

Montana Perkins State Plan Review Survey—Complete by February 1

The Carl D. Perkins Act is federal legislation that provides funding for the specific purpose of developing career and technical education training and employability skills for secondary (high school) and postsecondary (college) students.

The State of Montana is asking you for your help in developing the state's vision and goals for career and technical education and workforce training. This [survey](#) will take five minutes or less to complete.

The deadline for taking this survey is February 1, 2024. Please share this survey widely with friends, family, colleagues, classmates, etc.

February 1 is Deadline for ACTE Region V Conference Early-Bird Registration

The Hawaii Association for Career & Technical Education is hosting the [ACTE Region V 2024 Conference](#) in Honolulu, April 9-12, at the [Ala Moana Hotel](#) in downtown Waikiki.

The [early-bird registration](#) rate ends February 1, 2024, and can be completed online. The early-bird registration rate is \$475 which includes tour options for Wednesday, April 10; breakfast each morning Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; lunch on Wednesday; and receptions Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

If the 2024 conference is your first time attending an ACTE Region V conference, [apply](#) for a [First Timer's stipend](#) of \$450.

Rooms can be booked at the [Ala Moana Hotel](#) at the conference rate of \$169 or \$189 depending on tower selected.

To help with travel planning, a [Schedule At-a-Glance](#) is available along with a [letter](#) to help justify your attendance at the conference.

To be part of the conference program, submit a [Call for Presentation](#) to present a session. Presentation proposals are due February 1, 2024.

Register by February 1 to Participate in WBEA's Professional Development Leadership Training

Each year, the [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) hosts the Professional Development Leadership Training (PDLT) as part of the yearly conference for Presidents-elect, Membership Directors, and other new and emerging leaders from the western region's states, territories, and provinces (S/T/P) business education organizations.

The PDLT is a great opportunities for S/T/P leaders, and those identified as future/potential leaders, to learn more about the Business Education profession and the role the National Business Education Association (NBEA), WBEA, and the local S/T/P associations play in the development and support of Business Educators and the profession of Business Education.

Participation is open to anyone interested in taking advantage of this unique professional development opportunity by completing the [PDLT application](#). Please submit your application by February 1, 2024.

PDLT participants will meet Saturday, February 17, from 7:30-9 am. A continental breakfast will be provided. PDLT participants will also be recognized at the WBEA Awards Banquet on Sunday evening.

The WBEA leadership team looks forward to seeing you at this year's [WBEA 2024 Conference](#) in Eugene, Oregon, February 15-19, 2024. Register today.

For questions, or for more information, regarding the WBEA PDLT, please contact Chris Liebelt-Garcia, WBEA's Representative to the NBEA Executive Board, at chrisliebelt_garcia@yahoo.com.

Applications are Now Open for Code.org's Professional Learning Program—Scholarships Available for Montana Teachers

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators! Explore the CS curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and hone your teaching strategies for the 2024-2025 academic year.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, our professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you. Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and high school teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries, Computer Science Principles, or AP Computer Science A in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

[Computer Science Discoveries](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washinton
- August 17-October 2: Virtual

[Computer Science Principles](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 22-26: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washinton

[AP Computer Science A](#) offerings—

- June 17-21: Boise, Idaho
- June 24-28: Virtual
- July 29-August 2: Tukwila, Washinton

The cost of CSA, CSD or CSP is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (9 total days of training). Any travel, lodging, or food costs for in-person trainings are separate. Scholarship opportunities are available to cover the costs of Code.org training tuition for qualified applicants.

Scale to New Learning Heights at the Edtech Event of the Year—ISTELive 24

Registration and housing for [ISTELive 24](#), June 23-26, 2024, in Denver and online are now open. [ISTELive 24](#) will be held at the Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver. [Lodging](#) for ISTE Live 24 is available at many downtown Denver hotels.

At [ISTELive](#), you will scale to new learning heights during 1,000+ strategy-packed sessions that will help you meet the needs of all students. Plus, become more confident with the latest tech for learning as you explore online tools during hands-on sessions, live demos, and how-to presentations.

