



Welcome to Lewis and Clark County

Thank you for your support of Montana State University Extension. MSU Extension is a partnership between Lewis & Clark County, Montana State University, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This partnership provides educational programs in the areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, Community Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education.

Lewis and Clark County hosts a population of 67,773 (2017 estimate). Helena, the county seat

of Lewis and Clark County and state capital of Montana, hosts a population of approximately 29,000. Other communities include East Helena, Augusta, Lincoln, Wolf Creek, Craig, the Milford Colony, Wilborn, York, Silver City, Birdseye, Canyon Ferry, and Marysville.

Our county is a mix of forests, mountains, prairies, valleys, and fields. The Missouri River runs through, creating water features and a wealth of recreation opportunities.

Enjoy some highlights of the 2018 educational opportunities in Lewis & Clark County.



Downtown Helena image

4-H Military Program

The Montana National Guard Youth Program changed their programming this year with a bi-monthly STEAM program during drill weekend. Through hands-on activities the kids learned how long human intestines are, how the digestion process works, and they learned what it takes to make a magazine cover and sparked interest in different magazine ideas. Then through the partnership with the Montana National Guard, the program trained youth and adults about NXT Lego Robotics. During the year, participating youth learned about the pitfalls of using credit cards, and the basics of money management. They also worked with some master gardeners to learn how to grow the best plants for their flower or vegetable gardens.

Montana Air National Guard families were given the opportunity to attend a College Readiness Workshop in partnership with MSU – Great Falls, University of Providence, Reach Higher Montana, MSU Extension and Montana Air National Guard. The attendees learned tips to make their applications stand out from others, different options for financial aid and how to select the program and school that would best fit their needs.

Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties, as well as Malmstrom Air Force Base, now have several more certified and qualified babysitters. The youth went through an intensive training that included First Aid and CPR certification to qualify for the Babysitter Certification.

Camp Runnamucka was a great time where the kids were able to engineer the best blades for the wind turbines. They had the opportunity to use different materials and develop blades that worked the most efficiently. Many of the adult volunteers competed in the contest at the end to see which blades worked the best.

Throughout the past year, the 4-H Military Program partnership has impacted more than 100 military youth and adults, giving them the opportunity to experience 4-H projects and programming that they would not have otherwise.

We're Going Through Changes

Both Kim Lloyd and Brent Sarchet have left MSU Extension to pursue other opportunities. They are widely missed for their contributions to Lewis and Clark County and the state.

Catherine McNeil continues as the 4-H Military Program Coordinator for Lewis and Clark County. In addition, Catherine advises the state and county 4-H Ambassadors, and is an active board member and treasurer for our local 4-H Foundation.

Maureen Theisen has been with MSU Extension as the Administrative Assistant for a year.



NXT Lego Robotics. Photo by Catherine McNeil.





Catherine McNeil and the 2018 4-H State Officers.
Photo by Back Country Media.

Kara Tangedal joined MSU Extension as the new 4-H Youth Development Extension agent in July of 2018. She grew up involved in Sanders County 4-H. She graduated from Montana State University with a bachelor's degree in microbiology and another in secondary science education. She has experience working as an assistant in a research lab studying viruses, and taught for three years at Malta High School. Kara plans on sticking around as county agent for a long time. She describes her position as "the dream job."

Lewis and Clark County 4-H

4-H provides our 480 enrolled youth with engagement in learning, service to others, and a sense of belonging. This year Lewis and Clark County 4-H formed a Youth Council to provide a younger collective voice to decisions made at the county level in 4-H. This move provides leadership opportunities to all enrolled 4-H youth and creates a sense of ownership in the program. Teen leaders are taking an active role in creating bylaws and officer positions for the Youth Council. One of our teen leaders said, "I am excited for these changes and feel like I can make a difference."

4-H promotes positive relationships with our 103 enrolled, caring adult volunteers. This fall, our 49 project superintendents and their youth superintendents attended a workshop put on by MSU Extension. These workshops promote inquiry-based learning and allow a space for project superintendents and their youth counterparts to detail goals and roles for the 4-H year. One volunteer said, "You can always learn something new. I realized that I need to communicate what I do with my junior superintendent so they can take the lead someday." A junior superintendent in attendance agreed, continuing, "I feel better prepared to take on project responsibilities this year. I understand how 4-H in our county works now."

4-H is a vital part of Lewis and Clark County communities, as current members and 4-H alum are highly engaged community members, business leaders, and volunteers. Terry Gauthier owns the local McDonald's franchise and takes an active role as a Lewis and Clark county 4-H Foundation board member and livestock project sponsor. Gauthier supports 4-H because it teaches entrepreneurial skills and a sense of responsibility. Dedicated community members like Gauthier truly keep 4-H at its best.

Lewis and Clark County 4-H Congress Attendees.
Photo by Back Country Media.



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