

MONTOPIA

SURVIVAL GUIDE

JULY 10-14, 2024

WILLSALL, MT

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...? A bit about Montopia

- Communal Effort, Civic Responsibility, Participation, and Immediacy are the glue of Montopia that support us in creating the magical experience of our communal playground! As a participant of Montopia, we all are members of the community and each of us adds something unique to the whole! We share the load and look out for one another! If you see someone needing help, jump in! If you need help, reach out! If you see something that needs doing, do it! If there's something you feel called to create or express, go for it! Feel the call of inspiration and dive in, immediately! These moments and our lives are impermanent, and this experience can be a great awakening and reminder to live in the NOW!
- This is a LEAVE NO TRACE event: pack it in, pack it out! This includes all your belongings and trash, we do not provide trash cans for you. No feathers (boas, headpieces, etc.), non-biodegradable glitter, garments or costumes that shed or loses pieces, or sequins. We have much gratitude for the land we get to call Montopia's home and we all help leave it in better condition than when we arrived! More on LNT later!

A Bit About Montopia, Continued:

- Montopia is an exercise in Radical Self-Reliance. This means bringing anything and everything with you that you may need or want. You must take responsibility for your own survival and well being. This means water, food, shelter, proper clothing, and anything else you need to survive on your own for 5 days in nature. Radical Self-Reliance also encompasses intoxication, it is your responsibility to NOT intoxicate yourself to the point of you being a danger to yourself or others! Do not show up expecting the community to take care of your needs. Prepare as if you were going camping in the mountains alone, with all your fun toys, shiny things, and gifts to share with others you may meet... Bring all the fun things!!
- Montopia functions as a Gift Economy and there are no commodities for sale or barter (including water, coffee, and ice). There is no promoting or advertising of businesses or brands. Covering or modifying corporate logos and brand names on your stuff is encouraged and could be a fun creative project! The unconditional acts of giving and receiving gifts are a vital aspect of our community where we share without expectation of something in return! What is a Gift? It can be anything you could imagine including handmade items, stickers, a helping hand, or a hug! As part of Leave No Trace please consider avoiding gifts that create MOOP (matter out of place) or quickly become garbage.
- Radical Self-Expression & Radical Inclusion! All are welcome here!! Strangers are simply friends you haven't met yet! We look out for and include one another in our shared community! We invite self-expression in its many shapes and forms and your unique gifts can only be brought by you! These principles are pillars of our community because we need each of our unique authentic selves to create the foundation of our shared experience! Is there something your self is yearning to express? Anything is possible! Costumes, creativity, offerings and activities, art of any kind, and characters are encouraged and welcome!!
- Consent, Consent, Consent!! Montopia is a community built on trust, and trust starts with consent!! Whether you'd like to take someone's photo, give them a gift, share personal space, or invite them back to your camp... Ask permission! Tune in with yourself when asking and being asked and honor your authentic yes and no! If we receive a no, we can practice not taking it personally and chances are, there is someone else out there who'd love to have their photo taken, eat that Popsicle, share that hug or smooch, or enjoy some play time with you!