Maximize your learning by adding the Leadership Exchange at ISTE Live, the 2024 ASCD Annual Conference, the 2024 ASCD Leadership Summit, or ISTE membership to your experience. You will save exponentially when you create a custom year-round PD plan.

Register now at our best price of the year; both the live and virtual [early-bird registration](#) rates end March 1.

New Substance Prevention Content from EVERFI

[EVERFI](#) has partnered with Truth Initiative, the public health organization behind the nationally recognized truth youth tobacco and opioid prevention and education campaign, to add two new lessons to [Vaping: Know the truth](#).

Why it matters: Vaping cannabis is on the rise. These new lessons address the health risks and consequences of short- and long-term cannabis use. The updated curriculum orients students toward choices they can make to better take care of themselves. *These modules will be available to students who have not started the course, are in progress, or who have completed the course previously.*

In addition to the two new modules, the original four modules underwent significant updates including content updates for factual accuracy, updating versions of existing interactive components, and ensuring the course meets our current accessibility standards.

Resources to Explore:

- [Course One Pager](#)
- [Vaping: Know the truth Webpage](#)
- [Cannabis Use Fact Sheet](#) (from truth Initiative)

Check out [EVERFI's Quick Start Guide](#), then get started at [everfi.net](#). Contact k12central@everfi.com with any questions.

Online Learning Opportunity for Montana High School Students from CyberMontana

The [CyberMontana](#) Team is happy to share that there is still time to register for ITS 130, Introduction to Cybersecurity. This three-credit early college course is offered through the University of Montana Missoula College.

Who: ITS 130 is offered to high school sophomores (with a recommendation from a school counselor), juniors, and seniors.

What: The [Introduction to Cybersecurity](#) course develops a foundational understanding of cybersecurity and how it relates to information and network security. Minimal computer experience is required for this course.

Where & When: This course is offered in an asynchronous online format. The course begins on January 18, 2024. The first assignments may be turned in through January 28, 11:55 pm. Students are still able to enroll in this course and complete it successfully.

Cost: ITS 130 is eligible for the 1-2-Free Program.

How to Enroll: Students interested in the course can get more information and enroll in the course [here](#).

For more information, the CyberMontana team is happy to set up ZOOM meetings with staff, counselors, and administration to answer any questions. CyberMontana also provides interactive ZOOM sessions (15-20 minutes) with students in the classroom, joining the first 15-20 minutes of a class, providing information and answering students' questions directly.

To schedule a ZOOM meeting or session, or for further questions regarding course content, please contact Kristal Crowley (kristal.crowley@umt.edu.)

For questions regarding enrollment in any of these courses, please contact Benjamin Nelson (benjamin.nelson@mso.umt.edu.)

[Apply for a Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative's 2024 Teacher Externship](#)

Educator Externships are a unique professional development opportunity where teachers are immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies needed to succeed in that industry or career path. The experience strengthens an educator's teaching abilities and brings relevant, real-world context into the classroom. Externships are often transformative for educators, students, and industry partners. Impacting just one teacher allows a company to reach between 20-150 students each year.

Please complete the [2024 Montana Teacher Externship Application](#) to pre-register for the 2024 Teacher Externship Program. Pre-registration does not guarantee you an externship since there are limited spots available. You must pre-register through this site and complete registration to be considered for the externship. Upon completion of the externship, you will be eligible to receive a stipend paid by the Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative and up to 20 OPI renewal units.

[See what the 2023 teacher externs have to say about their experiences.](#)

[Register Today for the Spring 2024 Edition of the Big Sky Biz Sim](#)

Now is the time to register to participate in the [Big Sky Biz Sim](#) presented by First Interstate Bank. Presented by the [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE), the [Big Sky Biz Sim](#) is Montana's premiere student business simulation. This is an in-class business simulation where students make all of the operating decisions for their business to produce, sell and distribute widgets.

How does the Biz Sim work?

Timing: 10-week class simulation from February 7-April 10, 2024, students submit inputs online every Wednesday by 4 p.m. Team registrations required by January 30, 2024.

Who: This program has a long history of success for business teachers bringing business concepts alive on understanding income statements, balance sheets, and applying strategies to maximize profits and minimize expenses while managing debt, ethical questions, hiring and quality control. It equally engages students in economics and personal finance.

