

# July eNews

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## About this Mailing

Campaign Name	July eNews
Subject Line	Suspension, Collaboration, and Partnerships

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### What did you say?

Photos from the field, crew blogs, and updates! Join us on [facebook](#) for the latest in all things MCC.

## Suspended Over the Yellowstone

If you repair it, they will come. Which is exactly what Sara Griffith hopes will happen as she and her fellow Greater Yellowstone crew members prepare for their third hitch at Blacktail Bridge in Yellowstone National Park. The first step of the 8 week project to repair the suspension bridge over the Yellowstone River, was improving the surrounding trail. Next came digging support holes for the bridge using a pionjar. Then came prepping thousands of pounds of cable, steel spans, and other materials that, due to their weight, needed to be flown in by helicopter rather than packed in by horses; a decision not made lightly by the Park Service. The final stage is the most exciting. With a week of fall protection training under their belt, the crew will be stepping out over the void to re-deck and repair the bridge itself. The



Blacktail Bridge



### What's Your Aha Moment?

MCC member stories are pouring in from the field. We have a blog and we call it [Krew](#). Follow along!



### We Need Your Help

Launch youth in life with skills to be great leaders, citizens, and stewards. [Donate Today!](#)

bridge connects one of the most popular trails through the Black Canyon of the Yellowstone, and with the bridge again safe for passage, creates a great loop hike for some of the 3 million visitors to Yellowstone this year who tackle the trek. From her [journal](#) out on Blacktail Trail, Sara writes, "The work we are doing has a lasting impact, not just on the trail, but on the people who use it. Hopefully, our trail helps them find what it is they are looking for. Whether it is just a fun story to tell or a part of themselves they didn't know was missing."



Expedition crew on Natural Arch Trail

### Collaboration for Healthy Communities

The Natural Arch Trail in Mission Canyon on the Fort Belknap Reservation is now ready for visitors. This summer, local teens, including tribal members from the Fort Belknap Reservation, worked alongside crews from the tribal Forestry Department and an advisor from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Recreation Assistance program, to construct nearly a mile of new trail leading to the scenic natural arch. The project involved busting through massive rock, building crib walls, clearing trees, and constructing new tread. The goal of this collaboration is to provide community members increased access to the natural arch as well as encouraging healthy communities by being active and enjoying the natural landscape. The tribes hope to attract more visitors to the reservation to stimulate local economic development through ecotourism in the Little Rocky Mountains in north central Montana.

### New Office Embodies Nonprofit Partnership

With a change of address, MCC's Northern Rockies Region joins other local nonprofits in Kalispell's newly formed Gateway Community Center. The center, which re-purposes the previously obsolete Gateway West Mall, was the vision of local resident Earl Bennett. Bennett perceived the benefits of housing many agencies under one roof, including saved time and expanded resources. The project was later picked up by United Way, the fiscal agent for the center. MCC's new office in Kalispell offers plenty of room for a region that was busting at the seams as it expanded to nine AmeriCorps crews and four youth corps teams this summer. In addition, the new office has ample parking, storage, and training space. Volunteers from resident agencies assisted with the build out; a model that has been replicated throughout the center. At this time, United Way, Violence Free Crisis Line, Boys and Girls Club, Youth Dynamics, Inc., Boys and Girl Scouts, CASA for Kids, Flathead Food Bank, MCC and Summit Independent Living Center call the center home. MCC is excited to a part of this innovative model.



View of MCC's new office in Kalispell



First session Billings Expedition graduates

## Thank You Billings Community Foundation

One parent reflected after her son's graduation from his Youth Service Expedition: "Here were two groups of high school kids who seemed to think that their month of sweating, moving boulders, camping out, living within a communal setting, all with only one shower, was THE coolest thing that ever could have happened in their lives! My son talked non-stop about the experiences of both on the job and in the campsite, of his peers and the leaders. MCC has set a really high bar for teaching work ethics, attitude, ecology/environmental education, geography, MT native culture." Thank-you Billings Community Foundation for helping Billings youth share in the coolest summer in their lives!

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