



B.E.A.R.

Because Connections Make Us Stronger

Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resources, Inc.

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April 2nd, 2026

RE: Support for Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum

Our community is in need of more services aimed at supporting youth and their families, and the Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum is trying to do just that! As the Program Coordinator for BEAR; a non-profit organization that offers outdoor mentoring for youth aged 11-17, and as a board member for BELN; an organization dedicated to healthy childhood development in the Bitterroot Valley, I understand the lack of programs available for youth in Ravalli County. The Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum is already a great asset to our community, offering a welcoming, hands-on environment where children and their caregivers can learn, play, and grow together. However, they require more space to fully realize this vision.

A family and youth centered community hub is exactly what our valley needs to further support the existing organizations offering youth programming. We need a centralized location for these organizations to collaborate, share resources, and develop innovative programs that cater to the diverse needs of our community. This space would enable us to harness the collective expertise of educators, mentors, and community leaders, ensuring that our youth have access to the best possible opportunities for growth and development.

Not only would a community hub facilitate collaboration of existing organizations but it would also provide families with a one-stop destination for educational, mentoring, and childcare services, fostering intergenerational connections between youth, parents, and elders. We want to create a space where children can explore new ideas, families can engage in enriching activities together, and community members can exchange knowledge and support one another. This hub would be a cornerstone for building a stronger, more connected community, where everyone feels valued and included. Please feel free to contact me at (406)209-8071 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mallory Ijames

Program & Site Coordinator

BEAR