

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

PERFORMING ARTS CAMPS 2025

PAC and PAC Prep General Information

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE SKILLS IN CHILDREN THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the world of Missoula Children’s Theatre’s Performing Arts Camps, better known as MCT’s PAC and PAC Prep! We are so glad that you are joining us (or thinking about joining us) this upcoming summer. Please use this handbook to learn more about PAC/PAC Prep before applying. For parents/guardians, it will be helpful to talk through the contents of this guide with your potential camper before they fill out the application, so they know what to expect.

PAC BASICS

OVERVIEW OF CAMPS

MCT is proud to host two “sleep-away” performing arts camps in beautiful Western Montana every summer.

- **PAC PREP**: Rising 6th, 7th and 8th Grade (in fall 2025)

A week-long, theatre skill-building camp on Seeley Lake at Camp Paxson. Students will rehearse and perform a scripted showcase that features their singing, dancing, and acting prowess. The campers’ last event is an on-site showcase (not open to the public – a video will be filmed and sent to families). This camp is meant to prepare campers for PAC, a challenging performing arts intensive (see below).

2025 DATES: July 27- August 2, 2025

- **PAC**: 9th – 13th Grade (recent HS graduates)

A two-week theatre intensive on Flathead Lake at United Methodist Camp and at the Missoula Children’s Theatre. Talented youth come from all over the world, make life-long friends, and hone their performing skills. Campers spend much of their day in rehearsals and classes preparing for their final ticketed performances held at the Missoula Children’s Theatre in Missoula, MT.

2025 DATES: July 27- August 9, 2025

Visit the [PAC HUB](#) for the [PAC Application](#) and the latest camp updates.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please get in touch with us if any questions arise, but we ask that you review the entirety of this handbook first just in case we have already addressed your question.

Email: PAC@MCTinc.org (All PAC communication will come from this email, so please add it to your contacts! If you aren’t receiving communication, please check your junk mail or contact us.)

Year-Round Office Phone: 406-728-1911

PAC Phone: 406-529-4743 (July 27 – August 9 ONLY)

CAMP ADDRESSES

PAC Prep:

Camp Paxson
Physical Address:
4200 Boy Scout Rd
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 732
Seeley Lake, MT
[Camp Website](#)

PAC:

Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp
21339 Methodist Camp Rd
Rollins, MT 59931
[Camp Website](#)

The Missoula Children's Theatre:

200 N. Adams St.
Missoula, MT 59802
[MCT Website](#)

Please note that MCT rents out the campground locations and is not affiliated with the organizations or churches that run the camps.

PAC TIMELINE

February 14: PAC & PAC Prep Application, Scholarship Application go live

April 4: PAC Application & Scholarship Application DUE

April 18: Acceptance emails are sent

May 16: Deposit DUE (Non-refundable after June 1st, 2025)

June 23: Lesson Form (Optional), Camper Form, Camper Health History Form (including Immunization Record & Insurance Cards), Tuition Balance DUE (Non-refundable after June 27, 2025)

July 8: PAC & PAC Prep Merchandise orders due (a link will be posted when the merch sales are available)

July 27: First day of PAC & PAC Prep! Arrive at camp between 3PM - 5PM

August 2: Last day of camp for PAC Prep. Check out 10AM – 11:30AM at Camp Paxson.

August 6: PAC campers ride a bus to Missoula. Campers staying with friends or family locally can be picked up following rehearsal at MCT Center for the Performing Arts that evening. Campers staying at MCT provided accommodations will be taken to their hostel or homestay following rehearsal. A more detailed schedule for performance weekend to come at the end of July.

August 7: 7:30 PM Performance for PAC.

August 8: 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM Performance for PAC.

August 9: 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM Performance for PAC.

August 10: Last day of camp for PAC. Check-out for campers staying at MCT accommodations is 10-11:30AM at MCT. Campers staying with friends and family can check out following the final evening performance on August 9. There will be no formal event on Sunday.