The decision inputs are matched against other teams competing across Montana for the highest stock market price at the end of eight quarters, (weeks in the simulation).

The Biz Sim software and game has been in schools in Montana since 2000 with over 28,000 students participating with the support of the Montana State Chamber Foundation. It was formerly called the

High School Business Challenge. Thanks to First Interstate Bank for covering all team fees and prizes in 2024.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

Industry winners will receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card.

[Register today](#) for the Spring 2024 Big Sky Biz Sim.

Get Ready for The Stock Market Game for Spring 2024—Trading Begins February 5

Hosted by the SIFMA Foundation in collaboration with the [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) and Glacier Banks, this competition has once again highlighted the importance of equipping our youth with practical financial skills and knowledge. [The Stock Market Game](#) allows students to delve into the intricate world of stock trading by investing a virtual \$100,000 in real-time stock markets. Through this experiential learning platform, students gain invaluable insights into economics, finance, and the dynamics of the financial markets.

How does the Stock Market Game work?

Timing: A nine-week class simulation with first trades starting February 5 until April 12, 2024, students/teachers have maximum flexibility to make trades at any cadence from weekly to daily.

Who: The Stock Market Game curriculum, lessons, hands-on student activities, and virtual events combine content, critical thinking, research, and analytical skills in a real-world simulation. The online Teacher Support Center offers more than 1,000 lesson plans that reinforce Montana teaching standards, STEM requirements, and 21st century skills. The lessons and professional development opportunities for teachers are designed to help students learn the fundamentals of long-term saving and investing. Students enhance their knowledge in core curriculum subjects including math, language arts, economics, and social studies, and develop life skills such as financial preparedness, teamwork, and social-emotional learning.

The benefits of participating in the Stock Market Game extend far beyond the competition itself. Students develop essential skills such as research, analysis, risk assessment, and decision-making, all while cultivating a deeper understanding of economic principles and market dynamics. Moreover, the experience fosters a sense of financial responsibility and prepares students for future endeavors in academia, career, and personal finance.

There will be a cash prizes for the top five teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$300 per team
- 3rd Place: \$200 per team
- 4th Place: \$100 per team
- 5th Place: \$75 per team

\$50 Visa Gift Cards will be presented to teams 6-10 and top Class C, Class B, Class A, Class AA, and Junior High teams. Rewards will also be provided to the most improved team's stock price from the mid-way point. Prizes and team fees are covered by Glacier Banks, First Security Bank Bozeman,

Valley Bank of Helena, First Security Bank Missoula, Frist Bank of Montana, and Western Security Bank.

An optional teacher professional development training will be offered via zoom with tips and tools on teaching investing with teacher stipends sponsored by Robinhood.

Register Today for the Montana Personal Finance Challenge

The [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education, hosts the [Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#). The challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of personal finance by connecting with other students from across the state in an online competition.

How does the Personal Finance Challenge work?

Timing: Registration is open now and students can test anytime following independent course preparation. Testing must be completed by April 12, 2024, to compete for cash prizes, trip.

Who: MCEE encourages any classroom teaching personal finance to form teams and complement their instruction with a chance to win cash prizes. It is a low commitment with a great pay-off.

Teams of three-four students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering the principles of personal finance including money management, credit, investing, and insurance.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

State champions are invited to compete in the national challenge. The 2024 National Personal Finance Challenge finals will be hosted in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 19-20, 2024. MCEE and its sponsors will cover airline costs while food, lodging, and all events are hosted by CEE.

[Register today](#); the Personal Finance Challenge ends April 12.

The Montana Economics Challenge Competition is Now Open—Students Can Win Cash Prizes

The [Montana Council for Economic Education](#) (MCEE), with support from the National Council for Economic Education, hosts the [Economics Challenge Program](#). The Challenge is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of Economic Literacy by competing with other students across the state in online examinations. Student participants receive cash prizes, awards, and accolades.

There are two divisions in the Economics Challenge:

- Adam Smith: For returning competitors, AP, IB, and honors students.
- David Ricardo: For first-time competitors with no more than one course in economics.

How does the Economics Challenge work?

