



Eagle Mount Bozeman

Participant Eligibility Guidelines

Mission Statement: Eagle Mount Bozeman is committed to providing quality adaptive recreation and sport opportunities for people with disabilities and young people with cancer, and to provide support for families of those participants, so that ‘they shall mount up with wings as eagles.’

Participant Eligibility & Essential Eligibility Criteria: Eagle Mount Bozeman’s Participant Eligibility Guidelines are used to confirm an individual is eligible for Eagle Mount services and programming. Eagle Mount Bozeman’s Essential Eligibility Criteria are used to identify what programs a participant may engage in.

Qualifying Primary Disability and/or Diagnosis: Following are the basic guidelines we use to establish eligibility for our services. Please note that Eagle Mount’s working definition of a disability is not exactly the same as that defined by the US Government and covered by IDEA. Qualifying disabilities and/or specific diagnoses must be confirmed by a medical expert on the Eagle Mount Physician Approval Form.

- Physical disability such that special accommodations, teaching approach, or adaptive equipment is required for individuals to participate in recreational activities. Examples may include but are not limited to: limited independent mobility/paralysis, amputees, non-ambulatory participants, limited or no use of extremities, epilepsy, visual impairment, and age-related disability.
- Developmental/Intellectual such that special accommodations, teaching approach, or adaptive equipment is required for individuals to participate in recreational activities. Examples may include but are not limited to: autism, Down syndrome, ADHD, non-specific developmental delays, and age-related disability.
- Sensory processing disorders such that special accommodations, teaching approach, or adaptive equipment is required for individuals to participate in recreational activities.
- Cancer diagnosis in children and young adults. Individuals with a cancer diagnosis are eligible for Eagle Mount’s Big Sky Kids programming. Individuals who have or have had cancer may participate in other Eagle Mount programs if their illness has resulted in a qualifying disability.

Non-Qualifying Disabilities and/or Diagnoses:

- Emotional disabilities, temporary disability, and mental illness. Individuals who meet Eagle Mount’s qualifying primary disability and/or diagnosis guidelines who also experience emotional disability or temporary disability remain qualified for Eagle Mount services.



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Essential Eligibility Criteria

Overall Essential Eligibility Criteria (required for all Eagle Mount Programs):

- Meet Eagle Mount Participant Eligibility Guidelines & Eagle Mount Participant Behavioral Expectations & Policies.
- Complete Eagle Mount Application and Physician Approval.
- Independently or with assistance, understand and follow directions and instructions given by others to avoid hazards and /or manage risks. This includes following emergency procedures.
- Manage personal needs (toileting, feeding, taking medication) independently or with the assistance of a companion.¹
- Breathe independently, with or without medical devices, or with the assistance of a companion.¹
- Be free of airborne infectious or communicable disease.
- For individuals with Down syndrome, submit an annual medical clearance form from a licensed physician.
- Follow all policies and requirements of partner organizations (organization's separate from Eagle Mount that provide facilities, equipment and/or facilitation of programming, or program credentialing).

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Aquatic Programs

- Meet Overall Essential Eligibility Criteria.
- Enter and exit the pool independently or with assistance.
- Tolerate submersion in 89 degree salt water and deck temperature of 91 degrees.
- Maintain control of bladder/bowels, or wear incontinence briefs or swim diaper.
- Exit the pool before discharging of bodily waste (e.g., spitting or nasal discharge).
- Be free of open wounds.

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Horsemanship Programs

Unmounted Riding Lessons

- Meet Overall Essential Eligibility Criteria.
- Age 6 years or older.

Mounted Riding Lessons

- Meet Overall Essential Eligibility Criteria.
- Age 6 years or older.
- Wear a helmet for one-hour lesson.
- Maintain head/neck control.
- Sit astride a horse with minimal assistance.
- Meet Eagle Mount Horsemanship Program height and weight criteria.
- For individuals with Down syndrome, submit an annual medical clearance form from a licensed physician that includes a neurological exam specifically denying any symptoms consistent with atlantoaxial instability.

Mounted Lesson Height & Weight Criteria	
Height (Inches/Feet)	Maximum Weight for Riding
(62") (5'2" & Under)	155
(63") (5'3")	160
(64"-65") (5'4"-5'5")	165
(66") (5'6")	170
(67") (5'7")	175
(68") (5'8")	180
(69"-70") (5'9"-5'10")	185
(71") (5'11")	190
(72") (6'0")	200
(73") (6'1"-6'4")	225

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Overnight Camping Programs

- Meet Overall Essential Eligibility Criteria.
- Perceive and comprehend the inherent risks of the activities of camp independently or with assistance.
- Withstand environmental factors associated with camp (e.g., temperature and weather variability).
- Understand verbal or visual instructions individually and in a group setting independently or with the assistance.

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Big Sky Kids Oncology Camps

- Meet Overall Essential Eligibility Criteria.
- Meet Essential Eligibility Criteria for Overnight Camping programs.
- Receive medical clearance from a Primary Care Practitioner or Oncologist.

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Seasonal Recreation Programs, Art Programs, and Family Engagement Programs

Programs include downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, curling, indoor rock climbing, cycling, and adventure days.

All Seasonal Recreation Program & Art Programs

- Meet Overall Essential Eligibility Criteria.

All Family Engagement Programs

- Must be a family member of caregiver of an individual who meets Eagle Mount Eligibility Guidelines.

Cycling Programs

- Complete a safety skills assessment for road cycling activities.

Snow Sport Programs

- Weigh less than 250 pounds when utilizing Eagle Mount Sit Ski Equipment.
- For individuals with Down syndrome, submit an annual medical clearance form from a licensed physician that includes a neurological exam specifically denying any symptoms consistent with atlantoaxial instability.
- Follow the National Ski Areas Association Responsibility Code independently or with assistance:
 - ✓ Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
 - ✓ People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
 - ✓ You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above.
 - ✓ Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
 - ✓ Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
 - ✓ Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
 - ✓ Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.



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Participant Behavioral Expectations & Policies

Eagle Mount Bozeman strives to provide a safe, fun, recreation experience for every participant, regardless of age or type of disability. Not every participant will enjoy every program; participants and families are encouraged to try a range of activities, with an eye to personal enjoyment as well as personal benefit. If an individual's behavior results in a safety concern for the individual, staff, or other participants, a parent or other legally responsible adult may be required to act as a volunteer and/or companion¹Error! Bookmark not defined. for that participant.

Occasionally, it is necessary to remove a participant from a class, from a program, or from Eagle Mount for behavioral reasons. Eagle Mount staff are trained to manage behavioral issues, and to determine when behaviors may be unsafe. Staff have the authority to make the decision to remove a participant and your participation in Eagle Mount programs signals your agreement to abide by their decision.

1. Types of behavior that may cause removal from a program
 - a. Dangerous or violent behavior that poses a threat to the participant's own safety, or to the safety of other participants, volunteers, or staff (e.g., biting, hitting, throwing, running away).
 - b. Disruptive behavior that may endanger others (e.g., spooking horses).
 - c. Destructive behavior that may threaten people or property. (e.g., breaking equipment).
 - d. Any behavior not consistent with Eagle Mount's values of health, inclusion, and independence (e.g., abusive language, disrespect to others).

2. Procedure for removal
 - a. Inappropriate behaviors will result in the immediate removal of a participant from his or her current class or session.
 - b. Eagle Mount staff and/or volunteers will attempt to work with the participant to try to determine whether the cause of the behavior can be removed or ameliorated, so that the participant can return to the program.
 - c. If this is not possible, the program director will discuss the situation with the participant and/or family, with an eye to finding a resolution.
 - d. If no resolution can be found, and the behavior persists, the participant may be removed from the program, either temporarily or permanently. In some cases, it may be possible to switch to a different program.

3. Procedure for redressing a decision for removal
 - a. If a participant, caregiver, or family feels that the participant has been removed from a program unjustly, they may request a review of the situation.
 - b. If a review is requested, Eagle Mount will convene a board made up of directors of other programs to review the situation and make a recommendation.
 - c. If the recommendation made by the group is still not felt to be acceptable, the Executive Director will make a thorough review of the situation. The decision of the Executive Director is final.

¹ A companion is a caregiver (e.g., a family member, aide, or other assistant) who is provided by the participant or participant's parent/guardian. A companion will not be provided by Eagle Mount and is neither Eagle Mount staff nor Eagle Mount volunteers.
Eligibility Guidelines & Behavior Expectations October 1 2021