEM understandings to:

** problem solve*

** implement processes of discovery and inquiry*

** inspire others to wonder about and appreciate our natural world*

** stimulate a life-long learning process.*

How we do it

Summer programs for **students** include:

Camp Discovery is a four-day (day only) camp for students entering grades 1-3. The students are bussed to MLC from a Helena location. Students are engaged in learning activities and recreation Monday - Thursday.

Camp Young Naturalist Adventures is a five-day overnight camp for students entering grades 4-6. Students arrive on Sunday afternoon, are organized into their teams and assigned to their cottages. Monday - Thursday students are engaged in exciting science and engineering activities, and recreation including swimming, boating, games, and campfires.

Camp Innovations is a six-day overnight camp for students entering grades 7-9. Students arrive on Sunday afternoon and leave on Friday after lunch. Students are involved in STEM activities and recreation. Campers also take excursions to remote locations in the MLC area.

Programs for **adults** include:

The STEM in the Rockies & Springtime in the Rockies conferences are our annual trainings for K-8 STEM teacher leaders in Montana. At each conference, leading K-8 teachers from schools across Montana come to share their expertise and learn together new ways to utilize the power of STEM to improve their teaching and learning.

Each conference is proudly designed and delivered by fellow Montana teachers. Funding for these opportunities is provided by Boeing, SAE International, Rocky Mountain AWIM Initiative, and the MLC.

Renting our facility

Groups with an educational purpose can rent out our facility. We offer lodging and meals for up to 65 people at a time. Lodging rates are \$49 per

person, per night. The price of meals is \$30 per person, per day. Our rates are negotiable based on group size and facility usage.

Donating to the MLC

None of what we do would be possible without the generous support of our donors. The MLC wants to keep providing quality, reasonably priced educational opportunities for students and teachers. We are asking you to consider supporting the MLC.

All contributions are tax deductible. You may donate by sending in a check payable to the MLC or by selecting the "Donate" button on our website. Any support that you can offer the MLC is very much appreciated. Your donation will go toward impacting the students and teachers that we serve.

For more on the MLC visit our website:

www.montanalearning.org

or contact us:

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