Please remember that acceptance into camp and future invitation to attend is contingent upon your behavior while at camp. We ask you to strongly consider the commitment you are undertaking in requesting to return to our program. If we do not receive your application by the April 4 deadline, we cannot guarantee you a spot at camp.

PAC PRICING

Camp pricing has not yet been determined for the year, but the cost will be comparable to 2024's information, list below:

- **PAC Prep:** Tuition is \$675 with a deposit of \$300 due May 16, 2025 at 5PM MST (non-refundable after June 1st, 2025). The remaining balance of \$375 is due June 23, 2025 at 5PM MST (non-refundable after June 27, 2025).
- **PAC:** Tuition is \$1,300 with a deposit of \$550 due May 16, 2025 at 5PM MST (non-refundable after June 1st, 2025). The remaining balance of \$750 is due June 23, 2025 at 5PM MST (non-refundable after June 27, 2025).

Housing in Missoula - For PAC ONLY

When in Missoula, you have the option of providing housing for your camper (staying with family or friends in the area or arranging a hotel on your own) or staying at a homestay (arranged by MCT) for an additional housing fee. Meals and transport are included in this cost.

Special Diets - For PAC ONLY

Due to the significant rise in food costs, MCT is instituting a food premium* for PAC campers requiring a vegan or gluten-free diet. This is a one-time fee.

***Housing fees and food premiums have not yet been determined for 2025.**

Additional Camper Discount: We charge full price for the first attendee and 10% off for any additional siblings. If you qualify for this discount, it will be automatically loaded onto your account.

PAYMENTS & CANCELLATION

Payments can be made by calling MCT Patron Services weekdays from 12PM - 5PM at (406) 728-7529. Once your camper receives their acceptance letter, you will be sent information about when you can make your payments. Reservations are made under your camper's name. Scholarships and discounts will automatically be applied to your account. If payments are not received by the deadline, we will make every reasonable attempt to contact you prior to filling your position.

Payment plans are available. Please reach out to PAC@MCTinc.org to discuss your options upon acceptance. If your plans change and you need to cancel your child's registration, please inform us as soon as possible. Camps can fill up quickly and we may have a waitlist. Your deposit is non-refundable after June 1, 2025.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2025 PAC Scholarship applications are DUE by April 4. If you received a scholarship for 2025, it will automatically be applied as a discount to your camper's tuition. A limited number of partial-tuition scholarships were available. Awards are based on financial need and distance from camp. Scholarship applications **DO NOT** influence camp admittance decisions. Campers receive their scholarship decision upon acceptance into camp.

TRANSPORTATION & ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

Transportation:

You are financially responsible for getting your camper to/from camp (gas, flights, bus tickets, etc.). We can assist with transporting your camper to/from the airport or bus station to camp. However, if you book tickets to the wrong airport or bus station, we cannot guarantee that we can provide transportation. If you require transportation, an additional \$10 fee will be added to your account balance.

Traveling by Car:

For those arriving by car, you must drop your camper off at your respective camp location. We will **not** be taking a shuttle from MCT to camp this year and have limited seating on the shuttle from the airport that we need to reserve for those arriving by plane or bus. Please arrive at camp between 3-5PM for check-in. We do not provide care for your child if they arrive early to camp.

Traveling by Plane:

Campers arriving by plane **MUST fly into and out of Missoula International Airport (MSO) as CLOSE to mid-day as possible**. Your Camper Form (available upon acceptance) will require your airline information and flight number. If you are traveling as a registered unaccompanied minor, please let us know ASAP as you will need the name and information of the person picking up/dropping off your child at the airport. We will watch flights closely, but you can communicate any travel changes by texting or calling 406-529-4743.

The airport in Missoula is fortunately very small. Upon arrival, your camper can make their way to baggage claim where they will see MCT staff wearing PAC T-shirts and holding a sign. We will collect all passengers and then board the transport to camp.