Timing: Registration is open now and students can test anytime following independent course preparation. Testing must be completed by April 12, 2024, to compete for cash prizes.

Who: MCEE would encourage any classroom teaching Intro or AP Economics to form teams and complement their instruction with a chance to win cash prizes. It is a low commitment with a great pay-off.

Teams of three-four students will have 35 minutes to complete a 30-question online exam covering a broad variety of economic principles.

Students earn 10 points for every correct response and 0 points for each incorrect answer. Every question must be answered to move on, and students are not able to go back to previous questions.

There will be a cash prize for the top three teams in Montana:

- 1st Place: \$500 per team
- 2nd Place: \$250 per team
- 3rd Place: \$100 per team

State champions are invited to participate in the regional competition where top teams travel to New York City for the National Economics Challenge.

[Register](#) your teams today.

Applications Now Being Accepted for Perkins Rural Reserve Grants for 2023-2024

Purpose: To create career awareness, recruit, and retain students within a CTE Secondary Program of Study that leads to a high skill, high wage, or in demand occupations.

There are currently 176 schools offering over 260 Career and Technical Education courses to students in grades 5-8 in our Montana schools. The most offered course is in career exploration. Montana does not allocate Perkins's funding for middle school programs this year's Rural Reserve Grant will be to encourage pathway work for the middle grades.

Schools could use the funds to help:

- establish innovative delivery methods for career exploration,
- expose students to employability skills earlier,
- establish foundational elements for work-based learning,
- improve transitions from middle grades into secondary Career and Technical Education pathways.

High School Awards: Grants of **up to \$5,000** each will be available to secondary Perkins eligible: school districts who receive less than \$15,000 in Perkins funding Schools will have had to complete the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and E-Grant application as well.

Middle School Awards: Grants of **up to \$5,000** each will be available to secondary Perkins eligible school districts to support CTE work in the middle grades (5-8). Schools will have to complete the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and E-Grant application as well for the 2023-2024 Grant cycle. Middle School programs will need to apply through their high school district to submit the application.

Districts are only eligible for a total of \$5,000 in awards, must have completed the Perkins Grant Application for Fiscal Year 24 and receive an allocation of less than \$15,000. Grant winners notified on an ongoing basis. First reviews will be January 2, 2024.

Use of Funds: Applicants need to show a middle school/ secondary program partnership. Money will be granted to the Secondary Program to use for Middle School CTE Development/Support.

Click [here](#) for the application.

Youth Serve Montana Scholarships 2024 Applications Now Open

The Governor's Office of Community Service, [Reach Higher Montana](#), and [Montana Campus Compact](#) are pleased to offer \$125,000 in scholarships for 2024 graduating seniors via the [Youth Serve Montana Scholarship](#) program.

Up to 100 seniors will receive scholarships for completing volunteer service hours in the 12 months prior to submitting their application. Students who have completed 50 hours are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship, and students who have completed 100 hours are eligible for a \$1,500 scholarship.

Applications are now being accepted and closes January 31, 2024.

Visit the [Youth Serve Montana Scholarship](#) page for complete details and to apply.

NBEA's 2024 Convention Registration for Myrtle Beach is Open

Registration is now open for the [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) 2024 Annual Convention. The [NBEA 2024 Convention & Expo](#) will be held Tuesday-Friday, March 26-29, 2024, at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Both in-person and virtual participation options are available.

Get ready for a one-of-a-kind conference experience at the picturesque beach destination of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Join us for the 2024 NBEA Convention & Expo to combine learning, networking, and perhaps a little bit of sand. Soak up the sun, build valuable relationships, and gain invaluable knowledge as NBEA goes to the beach.

Now included with the in-person registration:

- Continental Breakfast Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
- Lunch Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Awards Luncheon
- Wednesday evening welcome reception
- Transportation on Wednesday evening to [Broadway at the Beach](#)
- Thursday Networking Event: Rooftop Dinner at RipTydz

Virtual registrants can attend sessions from the comfort of their own homes. Sessions will be broadcast live via ZOOM! Select whether you plan to attend the event live, in Myrtle Beach, or virtually when you register.

All attendees will have access to session broadcasts, and most concurrent sessions will be recorded and posted for later viewing for convention registrants.

