



BIG CREEK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER ***Discovery School***

Dear Parents:

Your child's class is preparing for an overnight field trip to the Big Creek Outdoor Education Center's Discovery School. This is a program of The Glacier Institute. The Institute is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide hands-on outdoor education programs for people of all ages. The Discovery School program is designed to school groups a field-science educational experience, which includes multiple three (3) hour classes on various outdoor science topics. In addition, students live, learn, and socially interact with their peers, teachers and other adults in an atmosphere that encourages group cooperation, communication, decision-making, and exposure to what I call the "hidden curriculum": helping with cooking duties, cleaning up after meals, and cleaning up after themselves during their stay at Big Creek.

The facility itself is a historic former Forest Service Ranger Station with buildings dating back to 1927. It includes two bunkhouses with showers and bathrooms, a main dining hall and kitchen, classroom spaces, and housing for our education staff that provide instruction and programming for groups like your child's class.

The Big Creek Program is supported by fundraising donations from different businesses, corporations, and individuals in our area. Without this support, we would have difficulty maintaining and operating the program. Donations also allow us to keep the cost of programs affordable to ensure that all students have an unforgettable learning experience at Big Creek. We encourage folks to thank local businesses and individuals for supporting youth programs at Big Creek. Teachers will often have students write thank you letters to these people. This writing project is a great way for teachers to build upon students' experiences at Big Creek.

How can you help?

- Be a chaperone for your child's trip
- Help students in planning and packing clothing and gear for their Big Creek trip
- Become a member of The Glacier Institute and receive course discounts
- Come to our Volunteer Work Weekend in May

If you would like more information on The Glacier Institute, Youth Science Adventure Camps, adult classes or you would like to support youth programming at Big Creek, please call (406) 755-1211 or visit our website, www.glacierinstitute.org.

Thank you for sending your child to learn and explore at Big Creek!

Sincerely,

Tyler McRae
Big Creek Program Manager
6500 North Fork Rd.
Polebridge, MT 59928
406.253.1211
bigcreekmanager@gmail.com

♦ 137 Main Street ♦ P.O. Box 1887 ♦ Kalispell, MT 59903 ♦ Tel: (406) 755-1211 ♦
♦ Fax: (406) 755-7154 ♦ www.glacierinstitute.org ♦ register@glacierinstitute.org ♦