Traveling by Bus:

Please travel into and out of the Bus Station in Missoula (1660 W Broadway St.). We understand that bus schedules are not always convenient. If you can travel in mid-day, that is the best option. In some cases, if your child is attending PAC and is arriving outside of the arrival window, it may make more sense to arrive at the Polson, MT Bus Station (but ONLY if your child is attending PAC and arriving past 5PM). Please contact PAC@MCTinc.org to discuss your travel plans if this is the case.

Arrival/Departure:

Please arrive between 3PM-5PM for check-in and 10AM – 11:30AM for check-out. **We do not provide care for your child if they arrive early to camp and you will likely be told to come back at 3PM.** Most of our camps do not allow us to check-in much earlier than the 3PM arrival time and we need to use all the time that we can to set up PAC.

● **PAC PREP:**

- **Check-in:** Campers arriving by car should plan on arriving **Sunday, July 27 between 3PM - 5PM** at Camp Paxson (4200 Boy Scout Rd, Seeley Lake, MT 59868). If you are going to be later than 5PM, please call/text the Camp Director at 406-529-4743. Check-in can be a longer process as we require you to visit with the nurse to turn in any medications and discuss any health specifics or concerns. Please be patient and plan on 30-45 minutes to get your camper settled.
- **Check-out:** Campers will be ready for pick up at Camp Paxson between 10AM-11:30AM on **Saturday, August 2**. Please do not be late as MCT needs to be out of camp facilities by 12PM. The last meal served will be breakfast on Saturday. If your child will be picked up by anyone other than a custodial parent/guardian, please

indicate this on your Camper Form. If this changes at all, please email PAC@MCTinc.org or text 406-529-4743 with the updated information. We require changes to pick up in writing.

- **PAC:**

Check-in: Campers arriving by car should plan on arriving **Sunday, July 27 between 3PM - 5PM** at the United Methodist Camp (21339 Methodist Camp Rd, Rollins, MT 59931). If you are going to be later than 5PM, please call/text the Camp Director at 406-529-4743. Check-in can be a longer process as we require you to visit with the nurse to turn in any medications and visit about any health specifics or concerns. Please be patient and plan on 30-45 minutes to get your camper settled.

Check-out: For those staying at MCT-provided accommodations, check-out is **Sunday, August 10 from 10AM – 11:30AM** at the Missoula Children’s Theatre(200 N. Adams St, Missoula , MT 59802). Campers staying with family can check out after the final evening show on Saturday, August 9. If your child will be picked up by anyone other than a custodial parent/guardian, please indicate who on your Camper Form. If this changes at all, please email PAC@MCTinc.org or text 406-529-4743 with the updated information. We require changes to pick up in writing.

If you have any questions on arrival schedules or transportation logistics, please email PAC@MCTinc.org to discuss.

MCT-Provided Missoula Housing – PAC ONLY

When in Missoula, you have the option of providing housing for your camper (staying with family or friends in the area or arranging a hotel on your own) or purchasing MCT-provided housing. When in Missoula, you have the option of providing housing for your camper (staying with family or friends in the area or arranging a hotel on your own) or staying at a homestay (arranged by MCT) for an additional housing fee. Meals and transport are included in this cost. Meals and transportation are included in this cost. You can indicate your housing needs (1-4 nights) on the Camper Form (available upon acceptance). MCT has a limited number of housing options. If you can provide housing for your camper, **please do!**

AT CAMP

PERFORMANCES

PAC Prep Showcase:

The PAC Prep Showcase is not open to the public. The space is not conducive to an audience, and we focus our camp on theatre skills building without the pressure of a large final performance. We will be recording the performance and sending a link out for free to all PAC Prep families following camp.

PAC Performances:

PAC will have 3 performances August 8 – 9 at the Missoula Children’s Theatre (200 North Adams Street, Missoula, MT 59802). You can purchase tickets closer to the date of PAC in person at our Box Office or via our website. Tickets to these performances are **not** included in the price of camp.

