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Help keep Missoula beautiful at 'Clean Start'

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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NEWS RELEASE

April 9, 2002

Contact: Sara Vitaska, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 243-2586.

HELP KEEP MISSOULA BEAUTIFUL AT 'CLEAN START'

MISSOULA--

It's that time again -- time for friends and neighbors to team up with The University of Montana and other community members to help with Missoula's annual spring cleaning event, Clean Start.

Clean Start will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 20. Participants will pick up trash along the Kim Williams Trail, help control invasive weeds on Mt. Sentinel, sort out recyclables at UM and plant trees at the Program in Ecological Agriculture and Society (PEAS) community farm. The event is sponsored by UM's Office for Civic Engagement, AmeriCorps, PEAS, the Global Justice Action Summit (GlobalJAS), and UM's environmental studies and biological sciences departments.

This year Clean Start will include a challenge for more active citizens -- the Ecopentathlon -- sponsored by GlobalJAS and UM environmental studies students. Volunteers choosing to participate in the Ecopentathlon will bike to each location and work for one hour. Ecopentathlon "eco-athletes" have the option of finding businesses or individuals to sponsor them for each hour they work. Money raised from sponsorships will benefit GlobalJAS -- an international forum, fair and festival coming to UM in June. For more information about the Ecopentathlon, contact Vicki Watson at 243-5153 or go online to www.globaljas.org.

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Registration forms for Clean Start and the Ecopentathlon are available at the Office for Civic Engagement, located in UM's Social Sciences Building Room 126. There also will be walk-in registration the morning of the event. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and water.

Following is a schedule of Clean Start times and locations:

- 9 a.m. -- Ecopentathlon participants meet at the Van Buren footbridge.
- 10 a.m. -- Kim Williams Trail cleanup. Volunteers meet at Van Buren footbridge.
- 11 a.m. -- Mount Sentinel noxious weed removal. Volunteers meet at the base of Mount Sentinel, near UM's Prescott House.
- 12:30 p.m. -- Lunch break at the base of Mount Sentinel. Assignments for UM cleanup.
- 3 p.m. -- Planting apple trees. Meet at the PEAS community farm, located on Duncan Drive in the upper Rattlesnake.

For more information, call Sara Vitaska at the Office for Civic Engagement, 243-2586.

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