



Kim Abrahamson, General Manager

And for those looking for the possibility of a supernatural encounter, Mountain Lake Lodge is rumored to be home to the ghost of a man the staff calls, Earl. It's also the setting for the murder mystery novel "The Sapphire Trail" by Marilyn Jax.

Winter is a beautiful time to explore Montana... Not everyone has the money, time or desire to vacation in ski resort destinations such as Wyoming, Colorado, Utah or Nevada. Mountain Lake Lodge affords easy access to Big Mountain Ski Resort in Whitefish and a relaxing place to return to after a day of skiing.

Nearby Bigfork, also known as Montana's Christmas Village and named one of the 50 Great Towns of the West, boasts numerous restaurants, art galleries, shops, Flathead Lake Brewery and Whistling Andy's Distillery. The scenic drive along Flathead Lake on Hwy. 35

traverses fruit orchards, idyllic coves, breathtaking overlooks, and Wayfarer's State Park.

The annual snowfall of the area is well above the national average, and Base Camp Bigfork, LLC takes full advantage of it by offering by the hour, half-day and full-day winter excursions, including snowshoeing, cross country skiing, skijoring and something you cannot find just anywhere in the Lower 48—dog sledding. Go along for the ride, or mush your own team of Inuit sled dogs for the day or spend a night backcountry camping and dog sledding.

Winter Specials at the lodge are available now through April 30: Riley's Getaway \$155 includes a one night stay in a fireplace suite and a \$25 food/beverage voucher to Riley's Pub & Sports Bar; Dining Getaway \$180 includes a one night stay in a fireplace suite and dinner for two from Schafer's Winter special menu; Saturday Escape \$160 includes a one night stay in a fireplace suite and a \$30 Sunday brunch voucher at Schafer's Restaurant (brunch is served from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.); and the Weekender \$340 includes a two night stay in a fireplace suite and dinner for two from Schafer's Winter Special Menu, plus a \$30 Sunday brunch voucher at Schafer's.

Elopement and wedding packages also available. Get married in the

lodge or outdoors year around without the hassle of contracting with multiple parties. Everything can be done at the lodge from the flowers to the cake to the reception and honeymoon.

Mountain Lake is also the perfect setting for corporate or other meetings in one of the conference rooms with in-house catering available on site. It is a perfect destination for a couples or family retreat.

Kim plans to have at least one special event each month at the lodge—everything from wine tastings to girl getaways, yoga Saturdays and more.

"I think about what I would like most if I were a guest and that's what we add to the experience—it is an "experience" versus a "stay." We want it to be something unforgettable."