DAILY SCHEDULE EXAMPLES

We follow these schedules most days, but sometimes have surprises that mix things up, special guests, or late sleep-in days.

Sample PAC Schedule	
8:00	Wake Up Bell
9:00	Breakfast/Cabin Clean up
10:00	Warm Up Bell
10:30	Rehearsal
1:00	Lunch
1:30	Flat on bunk
2:00	Canteen
2:30	Rehearsal
4:30	Waterfront
5:45	Circle Up
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Activity
7:00	Rehearsal
9:30	Evening Program

Sample PAC Prep Schedule	
7:30	Wake Up
8:30	Breakfast/Cabin Clean-up
9:30	Class RED GROUP: Dance GREEN GROUP: Voice BLUE GROUP: Acting
10:30	Class RED GROUP: Acting GREEN GROUP: Dance BLUE GROUP: Voice
11:30	Break
12:00	Lunch
12:30	Flat on Bunk
1:15	Canteen
2:00	Class RED GROUP: Voice GREEN GROUP: Acting BLUE GROUP: Dance
3:00	Waterfront
5:00	Dinner
6:00	Activity
7:00	Rehearsal
8:30	Evening Program

10:45	Lights Out
-------	------------

9:45	Lights Out
------	------------

FAQs

When are the drop-off and pick-up times?

Drop-off time is between **3PM - 5PM on July 27**. Pick-up time is 10AM - 11:30AM. For PAC Prep, campers are picked up at Camp Paxson on **August 2**. For PAC, campers who are staying in MCT-provided housing can be picked up at the Missoula Children's Theatre on **August 10**.

How are cabins separated?

It is of the utmost importance to us that we create an environment in which ALL campers feel comfortable and safe at camp. Each camp is separated into 2 "pods" of cabins (a female pod and a male pod) with a bathhouse in each. You will select housing options on your PAC Application. To discuss housing needs, please contact PAC@MCTinc.org.

Where are campers allowed to go at camp?

Campers can be in all common spaces including the dining hall and rehearsal spaces. Campers are not permitted in staff housing or any pods/cabins other than their own.

Can my child be in a cabin with their friend?

You can send a request to PAC@MCTinc.org that will be taken into consideration. A lot of factors go into cabin assignments and we cannot guarantee all requests will be honored, but will do the best we can!

Will I be able to talk on the phone with my child?

PAC and PAC Prep Campers will be allowed their phone twice a day: during breakfast and dinner. Campers will check their phones out with camp staff and be able to use it during those times. If your child does not have a phone, that's ok! This is our policy in order to create an immersive camp experience, as well as to stave off homesickness. We find it best that campers stay present and focused on why they are at camp in the first place. If you need to contact your camper, the PAC cell is 406-529-4743.

Can we visit our camper?

For security reasons, campers are **not** able to receive visitors at camp. This includes family members. If your child forgets something, please call/text the PAC cell at 406-529-4743 and we can arrange a parking lot drop off.

What if my child is homesick?

Homesickness is healthy and curable! We think that going to summer camp is a great way to "practice" being homesick AND happy. Before the summer starts, talk to your child about what camp might be like and discuss possible strategies for when they miss home. Strategies might include making a new friend, bringing a favorite stuffed animal, or telling their counselor how

they are feeling. If homesickness persists, we'll call and let you know. We find it helpful if parents/guardians reinforce how brave their camper is for sticking it out instead of giving them the option of going home unless it is an emergency.

Can my child leave camp?

Campers must always remain on the campgrounds. Any departures from camp must be pre-arranged and approved by the Camp Director and the camper must be picked up by a parent/guardian or obtain written permission by a parent/guardian to leave with someone else. Going on walks, hikes, or leaving to run an errand is prohibited at camp. Any camper that needs something should speak with the Camp Director.

Can my child bring a car to camp?

