

## **More Information about Yellowstone Adventure Camp**

### **Why is Yellowstone Adventure Camp operating instead of Explore Yellowstone?**

In response to news shared by Little People's Learning Center late this winter that they projected not having enough staff to care for any elementary-aged students this summer, Snoopy Cooperative Preschool began creating Yellowstone Adventure Camp. The program was designed to both meet the needs of families needing care over the entire summer break and to offer a fun learning opportunity for all local youth. Based on a lack of individuals interested in coordinating Explore Yellowstone this summer, Snoopy Cooperative Preschool was encouraged to apply to incorporate Explore Yellowstone as part of Yellowstone Adventure Camp.

### **Why does the special use permit stipulate Yellowstone Adventure Camp prioritizing families who work for the National Park Service (NPS) or a park partner?**

Snoopy Cooperative Preschool operates during the school year under a permit from the Mammoth Community Center. Given that the camp participants will be leaving the community center grounds, we need permission from NPS in order to operate within the park. NPS realized that we were neither a typically-permitted special use nor a typical commercial business operating in the park. The authority for the NPS to support childcare options for employees and partners allowed for the summer camp with the stipulation prioritizing NPS and park partner employees' children. Based on past years' participation with Explore Yellowstone, we do not anticipate that this will mean turning a participant away from camp. We have 16 slots available each week with the potential of adding 8 more slots for a week when an additional instructor can be found. Currently all weeks have more than half of the 16 slots still available.

### **Why is Yellowstone Adventure Camp operating in Mammoth instead of Gardiner?**

Snoopy Cooperative Preschool is based in the Mammoth Community Center, and the preschool's classroom along with the Mammoth Community Center will be utilized as the camp's base of operations. Also, we are unsure whether Gardiner Public School will be able to find a bus driver for the camp and Mammoth provides a number of trails with a variety of habitats for exploration all within easy walking distance of the Mammoth Community Center.

### **Why is the cost of Yellowstone Adventure Camp higher than Explore Yellowstone?**

The camp is operating longer hours with two dedicated instructors. The weekly tuition is what is necessary to pay instructors, supplies, and other camp costs. Scholarships are available and applications can be found online (<http://snoopypreschool.weebly.com/yellowstone-adventure-camp.html>) or requested from Jenni Burr at 406-224-7287.

### **Why are drop off and pick up locations not known yet?**

We are still waiting to see whether Gardiner Public School will be able to find a bus driver to help with camp transportation. If no driver is found, then drop off and pick up locations will be in Mammoth most weeks.

### **How do families that live in Gardiner get their kids to camp?**

Snoopy Cooperative Preschool plans to coordinate carpooling for any families needing assistance getting their kids to camp. We will also be working with the entrance station to ensure that families may drop off their campers without needing to pay for an entrance pass.

### **Who can I talk to in order to share concerns and ideas for the future?**

Jenni Burr is coordinating the camp and can be reached at 406-224-7287. Comments can also be emailed to [snoopypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:snoopypreschool@gmail.com), or mailed to Snoopy Cooperative Preschool, PO Box 287, Gardiner, MT 59030. You may also reach out to a Snoopy Cooperative Preschool board member (Sarah Haas, Mary Kay Woodin, Leslie Young, and Erin Thom).