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Program Highlights

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Summit Nature Center

September wrapped up the summer season at the center, a cooperative project with Whitefish Mountain Resort – (located at over 6,000 feet, the center enjoys a view of the Crown of the Continent!) It was a very busy season with over 17,500 visitors during the 82 day season. The center hosted several Summer Discovery Field Trips for area day camps reaching over 100 youth. Looking forward to Winter Discovery Snowshoe programs with area schools and the center open on weekends January through March.

Artist*Wilderness*Connection – artist-in-residence program

The cooperative project between Flathead National Forest, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Swan Ecosystem Center and Hockaday Museum of Art celebrated the 2nd annual “Forest Inspirations” event on September 14 showcasing the artwork of participating artists since 2004 and memorable presentations by the 2009 artists. The Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell is exhibiting paintings inspired from graphic illustrator and painter James Clayborn’s residency experience at Granite Cabin, within the Great Bear Wilderness, “Fifteen Days at Granite Cabin”.

A call for applications for the 2011 artist-in-residence program goes out in December. The program focus is on Flathead National Forest wildlands. Montana artists of any media are encouraged to apply (music, photography, painting, sculpture and writers). What about a Canada/Montana artist exchange? Feature wildlands across the ecosystem? or Canadian partnership with Robert Bateman’s “Get to Know” program that connects youth with art and nature. <http://www.gettoknow.ca/us/>

Other On-going programs....

- Cooperative projects/participation in area events, programs with Flathead Audubon, Flathead Community of Resource Educators (Raptor Day, Trunk Workshop, Watershed Education Committee) *Watch for the October announcement on the release of the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to An Extraordinary Place.*
- On-going fall classroom presentations.

U.S. Forest Service, “More Kids in the Woods” funding opportunity

Coming soon....funding opportunity through the Washington Office to support regional and local outdoor programs for youth. Partnership groups/organizations work with their local national forest units to apply. Opportunity for a cooperative COCEEC project?