NECESSITIES TO BRING

- Bedding and shelter of some type, your car bed or a good camp tent that will keep you warm and dry is recommended along with warm sleeping bags/bedding. You might want to bring a tarp to put under your tent in case it rains or is wet already when you arrive. We are at about 5000' elevation, while it may be warm during the day it gets cold at night. Here in Montana we could have a hard frost or even snow at any given point in the summer... Be prepared for all kinds of weather, we can't stress this enough! It could be muddy, rainy, windy, sunny, snowy, or all of the above!
- Legal photo ID, for entry; and if you are 21+ and wish to consume alcohol, those gifting drinks will ask to see it.
- Water!! Approximately 2.5+ gallons of water per person per day (for drinking, dishwashing, food prep., etc.). There is no water on site, you need to bring plenty with you!
- Enough food and beverages for you and your entire party for the length of your stay, and some to gift and share if you like!
- Enough ice to prevent food spoilage and keep your cocktails cool
- Prescriptions, contact lens supplies, toiletries, self-care items, etc.
- First aid kit... Not just bandaids!! The terrain can be a bit gnarly out there, be prepared!
- Warm clothes and layers – This is SUPER IMPORTANT! It will be cold at night! Fabulous faux fur coats are a popular fashion that will keep you nice and warm on those chilly nights. Be prepared for any type of weather: hot, cold, mud, rain, sleet, snow, hail, dry, wind... Anything is possible in the Rockies!! We got hailed on last year and it was mud mania!
- Single-ply, RV/ Marine toilet paper (in case you need to use your own in the portos)
- Garbage bags (more than enough for all of your garbage/recycling —it's good to bring extra for MOOP (Matter Out Of Place) that accumulates during the event.
- Can or bottle opener if bringing cans or bottles that need opening, please avoid bringing glass containers to avoid the possibility of broken glass, ouchie!!
- Portable ashtrays if you are a smoker (decorated mint tins work great). Even cigarette ash is considered MOOP, and it's handy to have a place to put your butts until you get back to your camp to put them in your garbage.
- Headlamps, flashlights, and other illumination for lighting up the night. It gets VERY dark out there!
- Extra batteries for everything! Remember, come prepared!!
- Shade Structures, sunscreen, sunglasses, sun hat, sun protection! It also gets very hot during the day and this location has full sun exposure so bring your shade setups!
- Sturdy closed-toe footwear, the number one injury at gatherings like this are caused by tripping and stubbing feet on things, plus there are pricklies and gopher holes out there!
- A cup! Many camps have yummy drinks or food to share, and you will need your own cup to consume them.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS TO BRING

- Common sense, an open mind, and a positive attitude!
- Umbrellas & rain gear – things to keep you dry in the event of rain.
- Rebar to keep your structures firmly rooted to Mother Earth. High winds can be found in this area and will carry away anything that's not secured to the ground.
- Tennis balls or plastic bottles (or stuffed animals!) to cover the ends of your rebar and tent stakes to protect people from hurting themselves.
- Warm boots and extra shoes that can get wet and muddy and keep your feet dry! It could be rainy and muddy there, BE PREPARED!!
- Good cooler/ice chest to store your perishable foods and beverages
- Earplugs, eye shade, eye pillow: not everyone will sleep when you do
- Watertight protective bags, like heavy Ziplocs, for cameras, electronic gear, etc.
- Electrolytes. We will be at 5000' elevation, make sure you stay hydrated!
- Blinky lights, toys, magical fabulousness, handmade, heartfelt and swell stuff to share! Anything you think would make things more fun for you and your fellow Montopians. Once again please keep Leave No Trace in mind, avoid things that litter and become quick garbage. Please leave the glitter, feathers, and sequin shedding items at home... We're talking to you, Sparkle Pony...!!
- Pre-moistened towelettes, aka baby wipes or handy wipes. A great option when showering isn't an option and for cleaning your camp areas.
- Rope, string, duct tape, zip ties, clamps, bungee cords with balls
- A cooking stove
- Fuel & propane for stoves, generators, mutant vehicles, etc.
- Chairs and seating, because you can't dance forever... or can you?
- Simple tool kit and a sewing kit, things break and need repairs, bring whatever you might need.
- Abundant amounts of whatever makes your life better: bacon, chocolate, coffee, etcetera... etcetera... etcetera!

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- No firearms or weapons!!
- No fireworks or flaring devices!!
- No animals of any kind; including dogs.
- Glass products are strongly discouraged. No one likes stepping on broken glass!
- Don't bring things that MOOP... Once again, leave behind the glitter, feathers, and sequins!!!

BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS & TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

This is Montana and we live in a beautiful, magical state that is also inhabited by wildlife, insects, and Mother Nature. Here are some safety notes about your surroundings:

- Montana weather and temperatures can change very quickly and drastically. Be prepared for any kind of weather: rain, hail, mud, wind, hot sun, snow, cold nights, warm days, etc... Seriously anything is possible in MT at any time of year! Extra layers will be helpful on those cold nights, It may be rainy, so be prepared for wet muddy ground. Last year we had hail and it was super muddy for awhile until the ground dried out! Bring proper footwear and additional tarps for over and under your dwellings and structures.
- We are at a higher elevation than you might be used to which could dehydrate you quickly, so make sure you are drinking water and charging up with electrolytes! Stay Hydrated!! Check your pee, is it yellow or on the clearer side? If you have yellow pee, especially if it's darker, drink some water and electrolytes!
- There are pricklies, gopher holes and ditches around so use caution, look for event perimeter signage and be aware of your surroundings.
- Keep your camp clean to deter unexpected critters from wandering in to check out your fun smells. We are in Montana nature and there are deer, moose, elk, and bears, as well as skunks, gophers, mice and raccoons!
- You might want to leave your food and trash in your vehicles when you leave your camp so as not to entice critters with your yummy smells! There are definitely mice out there who would love to enjoy your snacks and foods!
- Montana is bear country! This is something to keep in mind though we are not anticipating any visits by bears since we will be making quite a bit of noise!
- Mosquitoes, ticks, horse flies and deer flies could be around, keep yourself protected and make sure you do tick checks when you change your clothes. You might want to find a designated tick checking friend to help you out!

