



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MISSOULA AWARDED MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION EVENTS
Missoula will host the 2017 State AA Soccer Tournament and the 2018 Class B Combined Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament

April 21, 2016 – Missoula, MT – Destination Missoula is proud to announce that Missoula has been chosen as the host city for two Montana High School Association (MHSА) events in 2017 and 2018. The brand new facilities at Fort Missoula will host the 2017 State AA Soccer Tournament and the University of Montana Adams Center will host the 2018 Class B Combined Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament.

"This is a win for our community. Without the support of state high school events, such as State AA Soccer, community dreams such as Fort Missoula would not have been realized," said Shirley Kinsey, Recreation Manager at Missoula Parks & Recreation. "These state high school sporting events not only bring people into our community, but allow us to continue creating state-of-the-art sporting facilities that in turn, the entire community gets to enjoy. Fort Missoula is a perfect example of one of the ways the city has really thought about creating a beautiful, multi-functional facility that could not only host events but will be a destination for many years to come and certainly a perfect place to play for locals!"

Over the past four years, Destination Missoula, the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) along with the Destination Missoula Sports Commission and participating high schools have been pushing hard to bid on and bring state events into our community. So far, Missoula has been successfully awarded approximately 50 percent of the events bid on.

"Our efforts in going after MHSА events are really starting to pay off," said Barbara Neilan, Executive Director of Destination Missoula and the Missoula TBID. "We are starting to see some of the larger, more desirable state events coming into our community, which in turn has a very positive economic impact on businesses throughout Missoula."

One of these larger MHSА events is definitely the 2018 Class B Combined Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament. Of the MHSА events bid on this year, this one has the potential for the largest economic impact on the community as the tournament will draw in the largest number of out-of-town teams.

"The University of Montana and the Adams Center are excited to host the 2018 Class B Combined Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament. As an institution of higher education, we look forward to providing a quality event to the many teams and fans who will be traveling to Missoula from all locations across our state. A big "thank you" to the Missoula TBID and Destination Missoula for their collaborative support to help the Adams Center secure this tournament," said Brad Murphy, Executive Director of the Adams Center.

For further information on Destination Missoula or the Destination Missoula Sports Commission, visit www.destinationmissoula.org. For more information on the MHSА, please visit www.mhsa.org.

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