The Early-bird, NBEA-member rate for in-person registration is \$499 and \$349 for virtual registration. The early-bird rates end February 27, 2024.

If participating in-person, rooms at the [Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel](#) can be booked for \$159+taxes & fees. The convention room block ends February 26, 2024.

Visit the [NBEA 2024 Convention & Expo](#) page for complete convention details.

First Submissions for The Prospects 2024 Began Friday, December 1

The [Montana Chamber Foundation](#) is excited to announce the 2024 edition of [The Prospects](#), an entrepreneurship competition. With over \$75,000 in cash, prizes, and scholarships available, this is a great opportunity to get your students' ideas exposed to business leaders in Montana.

[Tiana Yates](#) (tiana@montanachamber.com), the Montana Chamber Empowered Coordinator, will be your main contact for this year's competition. You do not have to be teaching [Empowered](#) to participate in the contest.

[The Prospects](#) includes both a high school and a middle school division. The Fall competition is open now with submissions being accepted beginning December 1, 2023. Submission will be judged as they are submitted with finalists being announced on February 1, March 1, and April 1. The 2024 Virtual Awards Ceremony will be held April 24, 2024.

Key Dates for The Prospects 2024

- December 1: First Submission Date
- February 1, March 1, & April 1: Advancements Announced
- March 15: Final Submission Date
- April 25: Virtual Awards Show
- May 19-21: In-person competition in Bozeman for the Grand Champion prize

The Prospects categories for the High School level include

[Existing Business Idea](#): Any high school students already running their own small business. Pitch your business and how you intend to grow and sustain it moving forward.

[New Business Idea](#): Do you have the next big thing? We want high school students to reach for stars and come up with the next amazing, new idea.

[Hack My State](#): Take time to help us come up with solutions for one of our state's biggest concerns right now, Childcare. Come up with a solution that could help solve the problem for finding childcare all across Montana.

[School Enterprise](#): Does your school, class or club run a business? If so, tell us why it exists and ways to improve or expand to benefit your school.

At the Middle School level, the Junior Prospects competition categories include

[Design Challenge](#) (6th grade only): 6th graders will be tasked to combine three items and let their creativity shine. Create the next big thing and help innovate Montana.

[Hack My School](#) (7th & 8th grade): Let's be solution makers. We want you to take a deep dive into your school and come up with a realistic and attainable solution to make your school better for everyone.

[Vacant Lot](#) (7th & 8th grade): Like Hack My School, but we want you to look at your community to be the next generation of change makers. Look at the vacant lots, existing buildings, and other areas of your community and pitch to us your solution to make your hometown better.

[Existing Business Idea](#) (6th-8th grade): Any middle school students already running their own small business. Pitch your business and how you intend to grow and sustain it moving forward.

Eligibility: Any of Montana's high school and middle school students are encouraged to submit their innovative ideas and solutions or enter their existing businesses.

Submissions: Pitch Video (2 minutes or less), Business Summary (1,000 words max.), a Waiver Form signed by an Educator and/or Parent or Guardian, and a completed W-9 Form.

Complete contest and submission details can be found on [The Prospects page](#) of the Montana Chamber Foundation website.

For questions, please contact Tiana Yates at tiana@montanachamber.com.

Each participant will receive an extensive digital resource handbook specifically designed for this seminar. The handbook includes:

--Sample prompts and strategies for using AI tools to create engaging and personalized business lessons that cater to individual student learning needs

--Ideas and resources on how to make the best use of AI tools in your classroom

--Descriptions and overviews of the AI tools covered in the seminar as well as additional tools to consider for specific business ed content areas

--Ways to use AI to automate routine administrative tasks, allowing more time for teaching and student learning

--Practical strategies and tutorials to more effectively introduce AI tools to business ed students

Using AI Tools To Enhance Student Learning In Business Education

Presented by Diane Marsh (former Business Educator at Columbia Falls High School) for the Institute for educational Development, [Using AI Tools To Enhance Student Learning In Business Education](#) is an exciting opportunity for Grades 6-12 business teachers to explore the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and their specific applications in the world of business education.