BASIC SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR STRUCTURES

- Cover all exposed tent stakes and rebar with something protective, like rubber balls, plastic bottles, or stuffed animals. Exposed stakes are a primary cause of accidents.
- Mark your strings, wires, guy lines, etc. with brightly colored flagging tape, glow tape, solar lights, or fairy lights so people don't trip on them and they can be seen in the dark.
- Add lights to your structures so people can see them at night, and so you can find your way home!
- Keep paths and walkways clear.

THEME CAMPS

Theme camps are a great way to bring like-minded individuals together for a common goal of sharing with and benefiting the greater Montopia community. Do you and your buddies want to radically express yourselves and share an interactive experience with your fellow Montopians? We support your creativity, go for it!

Ready to start your theme camp? Let us know at montopiamt@gmail.com! We'll make sure you have appropriate space for your camp structures and crew and we can let your fellow Montopians know what kinds of activities you have planned!

MINORS AND CHILDREN

- Montopia is a family friendly event and we love having all ages attend!
- For the protection of minor children, any minor child attending this event must be accompanied by a legal guardian who has legal authority to make decisions for their minor or child. A minor is anyone under the age of 18.
- Children 13 and younger do not require a ticket. They enter free with their accompanying adult. If you will be attending with a minor under the age of 13 please email us at montopiamt@gmail.com.
- You are solely responsible for the care, supervision, and well-being of your minor AT ALL TIMES. The accompanying legal guardian must sign an event waiver of liability for their minor.
- There may be activities that are not suitable for children or behavior that you may not wish your children to see. Do not expect anyone to censor their behavior because children are present. Please educate your children on the importance of open-mindedness, free expression, and consent!
- Unacceptable behavior of a minor under your supervision (examples include and are not limited to: underage drinking, vandalism, or theft) can result in ejection from the event. If it's your minor, they are your responsibility!!

LEAVE NO TRACE!

- Leave no trace is an important and simple principle of our community! The goal is to leave no trace of our amazing event by bringing home everything we brought with us including all our trash and anything we acquired while we were there (gifts!!).
- We do not provide trash cans or trash service for you, you are responsible for all your garbage and recyclables. Bring extra trash bags to have at your camp!
- If you are going to be traveling a long distance after the event and are concerned about how to dispose of your trash, contact us at montopiamt@gmail.com to discuss your options!
- If possible leave things in better condition than you found them! Thank the land for hosting this magical experience by picking up after yourselves and leaving no physical trace that you were there. We leave no trash, cigarette butts, poop, feathers, sofas, bacon grease, beer cans, glitter, sequins, etc. behind when we leave. This applies to all personal camp areas, not just the common event spaces.
- We don't leave problems for other people to deal with and if something comes up that you didn't anticipate (like an oil leak, or an accidental #2), let someone know and we can help you get it taken care of! We are a community that supports each other!

FIRE!

As long as there are no fire bans, Montopia will provide plenty of spots where fires can warm your buns and lots of firewood to keep the party going! Fire is permitted in established burn rings and barrels only. Personal campfires are not allowed. If you bring an interactive fire object/art piece, you are required to bring your own fire extinguisher! If you have a question about something you want to bring or a burn object you want to contribute, let us know at montopiamt@gmail.com!

ALCOHOL

Responsible serving and consumption of alcohol is a must. If you choose to over-intoxicate yourself, you face possible ejection from this and future events. Any camps gifting alcohol are responsible for checking ID's and not over-serving individuals. Those wishing to partake in the consumption of alcohol should carry an ID or copy of ID with them. Radical Self Reliance includes knowing your limits and not over serving yourself!

PORTA POTTIES!