If a child brings their own car to camp, they need to turn in their keys to the Camp Director at the start of camp. They are not allowed to transport other campers unless the Camp Director receives written permission to transport from parents/guardians of both parties (drivers and passengers).

What is Canteen?

Campers are permitted to visit the Canteen for snacks once each day. Stamps, envelopes, and small PAC merchandise items may also be sold. Special orders for forgotten items such as toothpaste, flashlights, etc., can be taken and filled in town by the next day.

What is "Flat on Bunk"?

"Flat on Bunk" or FOB time follows lunch and precedes Canteen. During this time, campers should be in their bunks and silent. Reading or writing is permitted, but the idea is to allow time for rest. By the third or fourth day, most campers will sleep during this time.

What is the weather like in Western Montana?

Days can be warm (85-95 degrees) and there are not any areas of camp with air conditioning. Nights can get colder (55-65 degrees). We encourage packing layers.

What is PAC Banquet Night?

Banquet Night is a night just for PAC Campers, where we celebrate the seniors attending their final year of PAC. The night is full of fun, special programming, and a "nice" camp dinner. Campers are encouraged to dress up, but don't have to. Attire is semi-formal.

What activities will campers participate in outside of rehearsals?

Each day, weather permitting, we will have waterfront. Canoes and paddle boats are available for check-out if there is a counselor with the campers. Each evening after dinner there is a structured outdoor activity. Activities in the past have included improv games, capture the flag, volleyball, etc. Campers do not have to participate in waterfront or these activities, but are encouraged to.

Following the evening rehearsal, a special program is scheduled. Past programs have included Campfire, Talent Show, Counselor Switch, Trivia Night, Name that Tune, etc. Campers are required to attend evening programming.

My child is going to PAC. Do they stay at camp the entire time?

No! PAC campers perform their show at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts. They are only at camp through the morning of Wednesday, August 6th and then are bussed to Missoula. When in Missoula, you have the option of providing housing for your camper (staying with family or friends in the area or arranging a hotel on your own) or staying at a homestay (arranged by MCT) for an additional housing fee. Meals and transport are included in this cost. You can indicate your housing needs (1-4 nights) on your Camper Form after your application has been accepted. MCT has a limited number of housing options. If you can provide housing for your camper, please do! And if you are local, please consider being a homestay for a camper or two. Please email PAC@MCTinc.org if you are interested.

Can my child get a ride to or home from camp?

If you can get your child to/from camp, direct transportation is always easiest. Campers arriving on public transportation (bus or plane) can be provided transportation to/from the airport or bus station. If your child requires transportation, please indicate it on your Camper Form. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact us as we may be able to get your child from Missoula to camp. However, space is limited and priority will be given to those flying in or taking a bus.

Can I purchase PAC Merchandise?

PAC Merchandise is not yet available, but it will be later in the year. Orders will be taken prior to camp and fulfilled at camp. Please plan to purchase ahead of time as we will not be selling any clothing items at camp this year. Note that sizes on some items are limited. We are planning on selling any remaining small merchandise items along with snacks at the Canteen each day (water bottles, stickers, pop sockets, and fanny packs). Once items are sold out, they will not be restocked. **All merchandise pre-orders must be completed by 5PM MST on July 8, 2025.**

Why do you charge a food premium for campers with a special diet at PAC?

Due to the significant rise in food costs, MCT is instituting a food premium for campers requiring a vegan or gluten-free diet (cost to be determined). This is a one-time fee that can be paid via phone to MCT Patron Services weekdays from 12PM - 5PM at (406) 728-7529.

When is the deposit for camp Due?

If your deposit is not received by May 16, 2025, we will make every reasonable attempt to contact you prior to filling your position. If that deadline poses a problem for you, please email PAC@MCTinc.org as soon as possible and we can set up a payment plan.

Can I cancel my camper's registration?

Yes. Please inform us if plans change as soon as possible. Your deposit is non-refundable after June 1st, 2025.