



Mann Gulch 75th Anniversary Memorial Tribute Corporate Sponsorships

On August 5th, 1949, Mann Gulch was the site of one of the most well-known forest fire incidents in history. Thirteen young men lost their lives, most of whom were part of an elite group of firefighters known as smokejumpers. Another life was lost when a U.S. Forest Service employee died while investigating the fire.

Seventy-five years later we have not forgotten the sacrifice of these men and the lesson learned from this tragedy. We have gained a better understanding of fire behavior and have developed enhanced safety precautions, equipment, and wildland firefighter training.

Please join us in honoring this transformational tragedy for the families and wildland firefighters across the country.

The tentative schedule for the weekend-long event is as follows:

Saturday, August 3, 2024

Myrna Loy Event – “Higgins Ridge” showing in the evening with post-film panel with former fire lab director, Colin Hardy and others.

Sunday, August 4, 2024

Beer Launch at Ten Mile Creek Brewing– Join us on the walking mall by Ten Mile Creek Brewing as we officially unveil a special commemorative beer brewed just for this event! \$1 from each pint sold will be donated to the Montana Discovery Foundation to help raise money for the August 5th commemoration. There will be other community members on the walking mall with family-friendly displays and activities.

Miss Montana Fundraising Dinner–Join us in the evening (location still to be determined) for a special dinner to help facilitate the costs of bringing the Miss Montana plane to the capital. This is the same plane that dropped the smokejumpers in 1949 and has also become Montana’s state plane.

Monday, August 5, 2024

Montana State Capitol Event – Join us for a special evening on the west lawn of the Montana State Capitol building. The evening will include opening remarks from U.S. Forest Service leadership, followed by John N. Maclean (son of Norman Maclean who wrote *Young Men and Fire*) as our keynote speaker. Weather and FAA clearance permitting, Miss Montana will pass over the Capitol. We will also have 13 wreaths set up to honor each of the men.

August 3-10, 2024

Graveside Memorial Tributes – The National Smokejumper Association will honor these young men by having association members visit each of the 13 individual smokejumper gravesites in the states of Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Tennessee, two in California, and six in Montana. The families of the smokejumpers will be invited to a memorial grave-side program that will include a verbal tribute and the presentation of a commemorative booklet, a floral wreath, and a brass memorial grave marker. Throughout the country in eight states, this memorial project will receive local and national print and broadcast media attention.



What will the funds cover?

Miss Montana, a WWII-era C-47 that never saw combat but found its way to service with the U.S. Forest Service, is the plane that dropped the 15 smokejumpers on the Mann Gulch fire on August 5, 1949. This fully restored plane is owned by the Museum of Mountain Flying and in May 2023 was named the official plane of Montana. Miss Montana will fly across the capital during the event on August 5 and will be available for tours at Helena Regional Airport during the weekend events. Fuel costs are the key factor in bringing this icon to Helena, as well as hotel and meal costs for the pilots and maintenance crew.

The families of the 13 men will receive a commemorative booklet, a floral wreath, and a brass memorial grave marker. In addition, 13 wreaths will represent the men at the event at the Montana State Capitol.

An event of this significance deserves beautiful, thoughtful imagery to honor these men and their families. Helena artist David Goodson will design a commemorative poster and marketing logos. Marketing of the events will include digital and print advertising, as well as 36 light pole banners lining Last Chance Gulch for the months of July and August, 2024. Afterward, the banners will be gifted to the surviving families of the 13 smoke jumpers who lost their lives, as well as other key individuals in this event.

Dave Turner, a retired U.S. Forest Service veteran and a Mann Gulch fire history specialist, wrote a moving account of the Mann Gulch Fire entitled *The Thirteenth Fire*. Previously only available in PDF format, it will be published and available for sale on our website and at the Mann Gulch Commemoration events.

Sponsorship Levels

All sponsors will be recognized on our dedicated website, as well as through social and printed media. Banners recognizing our sponsors will be displayed at appropriate events. All sponsors \$1,000 and above will receive a framed and numbered commemorative poster designed and printed by Helena's own David Goodson.

Platinum Smokejumper Sponsor (\$10,000 and above)

Sponsors at this level will receive 8 VIP tickets to the Myrna Loy event, 4 tickets to the Miss Montana fundraising dinner, the chance to set up a tent or booth at the Capitol event, and a special opportunity with the Miss Montana plane.

Gold Smokejumper Sponsor (\$5000-\$9999)

Sponsors at this level will receive 6 VIP tickets to the Myrna Loy event, 2 tickets to the Miss Montana fundraising dinner, and the opportunity to set up a tent or booth at the Capitol event.

Silver Smokejumper Sponsor (\$1000-\$4999)

Sponsors at this level will receive 4 VIP tickets to the Myrna Loy event, a signed copy of *The Thirteenth Fire*, and the opportunity to set up a tent or booth at the Capitol event.

Bronze Smokejumper Sponsor (\$250-\$999)

Sponsors at this level will receive 2 VIP tickets to the Myrna Loy event.

