

2014 FFLA Western Conference

June 27th - 29th

Darby, Montana

The 2014 FFLA Western Regional Conference will be hosted by the North Idaho-Montana Chapter in Montana's scenic and historic Bitterroot Valley at the Darby Community Clubhouse on Main Street in Darby. Registration will be \$30 per person, with an early \$25 rate until June 15th.

Itinerary details are being developed, with lookout tours dependent on spring snowmelt, although there are lower elevation lookouts in the Bitterroot NF, south across the line into Idaho in the Salmon NF, or north in the Lolo NF that should be accessible, even under late snowmelt conditions.

The general format will follow that of previous conferences in the Northwest. While no formal activities are planned for early arrivals on Thursday, tour or hiking options will be made available as access becomes known. If final conference plans do not specifically include the Historic Darby Ranger Station Visitor's Center, those arriving early or staying late are strongly encouraged to go on their own. An informal group gathering is likely to take place Thursday evening; further details will be made available to early registrants.

Friday morning at the Clubhouse will begin with registration and setup of displays and the silent auction at 8:00, followed by the general session starting at 9:00. After the Friday afternoon tour, the North Idaho-Montana Chapter will provide the meat for a potluck barbecue that evening. A short board meeting is also expected to take place that evening.

The Saturday session will begin at 8:00. The afternoon tour will be followed by a return to the Clubhouse for dinner, additional presentations, story-telling, and the conclusion of the silent auction. As noted, the all-day Sunday tour destinations will depend on snowmelt and access and will influence the location of any Sunday evening dinner gathering for those still there.

For those staying longer, there will be plenty of opportunities for Monday, whether visiting lookouts, historic sites in the Bitterroot Valley, or places in Missoula such as the Smokejumper Visitor Center or the Museum at Fort Missoula.

For more information on the area's history, places to eat and stay, and things to do, visit the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce website, <http://bitterrootchamber.com/>.

Accommodation Information

It is recommended that reservations be made early!

In Darby:

Travellers Rest Cabins and RV Park, 3 cabins, 3 rooms, RV and tent camping, www.travellersrestmt.us/ 406-821-3282

Mountain Spirit Inn, 12 rooms, nicely remodeled, www.mountainspiritinn.com/ 800-820-2554

Budget Motel (no web site) 406-821-2096

Other Area Camping:

Angler's Roost, RV and tent camping, 15 min. N of Darby on US 93, www.anglersroost-montana.com/ 406-363-1268

Lake Como, three (USFS) campgrounds, 20 min. NW of Darby

Hotels/Motels in Hamilton (20 Min. N of Darby on US 93):

Townhouse Inn www.townhouseinnhamilton.com/

Super 8 www.super8.com/

Motel 6 www.motel6.com/

Bitterroot River Inn www.bitterrootriverinn.com/

City Center www.remlcsportsmanslodging.com/ctyctrmotel.htm

Deffy's (no website)

There are also numerous Bed & Breakfasts in the area, listed on the Chamber of Commerce website, <http://bitterrootchamber.com/>.

Travel Information

Darby lies along US Hwy 93 in the southern part of the Bitterroot Valley, an hour and fifteen minute drive south of Missoula. Missoula is served by Alaska, Delta, United, Allegiant, and Frontier airlines; Spokane (a three-hour drive west of Missoula) is served by those airlines, plus Southwest and American/US Airways. Missoula also receives bus service from Greyhound Lines.