



Montana Natural History Center
Your Base Camp for Discovery

120 Hickory Street
Missoula, MT 59801
www.MontanaNaturalist.org

Dear Parents,

The Hellgate Hunters and Anglers and Montana Natural History Center are offering an exciting new after school program at Frenchtown Elementary! Through a generous donation from the Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, the after school program will be **free of charge** to 12 students at the Frenchtown schools. This program will allow students to explore natural areas close to the school and participate in fun activities focused on fishing, aquatic insects, wildlife biology, birding, and GPS technology.

The afterschool program will be open to 4th-6th grade students. It will meet from 3:30-5:30 on the dates listed below. **This program is free of cost.** The dates the program will be offered are:

April 7th, 8th, 13th, 14th, and 15th

Students will meet at the school in Lynne Eustance's 5th grade classroom at 3:30. After some introductory activities, we will travel in the Montana Natural History Center bus to Erskine or Frenchtown Ponds. At the site, students will participate in activities that introduce a topic related to the natural world. We will return to Frenchtown Elementary at 5:15 for closing activities and pickup at 5:30 in Mrs. Eustance's room. Scheduled activities are explained on the back of this letter. Also included with this letter is an application form. **All parents must fill out an application form for their child to be considered for the after school program.** This form is also available on our website at www.montanaturalist.org under the educational programs menu. **Applications must be received by the Montana Natural History Center by Thursday, March 18th.**

Thank you for your support of our program! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at amclean@montananaturalist.org or (406) 327-0405.

Sincerely,

Alyssa McLean

Naturalist
Montana Natural History Center
120 Hickory Street
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Keep your kids **learning after school** this April through our new afterschool program! Our program includes field trips to local natural areas, **exploration**, and **fun!** The afterschool program meets from **3:30-5:30 on the dates listed below** for five days, starting April 7th, 2010. The program is open to students in grades 4-6 and will meet in Mrs. Eustance's 5th grade classroom at 3:30. After a brief introduction, students will be transported to a nearby natural area for a fun-filled and educational afternoon. **Through the generosity of the Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, this program is free of charge.** Parents must fill out an application form for their child to be considered for the program. **Applications must be received by the Montana Natural History Center by Thursday, March 18th.**

Dates:



April 7th: Wildlife Tracking and Signs (Erskine Ponds). Learn how to use radio-tracking equipment to find an animal hidden in the woods. We will also dissect owl pellets or coyote scat to see what the animal was eating (gloves will be provided!)

April 8th: Birding and Bird Identification (Erskine Ponds). How many birds can you spot? We'll learn to use binoculars, conduct a point count, learn about bird banding, and play a game that illustrates how hard it is to be a migratory bird!

April 13th: GPS Use (Erskine Ponds). Learn how to use a GPS unit and how scientists utilize this technology every day. We will also navigate our way through a GPS scavenger hunt!

April 14th: Aquatic Insects (Frenchtown Pond). What are those crazy critters in the water? We'll learn the names, food habits, and other exciting information about some amazing invertebrates!

April 15th: Fishing (Frenchtown Pond). We'll travel to Frenchtown pond and learn how to fish from the guys who know where all the fish are hiding!

All programs are held outside unless there is severe weather (i.e. thunder/lightning, heavy/steady down pour of rain, blizzard conditions). Please send your child with appropriate clothing for the weather! This includes hats, gloves, warm jackets, warm shoes, pants with no holes, etc.



This material is neither sponsored by nor endorsed by Missoula County Public Schools, the Superintendent, or this school.