Participants will learn how to create a learning experience that strengthens students' critical thinking, creativity, and engagement. This seminar is designed to provide teachers with practical, actionable strategies and skills you can implement immediately to enhance your existing business curriculum, making it more interactive and impactful for your students. Join Diane for a highly practical day filled with ways to make best use of AI tools to strengthen your students' business learning, streamline grading and assessments, enhance your instruction, and improve your own productivity.

Each participant will receive an extensive digital resource handbook specifically designed for this seminar. The handbook includes:

--Sample prompts and strategies for using AI tools to create engaging and personalized business lessons that cater to individual student learning needs

- Ideas and resources on how to make the best use of AI tools in your classroom
- Descriptions and overviews of the AI tools covered in the seminar as well as additional tools to consider for specific business ed content areas
- Ways to use AI to automate routine administrative tasks, allowing more time for teaching and student learning
- Practical strategies and tutorials to more effectively introduce AI tools to business ed students

The [Using AI Tools To Enhance Student Learning In Business Education](#) virtual seminar will be held January 29, 2024, from 7 am-1:30 pm (MST), with additional options to participate on February 2, 2024, or March 1, 2024.

For complete details and to register to participate in one of the three offerings, please visit the [seminar page](#) on the Institute for Educational Development website.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the is the most visited national park in the country and a true monument to the beauty of the Appalachians.

Established in the depths of the Great Depression by generous local communities, wealthy philanthropists like John D. Rockefeller Jr., and the U.S. government, this pristine area was spared from further logging and development and is now a premiere outdoor destination belonging to all Americans.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is located in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

In 1923 when Mrs. Willis P. Davis of Knoxville visited the American West, she fell in love with America's National Parks.

Mrs. Davis felt the Smoky Mountains were worthy of such status; it is with this thought the Park Movement was born.

Congress established the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on June 15, 1934, and turned its stewardship to the National Park Service.

Land acquisition continued and on September 2, 1940, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt officially dedicated the park.

Europeans first settled Cades Cove, an isolated valley located in the Tennessee section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in 1818, most migrating from the Watauga Settlement in northeast Tennessee.

Before their arrival, Cades Cove was part of the Cherokee Nation.

The Cherokee called the cove Tsiyahi, "place of the river otter."

In addition to river otters, elk and bison lived in the Cove.

The Cherokee never lived in the Cove, but they used it as a summer hunting ground.

Before the American Revolution, the Cherokee discouraged settlers; after the defeat of their English allies, they sought peace.

Most Cherokees accepted this peace and the new United States government.

They tried to integrate European technologies and culture with their own.

The Cherokee adapted well as they built modern houses, attended school, and by 1820 they created a written language.

The beautiful misty mountain valley of Cades Cove is perhaps the most popular spot in the park with its historic cabins, abundant wildlife, including black bears.

Visitors can explore the valley by the Cades Cove Loop Road, an 11-mile, one-way loop road circles the cove, offering motorists the opportunity to sightsee at a leisurely pace.

At 6,643 feet, Clingmans Dome is the highest point in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and in Tennessee.

The Appalachian Trail cuts through the heart of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and there are many opportunities to hop on the storied trail in the park, even for a short walk.

Completed in 1937, this legendary trail stretches some 2,200 uninterrupted miles from the mountains of north Georgia to the heart of Maine, passing through 14 states in all.

The Blue Ridge Parkway begins in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and links the park to Shenandoah National Park in northern Virginia.

The parkway, which is America's longest linear park, runs for 469 miles mostly along the spine of the Blue Ridge, a major mountain chain that is part of the Appalachian Mountains.

Begun during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Blue Ridge Parkway was originally called the Appalachian Scenic Highway.

Work began on September 11, 1935, near Cumberland Knob in North Carolina; construction in Virginia began the following February.

On June 30, 1936, Congress formally authorized the project as the Blue Ridge Parkway and placed it under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Construction of the parkway was complete by the end of 1966 with one notable exception—the 7.7-mile stretch including the Linn Cove Viaduct around Grandfather Mountain did not open until 1987.

The Blue Ridge Parkway project took over 52 years to complete.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most recent first.

Eric Swenson
Business Education Specialist
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.7991
406.444.1373 (Fax)
eswenson@mt.gov



"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh