

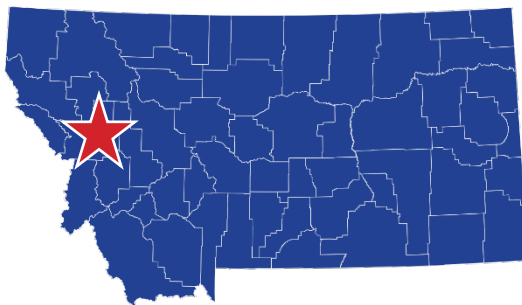
Camp Fire Western Montana – Extended/Expanded Learning

Camp Fire

Extended/Expanded
Learning Opportunity Grant

Non-Profit

Missoula Montana



Program Description:

“Reading time can be a challenge and it can be difficult to motivate children to read to complete their homework and even harder to get them to read for enjoyment. After struggling for several days, the staff at the Hellgate After-School Program struck a deal with their charges. If the children would read cooperatively for 15 minutes, the staff would read aloud for the remainder of reading time each day. The book selected was How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O’Connor. The kiddos started to get sucked into the story and one enterprising student got their parents to research if the book had been made into a movie. There is a movie adaptation, but it is a Korean film with subtitles. If they continue to rock reading time, they will be reading while watching the movie once they finish the book. The world opens once you learn to read and finding the right motivation to help children discover that is key to making them readers for life.” - Laura Armstrong

Laura Armstrong, a key figure in Camp Fire Western Montana operations, describes above how their program has worked with local youth to empower them to achieve the academic goals they set for themselves. With their combination of peer learning and mentorship, Camp Fire has used short activities to provide a fun safe environment for students to grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

With 25 years of experience, Camp Fire has learned the key to student enrichment, starting each programming session with 10-15 minutes of mindfulness and physical exercise. Then as a group counselors lead students through a series of games that help expend excess energy. Closing each session with an academic exercise like practicing reading skills or reviewing money operations. This has allowed Camp Fire youth to feel more invested in their learning and helped make learning more constructive.

Student Gains:

- Increase in reading fluency
- Increase in reading comprehension
- Increase in time and money management

ELO Application History

Afterschool 2021 - 2023
Summer 2022 - 2024

Total ELO Funding

\$177,999

Additional Funding Partnerships

Program Fees
Private Donations

Program Focus

Math/Reading

Estimated data over the course of ELO Funding

Number of students served-

K-5th: 288

6th-8th:

9th-12th:

Average weekly student
participation: 28 hours

Percentage of low-income
students: 40%

