

# Camp Eureka!

A Montana Winter Natural History Workshop for Children Who are Blind

Montana children 8-12 years old who are blind or have severe visual impairments are invited to gather with biologists at Freeze Out Lake near Choteau, MT during the thrilling and chilling spring migration of tens of thousands of snow geese and a myriad of other waterfowl en route to their summer nesting grounds. The children will be under the guidance of blind young adult and adult mentors specially trained to work with children who are blind.

#### Camp Eureka! is a partnership of...

Montana Conservation Science Institute
Montana Association for the Blind
National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute
NFB/MAB Student Division
NFB/MAB HOPE in Montana Parents Division
With the support of...
Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind
Montana Lions Clubs

#### **Experience, Confidence and Growth ...**

A child with recorder and microphone and white cane in gloved hands makes her way toward the sounds of lapping water, rustling sedges and the chatter of water birds. Tall dry grasses brush her legs as her boots crunch on the frozen mud. She stands quietly and listens and waits. She feels the relative warmth of the sun on her face as it rises to the east above the vast. northern Great Plains and the great flyways of snow geese, tundra swans and other species of migratory waterfowl stopping off here on their spring return trip to northern nesting grounds. Suddenly she feels the surge of energy coming across the surface of the lake as thousands of snow geese begin their take-off -- a cacophonous rush of wings and highpitched goose gabble that rises higher and higher into the cold air. She holds her microphone high catching every sound and sensation that seems to vibrate through her. Right now she just feels – later she will put words to those feelings and share them with her fellow campers. She takes a deep breath inhaling the cool, murky scent of the wetlands. Personal growth through personal discovery embodies the spirit of Camp Eureka!





Michael Gallagher, Missoulian photo Campers record birds songs with Dr. Erick Greene, UM Biologist, at Camp Eureka! 2005 summer camp.

#### Winter camp setting

The Camp Eureka! Snow Goose Winter Workshop will be based at the Freeze Out Lake Wildlife Management Area 40 miles west of Great Falls and 15 miles east of Choteau along Hwy 89. The children will stay in accommodations near Freeze Out Lake and early each morning and evening venture out to the wetlands to record the sounds of snow geese and other migrating waterfowl. Under the supervision of blind mentors, who have a positive attitude about blindness and are skilled in the alternative techniques of the blind, the children will engage in activities that lead toward greater confidence and independence. During warm-up times we will share our experiences and compose poetry and interpretations of our adventures -- then assemble all these sounds and sensations in a recording for a radio broadcast and to share with schoolmates, family and friends.

#### contact:

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## Camp Eureka! 2010 Snow Goose Winter Workshop Registration

March 19-21, 2010\*
(\*alternative date March 26-28 if weather is bad)
For Children 8-12 years old

Camper Information
Name:Age on first day of camp:
School
Parent/Guardian Information Name(s):
1 (diffe (5))
Mailing address:
Phone(s):
Email:
Mail registration form to:
Camp Eureka! 2010 Montana Conservation Science Institute
5200 Upper Miller Creek Road
Missoula, MT 59803



### For more information please contact:

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Visit our website:

http://www.mocsi.org/campeureka.htm

