

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in Montana Yellowstone Expeditions (MYE). We know you will have many questions about who we are and what we do, in order to feel comfortable about your child applying to attend our Wilderness Challenge Course (WCC), in Montana.

The easiest way for you to get a comprehensive overview of our organization is to visit our website, [www.myeconnect.org](http://www.myeconnect.org). On our site you will find information about our programs, staff, safety record and sponsors. We recommend you start by looking at the site, as we feel many of your questions may be answered there.

If, after looking at the website, you would like to talk to someone about our organization, we are very happy to answer your questions. There are several people you can call:

- We have a contact person in every school helping with our student recruitment. This will either be a counselor or teacher. Your son or daughter will know who this is for their school.
- If you would like to talk to an MYE staff member, you may call Jerry Lawrie, our CA Programs Coordinator or Ellen Sagmyr, MYE Director of Programs. Their contact number is: (805) 565-7550 ext. 117

Once students have been offered, and accepted, a place on an MYE course, we do a series of informational presentations for their parents/guardians. These presentations describe our programs in more detail, and will give you an opportunity to meet MYE staff, and ask any questions you may still have at that stage. It will also be an opportunity to meet other MYE students and their parents/guardians. The presentations will be held in four local venues during the week of the April 12, 2010. Final details on presentation venues and times will be provided when your child is informed of their application status.

**MYE Safety:**

We are aware that the quality and safety of our programs is a principal concern for potential MYE students and their parents/guardians. The safety of our students, staff and visitors is also MYE's primary concern, and we work hard to maintain a high level of safety and quality in all aspects of our programming.

Although our activities do have a level of risk associated with them, MYE has a range of management strategies to minimize these, while maximizing the opportunities for student learning and development. These strategies include:

- Employment of high quality, experienced instructors with current first aid qualifications
- Further training for all instructing staff
- Risk management policies and guidelines that meet or exceed industry standards
- Regular outside auditing of our risk management practices and policies
- Ongoing monitoring of our field staff
- A challenge by choice philosophy (students are never 'forced' into doing something against their will)
- Medical screening of all our students, as well as minimal requirements for water confidence and fitness levels
- Regular checks and maintenance on all our equipment, including vehicles
- Regular reviews of each program component with instructing staff
- A management team who actively works with all staff to maintain and improve organizational practices
- A California team who have extensive knowledge of the MYE program and our students, and are able to actively address student and family concerns, and screen students suitability for the MYE program

With these strategies in place, our safety record is unblemished. Please visit our websites' 'MYE Safety' page to read more about our safety management, and to look at our risk release forms, which thoroughly outline the nature of our program and the risks involved. Please see our 'Frequently Asked Questions' sheet for more information on commonly asked questions.

Sincerely,

Ellen Sagmyr  
MYE Director of Programs