



K-M Scout Ranch

In the center of the state lies K-M Scout Ranch, a nearly 1,000-acre camp facility combining state-of-the-art with traditional and historic Scouting resources.

Today, the camp showcases updated program areas and camping spaces, miles of mountain biking and ATV routes, and a modernized lake – with underwater cameras to view trout spawning along a small feeder creek – all while maintaining the wilderness atmosphere of a traditional camp.

In contrast to the bustle of K-M Scout Ranch, sleeping among the adjacent forested slopes of the North Moccasin Mountains is the ghost town of Kendall. Once a busy gold mining community, Kendall is the only ghost town in the world belonging to a Boy Scout council.

The original land gift of 589 acres, including the town of Kendall, was deeded to the Montana Council by pioneer resident Glenn Morton, the estate of Marguerite McLean, the Munski Brothers – Bill, Joe and Stan – and the Methodist Church. The name blends “K” for Kendall and “M” as a reminder of the four gifts of land.

Scouts first used the ghost town, referred to as Camp Kendall, as Scout camp in 1968. In 1973 the present location for K-M Scout Ranch was selected.

In 2019, Montana Council opened the K-M Scout Ranch Lodge to house our world-class dining hall, educational spaces, medical center, Scoutmaster lounge, Scout store and offices.

History

In 1898, Harry T. Kendall made a deal with the owners of the Spotted Horse mine to re-work the tailings of their mining operation in nearby Warm Springs. Kendall made enough from the work to purchase claims from Charles Allen and, in 1900, Kendall and a 25-man crew built a small 50-ton steam-powered cyanide gold mill north of Lewistown.

In November 1900, the Kendall Mill produced its first four bars of gold, worth \$2,400. Kendall eventually sold to Fitch and Campbell Mining Co. of Idaho, and in 1901, Fitch and Campbell filed articles of incorporation for the newly reorganized Kendall Mining Company. The operation was profitable from the start, reportedly paying \$6,000,000 in dividends to stockholders over 10 years of operation.

With the mine’s activities, a small gold camp sprung up with miners building cabins throughout the hills. They called the camp “Kendall.” The townsite grew over the years, eventually housing 1,200 lots across about 160 acres.

Gold was mined at Kendall until a 1941 presidential



Bill Munski giving Deed T. C. W. Lebeck



order – at the start of World War II – closed gold mining and coin production. Since then, several ventures have been launched to mine gold in the area. Most recently, the CR Kendall Mine was operational until 1995. Reclamation and water treatment continue today.

The T.R. Matlock General Store, Kendall State Bank, Presbyterian Church, open-air bandstand and the Wedge Buffet Saloon are remnants of the raucous days of the early 1900s.

The octagon-shaped bandstand, where the Knights of Pythias Band once played concerts, was reconstructed by Montana Scouts under the direction of John Foster and advice from Glenn Morton. It was dedicated to the memory of Dennis Casey, an Eagle Scout and high school band member who was Lewistown’s first casualty in the Vietnam War.



In Honor

Flaming Arrow Dining Hall is named in honor of Camp Flaming Arrow, formerly located outside Bozeman, and the medical center is named after Dr. Bob McGregor of Great Falls, who was responsible for constructing our original health lodge.

The Harrison Conference rooms are named to honor Pat Harrison, a Scouter who died in a tragic plane accident.

The Scoutmaster Lounge is named after Chuck Eubank, Montana Council Commissioner from 2005-2011 and Council President from 2011-2020.

Several program areas are named after champions of that activity or in formal recognition of K-M supporters:

- Dan Moore – ATV Center
- Mel Von Hess – Rifle Range
- Dick Lembo – Archery Range
- Taylor Family – Taylor Lake
- Woody Germany – Climbing Tower
- Blake Richardson – Logistics Center
- Exxon Mobil – Nature Lodge

We hope you enjoy your stay at K-M Scout Ranch and have an opportunity to write your chapter in our history.