

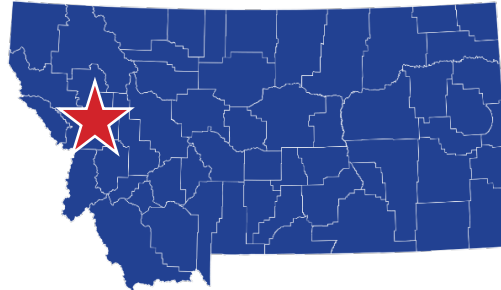
Missoula Children's Theater

— Extended/Expanded Learning Opportunity

Missoula Children's Theater

Non-Profit

Missoula County Montana



ELO Application History

Summer 2024

Total ELO Funding

\$25,000

Community Partnerships

Moving Mountains Therapy

Program Focus

Reading

Estimated Student Participation

Anticipated # of students: 483

Anticipated Grade Levels: K - 12th

Anticipated Demographics:

Low socioeconomic status- 43%

Minority Students- 6%

Student Gains:

- Increase in reading skills with a better comprehension of their role and plot of the play. Relating to the loss of reading, listening, speaking, and comprehension skills due to Covid.
- New friends and connections to others. Relating to the isolation and loss of social connection due to Covid.

Program Description:

Since the 1970s, the Missoula Children's Theater has allowed Montana youth to explore the art of theatre. An ELO grant is helping the Missoula Children's Theatre provide summer 2024-day camps to Missoula-area children. The Monday through Friday theatre camp is offered seven times throughout the summer, each week focusing on one of MCT's original children's musicals. MCT Education Director and experienced teaching artists explain the play and teach students their roles. The day camps engage students of all ages, learning levels, and demographics.

Students gain knowledge in reading comprehension specific to their role in the play. They analyze their character's motivations, determine the text's central ideas/themes, and work closely with their castmates. On Fridays, students perform the play, on-stage and in costume, for their families and the community, demonstrating increased comprehension of the script as they do so. All performances include live music and colorful sets.

With a focus on addressing the *Loneliness Epidemic* and loss of reading skills, both caused by COVID isolation, students make friends and gain reading skills via an in-person, interactive theatre experience with the Missoula Children's Theatre.

