

Gear up:

Park-2-Park Montana – Sept. 6-10, 2005

Dear Park-2-Park Rider,

Thanks for signing up to join our inaugural ride across Montana. We want to provide the information you need to get pledges for the ride. We've extended the date to pay for the remainder on the ride registration until Aug. 15. You can turn in pledges after that time and we'll handle sending out the receipts to your donors. A pledge sheet is included – be sure to get the address and contact information for your donors and collect any pledges before the ride.



As you know, Park-2-Park Montana is a multi-day bicycle ride in support of CASA of Montana, a non-profit network of 17 local CASA programs. Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers that speak for nearly 1,000 children in Montana who are in the court abuse and neglect system through no fault of their own. The state network supports local programs by providing director training, support for volunteers, quarterly meetings, newsletters and an e-mail listserve. We also maintain a toll-free number and work to raise money to help expand services to children. We've included a brochure on the state program. The new phone number is 406 442 2448.

The state office recently moved to a new office to combine resources with the local Helena CASA program. We can offer better staffing and make better use of our materials by sharing an office space. This will allow CASA of Montana to have meetings here in the office – something that was not possible in our cubicle before.

We've been working hard on the plans for the bike ride and will soon have a detailed trip plan for you, thanks to a recent drive through of the route by Ed and Shirley Folkwein of Billings.

We need some information from you for our planning at beginning and end of the trip.

1. Would you like to share a Kamping Kabin at St. Mary's KOA on the night of Sept. 5. We can offer a space there for about \$10 a person – you bring your sleeping bag and towel. Tent sites are free. Let us know your plans. We will plan on a dinner at 6 p.m. and a ride meeting afterward.

2. Will you stay overnight at Chico Hot springs Saturday night, Sept. 10th? Double rooms are available for \$49. The ride ends Saturday afternoon with a soak and a barbecue at Chico. Cost of the room is not included in the ride registration.
3. Do you need transportation to St. Mary's and back from Chico Hot Springs? We can arrange at an additional cost, but would prefer riders to make their own arrangements with friends or family. We will shuttle you from Gardiner to Chico for the final events.

The overnight accommodations during your trip (Sept. 6-9) are covered by registration and include:

- Tuesday, Sept. 6 – Dupuyer Community Center
- Wednesday, Sept. 7 – Great Falls Inn
- Thursday, Sept. 8 – White Sulphur Hot Springs Motel
- Friday, Sept. 9 – a Livingston Church

The route is approximately 400 miles, with daily ride distances of 55-100 miles. The ride begins at the KOA campground in St. Mary. There is an option to stay at Chico Hot Springs north of Gardiner on Sept. 10. Please let us know your plans for both the beginning and end of the ride, if you would be willing to help carpool or if you need help with transportation and any special needs you might have.

Thanks for your support.

See www.casagal.org for information.

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