

Welcome to the Montana Family Dance Camp February 10-12, 2023

Registration Questions: Arlene Hoag (406) 223-4707 or MTFamilyCamp@gmail.com

Food & Lodging Questions: Pat Murphy - montanapatmurphy@gmail.com

General info: Bookmark (or remember) [Mystic Dance Caravan](#) as it will stay updated with info on camp.

Arrival

Thanks for being part of this Montana gathering. Check-in begins Friday afternoon at 4:00; dinner at 6:00; and the first Dance session about 7:30. We end at noon on Sunday. All dancing will be in the main Lodge of Camp Mak-A-Dream, a beautiful building with big windows and snowy views. At this point it looks like there will be about 25-30 attending.

Covid Adab

Please be mindful of your health status as you head for camp. We have people attending who are in the age bracket to be at risk of Covid complications. Most of our at-risk population are vaccinated, but we should still be aware of the complications and health risks that organisms with our bodies can create in others. There is also a very serious flu going around at this time.

Here are the guidelines that are being successful at other camps:

- Please increase your social distancing practices starting ten days before camp. As you do this, think each day of the beloveds you wish to see and hug. Imagine their smiling faces and how delighted they will be to see you. Give these ten days as a gift, and as an honorable responsibility of your cleanliness meeting their cleanliness.
- Avoid commercial settings such as hair dressers, where personal contact occurs. Wear masks in busy locations such as stores. If at all possible refrain from things

like concerts, movie theaters and the like. In other words... do everything you can to be able to offer yourself as a safe presence for others.

- Please take a covid test before jumping in your car and heading to camp.
- If you are feeling buggy... please stay home. Sorry.

SILENT AUCTION: As usual, we'll have some fun with a silent auction. This allows us to provide financial aid to those who need it. A lot of folks have generously paid at the top of the sliding scale. Their generosity plus proceeds from the silent auction allow us to break even for what we need to pay Camp Mak-A-Dream.

We invite you to bring some new or gently used items for the Silent Auction and a little extra money to bid on these treasures. Bring your donated items to the main lodge on your arrival and the Silent Auction will be held during open time on Saturday afternoon. Questions? Please contact Terri John at tjohn@carroll.edu or 406-442-0025.

DIRECTIONS: From I-90: take the Gold Creek exit, #166, then go South approximately 1 mile. Turn right on the road in front of the white church, go through the ranch arch, and then turn left into Camp Mak-A-Dream's driveway. Approximate driving times: 1 hour east of Missoula, 1 hour northwest of Butte, 3/4 hour west of Helena.

When you pull into camp there is a road that winds around to the lodge. You can unload by the lodge. The camp keeps the walks nicely plowed and they have wonderful carts which you can use to pile up your stuff and take to your cabin. After unloading, turn around to clear the way for others and park down the hill in the marked lot.

LODGING: Lodging will be in shared dorms. Each house has two pods and one private room. There are 10 single beds per pod. There is a nice lounge in each cabin plus a refrigerator and microwave. There are excellent bathroom facilities. We'll make tentative cabin assignments based on history. If we mess up, there is likely to be room for change. All beds have mattresses and quilts, but **Bring your own bedding, pillow & towels!**

STUFF: The nearest stores are at Deer Lodge, 20 miles away, so don't forget anything you need for a two night stay. Some items to consider: warm clothes; boots suitable for snow; dancing shoes/slippers; altar items; swimsuit and towels for a big jacuzzi; snow toys; snack food; any special food you need for your diet or for your children; musical instruments; usual toilet items; ear plugs. **And remember to bring your own bedding & towels.**

FOOD: The Camp-Mak-A-Dream staff is going to cook for us and they will do all of the clean up! We have a new cook this year and Pat Murphy is working with the staff to design our menu. We will try to plan for special diets, but if you have a very strict diet you may want to bring items for your own needs. There is a refrigerator in each cabin and a microwave in the main lodge. Most of you know the kind of meals the camp provides, so fill in for yourself, if you need to.

YOUNG PEOPLE: Some of our Dance Leaders for this camp were not quite in the 1st grade when they attended our 1st event at Camp-Mak-A-Dream in 2002. At that time we called it "Family Camp" because we wanted to encourage participation with the next generation of dancers. What a pleasure it's been to see the young ones become adult dance leaders. Because we have few youngsters this year, we do not have a hired child care person. We love it when young folks join the circle, and there is also a room downstairs for them to enjoy.

GENERAL SCHEDULE: Zareen and Tajali will be gathering dance leaders and creating a container for Friday night. If you have a dance ready to share there is space for you. We will also be putting together polls for the rest of the weekend and creating sign up sheets for leaders.

Traditionally we have had a Zikr on Saturday evening. We can continue that offering if desired. Family Camp is a co-created event and we can decide much of this at camp.

- If you want to lead there is space for you!

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: For Saturday afternoon there is space for any type of activity you would like to share with others. There are some great hills for hiking. There is a large jacuzzi available for water people.

DANCE LEADERS and MUSICIANS: We try to make Family Camp a little more laid-back than other camps. So, if you're a relatively novice dance leader, this will be a good place to practice leading or playing your instrument before a supportive and friendly group.

Toward the One...

See you there, Zareen & the crew