Dear Parents:

Your child has expressed an interest in participating in a winter service-learning program in Yellowstone with the Ecology Project International (EPI). If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity for your child, there will be a mandatory **Parent-and-Student Informational Meeting on Thursday, November 3 at 7 pm in MHS Room 205.**

I have accompanied MHS students on several winter and summer EPI Yellowstone programs and have found them to be tremendous experiences. The cost of the program is approximately $475. There is some scholarship money available. See the website or call EPI for scholarship information.

Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from Missoula. Carpooling needs to be arranged by the parents.

The trip chaperones will likely be Jennifer Pollard for one trip and Charlie Gerke for the other, with me as the stand-by chaperone.

There will be 2 sessions offered this spring. Students can indicate preference for one session or the other, but may not get their first choice:

 February 16-20 (President’s Day week-end); depart for Missoula the afternoon of Feb 15

 March 1-5; depart for Missoula on the afternoon of Feb 29

Since this is not (yet) a school-sponsored trip, students cannot fund-raise through the Environmental Club. Furthermore, the 2-3 missed school days count as student absences. Mr. Perryman and I have discussed this, and it should not be a problem for students. Students who are accepted to participate in the program can usually afford to miss a few days of school for such a quality learning experience.

There may not be enough slots for all of the students who want to participate. Each session can accommodate 13 students. Since 30 students have already expressed interest, EPI is opening a second session for MHS. I will ask students to state which session they prefer to attend, but I may not be able to give all students their first choice, and some students may not be selected to attend at all.

Once a student is selected, deadlines for registering for the February 16 – 20 course are as follows. Deadlines for the March course will be announced at the meeting.

                November 11     All online enrollment forms completed

                December 16     All paperwork due

                January 16           All tuition due

For more information about EPI, visit [www.ecologyproject.org](http://www.ecologyproject.org).

EPI is offering a summer program for MHS students in early July. Keep that in mind as an option.

**Please let me know if you plan to attend the informational meeting. If your student is interested in EPI but you are unable to attend, please schedule a time to meet with me independently.**

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Eareckson