EMPOWER MONTANA ANNOUNCES YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMPS

This summer, Empower Montana will continue its partnership with Missoula County Public Schools and surrounding communities to empower high school students and educators with leadership skills to create inclusive schools and communities. Empower Montana’s Youth Leadership Camp: High School Edition will be held July 25th-27th at Camp Paxson on Seeley Lake. The 3-day camp will prepare participants to return to their communities to co-lead Empower Montana’s violence prevention and prejudice reduction workshops in K-12 schools across Montana throughout the year.

Empower Montana is a non-profit leadership development organization focused on ending mistreatment, correcting systemic inequalities and strengthening communities across Montana through empowering everyday citizens. Empower Montana’s Youth Leadership Camp: High School Edition focuses on building relationships across group lines, raising awareness about mistreatment and violence, diffusing conflict, and promoting inclusion of diverse groups. One returning youth leader shared this reflection on their experiences at camp, “I have been going to camp for many years, and it is always a chance to gain a new perspective and learn something new about other people and myself.”

The camp is unique in its empowerment structure; it is led by the organization’s trained youth leaders, providing up-front leadership experience and opportunities. Modeled similarly as a “train the trainer”, the High School Leadership Camp expands the reach of Empower Montana’s prejudice and violence prevention work by reaching more young people and more communities. Over the past year there has been a dramatic increase in racism, homophobia, religious intolerance and other harmful violent acts in schools across the state. With the leadership of the organization’s youth trainers, Empower Montana has responded to the rising instances of bullying and prejudice by training nearly 3,600 students and educators in 2017.

This year, continuing with their mission of building safe and inclusive school communities, Empower Montana is proud to announce their first ever leadership camp for middle school youth. Empower Montana’s Youth Leadership Camp: Middle School Edition will take place August 7th and 8th at the Bitterroot Lions Camp in Marion Valley.