- If it wasn't made by your body, do NOT put it in the potty!!!
- Your wastes and 1-ply toilet paper are the only things that go in the portos.
- "Flushable" baby wipes, tampons, food, beer bottles, etc. clog the hose of the pottie truck, damage the pottie truck, make the pottie cleaner's life difficult... AND may result in our potty privileges getting revoked.
- Potties are not trash receptacles!! Do not abandon your trash on the floor or bench of a potty. Leave no trace!!
- Consider bringing goods/decorations to "adopt a Porto" and make it pretty or light it up... Just be sure to take all the fun stuff back home with you at the end of the event!
- Let's all aim to have a good time in the portos, leave it better than you found it!
- In past years you all did amazing and we received many accolades from the Porto companies!! Let's have another stellar clean potty year!!

GENERATORS

- Please use your generators thoughtfully! They can be very loud so please be mindful of your neighbors and of the time of day when deciding to start er up!
- Place them in such a way as to minimize their noise and effect on your neighbors and the community. Strategic placement of wood baffling can go a long way towards dampening noise pollution!
- Take leaks into consideration, for generators and vehicles alike. Placing something underneath to catch drips and drops is a must in order to Leave No Trace.

GATE HOURS

If you know you will be arriving outside of gate hours, email us before the event at montopiamt@gmail.com!

Monday July 8th & Tuesday July 9th

Monday and Tuesday are for SETUP VOLUNTEERS and THEME CAMPS SETUP ONLY. General Admission starts on Wednesday at 12PM. Please reach out to us if you would like to volunteer or need additional time to set up your theme camp structures at montopiamt@gmail.com.

Wednesday July 10th:

Gate Hours: 12PM-8PM

Thursday July 11th:

Gate Hours: 12PM-8PM

Friday July 12th:

Gate Hours: 12PM-8PM

Saturday July 13th:

Gate Hours: 12PM-8PM

Sunday July 14th

EXODUS- Tha, Tha, Tha , Tha , Tha, that's all folks.....!!!!

The site will close to the general public at sundown, please be thorough on cleaning up your area, and help others where and how you can. This is not a day to go space traveling or drink all day, that was the 4 days before today, so... "You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here"...

If you need additional time to tear down your theme camp please email us at montopiamt@gmail.com and let us know!

Monday July 15th

Monday is for TEARDOWN VOLUNTEERS and THEME CAMP TEARDOWN ONLY.

GETTING IN

- First things first... Please try to respect the gate hours, no one wants to have a pissy greeter! If you plan on arriving outside of gate hours, contact us before the event at montopiamt@gmail.com to let us know, then thou shall receive no sass, just a warm welcome to our lil' home!
- YOU'RE HERE!!! ... Well almost... Please follow greeter instructions as you arrive at the gate. If you do not see a greeter please wait patiently, as one will be headed your way! If you plan to arrive outside of gate hours... please, please, oh won't you please email us!
- All tickets are Will Call and your wristband will be waiting for you upon arrival!
- For entry you will need a valid photo ID with the name you used to purchase your ticket. Those under the age of 18 must arrive with a photo ID and a legal guardian. Email us at montopiamt@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.
- If you will be traveling separately from the person who purchased your ticket, please let us know ahead of time so that we can put individual names on the will call tickets. Have the purchaser email us at montopiamt@gmail.com
- You will be given a wristband upon arrival and must wear your wristband at all times.
- Exit and re-entry is allowed. Your wristband is what lets us know you are a Montopian, remember to keep it on during the event. Keeping traffic minimal is encouraged, please come prepared!! If you forgot something, and are thinking of "running into town"... ask around, a neighbor may have just what you need!
- Be prepared to read and sign a liability waiver at the gate.
- We have zero tolerance for driving while intoxicated!! Drinking and driving could result in being banned from this and future events. Wait to get the party started until after you arrive!

GETTING THERE

Directions to the event site will be sent out to ticket holders via email closer to the event date!

ENTRY/PARKING

Whooohoooo you made it!! Now before you crack that beer or bump up the tunes... Let's get you situated!! A few reminders:

- Go slow!!!!
- As you enter the property, please follow the signs and/or directions given to you by your lovely greeter.
- If you are a theme camp or RV needing placement, please await the Grand High Poobah of Placement to show you your spot before beginning setup!!
- DO NOT park or camp anywhere outside the event boundary!

CONTACT US!

Do you still have some burning questions after thoroughly reading through this guide? Let us know! Shoot us an email at montopiamt@gmail.com!

See you in July!!

