

BECON 10-4-2024

Craig Burke, Immediate Past President, led the meeting in Dina's stead today, as Kim Lewis gave the invocation.

Guests

Baz Nassir (sp??) Fellowship Program student
Jaidyn Simmons - past Laurel Exchangite
Lynn with Eagle Mount, guest speaker

Announcements

Next weekend is the Nite rodeo for Friday and Saturday. Shawnee kindly asks everyone to get in there and say that you will serve so we have enough people to host an event! Get online and set your availability please.

Craig passed around a thank you note from the YWCA for a grant they received from the club.

Guests led us to breakfast where I'm sorry to tell you....there was no bacon. But as you know, when I take notes, I always find a way to put BACON in the BECON.



Guest Lynn Cabrerra from Eagle Mount was at breakfast to share all of the wonderful things they have been doing in their programs and for the people with disabilities in our community.

Eagle Mount Billings began 36 years ago in Billings by Robert Mathis and his wife Rita (military). They thought everyone deserves the opportunity to know how to ski, and still have experiences like that regardless of their handicap. Lynn handed out the summer newsletter to share the pictures that tell stories about all of their good work.

Last year, Eagle Mount added a piece of ski equipment - a ski glider - to their arsenal of skiing equipment. They have bi-skiis as well. This is so every single person can learn how to ski safely. The newest addition to their program are 12 ski rings, which the individual holds like a steering wheel to help them balance as poles can prove to be dangerous for people with disabilities while they are on the mountain skiing. They reached out and asked for 6 that they had in their budget to pay for, and the lady from the company looked them up on their website and thought it was so great what they were doing, that she sent them 12, at no cost.

Any time adaptive equipment becomes available, Eagle Mount will do whatever they can to get it so they can continue to offer this activity to anyone possible. They have sit-skis, bi-skiis, mono-skis, ski rings, and more. This year they were able to serve about 300 people on the mountain!

Another thing they do for their participants is bicycling. They have adaptive bicycles that our club helped them get with a grant that was funded to them last year. They took these bikes to Winnstone in the Heights and it allowed the folks living there the opportunity to get on a bike, which most of them had not done in years.

They are currently working on adaptive wheelchairs too. They recently took 318 students from the ages of 5 - 19 years of age, representing 15 different schools, and 25 different classrooms (special ed students) the opportunity to go on a monthly adaptive field trip. They took the kids to Build-A-Bear in the mall, and were able to get bears for all the students for about \$10/bear, which is amazing, as Build-A-Bear is not inexpensive. They were all so excited that they were able to experience that process as it is not something they can just do every day.

They offer classes like cooking and preparing meals to their participants as well. Many kids do not have normal dining rooms, and meal times with their families so this gives them an experience that most people take for granted. They learn how to make some health food choices.

Overnight trips are another activity they do each year, and this last year, they were able to take 17 participants on a week long trip on a cruise ship! Many of the kids had never been on either a plane or a boat that size, so it was an amazing trip. Lanny and Lisa Lucara were able to go on this trip with their son Joey to Mazatlan and Cabo. It took 9 months of planning, but they were able to make it happen. Eagle Mount continues to expand their offerings and programs to really help their kids have experiences that are not easily available to them. Very inspiring!