

# Press Release

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## **EAGLE SCOUT SPEARHEADS COMPLETION OF EDUCATIONAL KIOSK IN UPPER RATTLESNAKE**

As an enhancement to the Rattlesnake bicycle and pedestrian trail system, an educational kiosk has been erected in Missoula's Power Park. Located on the east side of Rattlesnake Creek 30 feet from the Duncan bike and pedestrian bridge, the kiosk provides information about the history and science of the Rattlesnake watershed, as well as displaying a detailed trail map of the area. The kiosk was erected under a power line right-of-way, and was designed to architecturally compliment the Duncan Bridge.

The information provided at the Kiosk was the work of the Montana Natural History Center, The USFS and Mountain Water Co. It is accessible to school-aged children while at the same time being relevant to Rattlesnake hikers and bikers of any age. Visitors who pause at the kiosk may learn things about Ephemeropteras and Plecopteras (Mayflies and Stoneflies), read descriptions of where the pristine water of Rattlesnake creek begins, learn about wildfires, and the Montana Power Park.

Lars Miller, a junior at Hellgate High and a member of Boy Scout Troop 1911, spearheaded and completed the kiosk project as part of his Eagle Scout requirements. "I started this about two years ago after I talked with Dr. Phil Gardner," said Miller, "I learned a lot about leadership skills, construction, macroinvertebrates, and the process of getting approval and raising money for community projects." This project is Miller's last step in order to achieve his Eagle scout rank.

Miller has been in the scouting program for more than 8 years. Through scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges from First Aid to Metal Work. He has hiked over 200 miles, with trips to the Grand Canyon, Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He has spent more than 60 nights camping. He has help many leadership positions including Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Den Chief. He has also been very active in serving his community by volunteering at the Watson's Children Shelter, Goodfellows Annual Thanksgiving feed for the homeless, as well as giving away trees to the needy.

Dr. Phil Gardner, who has been active with the Friends of Missoula Parks in building the small diameter log frame Duncan bike and pedestrian bridge over the Rattlesnake Creek, contacted Lars to help with a community educational component of the Duncan bridge project. "When the Duncan Bridge was built," said Gardner, "We had a requirement by Fish Wildlife and Parks to build an educational component. We felt that getting local volunteers involved would be

good, and this was a perfect Eagle Scout project, which Lars has persisted with and seen to completion." The project was managed and will be maintained by the City of Missoula Parks and Recreation Department.

Other volunteers in the building of the 9 foot tall small-log frame kiosk, included: Troy Lestiko of Eclipse Engineering; Frank Scariano of Scariano Construction; Kent Watson of Kent Watson and Associates; Dave Schwenk of Western States CAT Rental Store; Billy Tyler, the heavy equipment operator, Randy Bentham of Randy Bentham Trucking; Jeff Schroeder of Schroeder Construction; Ray Fox, the custom log home builder; Ron Huguet, the cement contractor; Curtis Davey, Tim Lovely, Phil Gardner, Greg Beach, David Beach, Gordon Watson, Richard Miller, Kathy Miller, the scouts of Boy Scout Troop 1911, and many others who provided help. Financial support was donated by: the Missoula County Park Board, Mountain Water Co, HDR Engineering, Beach Transportation, The Missoula Independent, and Montana Community Development Corporation. Donations of talent and materials provided by Knife River Cement, Boyce Lumber, Eastgate Rental, CD'A Metals, Montana Bolt, All Things Metal, Professional Contractor's Services, Bitterroot Welding, Pacific Steel, West Side Metal, Epic Steel and Allen Miller.

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.™" For over 100 years, Boy Scouting has flourished in Montana. The Boy Scouts of America, Montana council serves over 12,500 Scouts and Scouters throughout the state of Montana – an area covering 147,000 square miles Join us at [www.montanabsa.org](http://www.montanabsa.org) or 406-761-6000.

For more information about the Duncan Bridge and Kiosk, as well as information about the Rattlesnake trail system, contact Jason Pignanelli at 721- PARK. The project will be formally dedicated at ribbon cutting ceremony conducted by Major John Engen, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2012 starting at 10:00 a.m. All citizens are welcome to attend. Enter the Lincolnwood subdivision and travel to the northern point of Timberlane Drive. From there, it is a short walk to the kiosk.

Here is a link to a map: <http://goo.gl/maps/3maov>