

COME KICK UP YOUR HEELS AT THE MOSS BARN DANCE AND AUCTION

Join Montana Outdoor Science School for some heel-kickin' fun at our largest fundraiser of the year - the annual Barn Dance and Auction on September 23 at Roys' Barn in Springhill. Barn doors open at 5:30.

Dance to Montana's MOST COUNTRY western band www.Twang and dine on a tasty BBQ by Bountiful Table while the kids join in the Cowboy Campfire, play Cowboy Football or enjoy one of the many "down home" traditional games.

Take home great items from the exciting live and silent auction!

All proceeds support MOSS' scholarships and outdoor science school programs.

See ya'll there!

Don't miss the fun, call MOSS to buy your tickets!

582-0526

Adults \$35 and Children (6-12) \$10

5 and under are free



www.Twang will perform at the MOSS barn dance

6 p.m. BBQ Dinner | 8 p.m. Dancing until...
7 p.m. Live Auction | 9 p.m. Silent Auction Closes

2006 BRIDGER RAPTOR FEST

Come join Montana Outdoor Science School, Bridger Bowl, Montana Raptor Conservation Center and the Gallatin National Forest Service as we celebrate one of the largest migrations of Golden Eagles in the United States and other amazing natural wonders this fall at the 2006 Bridger Raptor Fest - A Migration Celebration!

LIVES OF SNOWY OWLS

Denver Holt speaks at Raptor Festival event. Museum of the Rockies September 30, 7 pm

Denver Holt is a wildlife researcher with many interests. His work and research with owls and their ecology is known internationally. He has been researching owls since 1978 in Mexico, Costa Rica, Alaska, Massachusetts and Montana. This work has resulted in numerous publications in both scientific and natural history journals. Denver is founder and president of the Owl Research Institute in Ninepipes, Montana.

In 2002, National Geographic Explorer Television and National Geographic Magazine featured, "Owls: Silent Hunters", on the Owl Research Institute's project on Snowy owls in Barrow Alaska.

Not limited to owls, Denver has also studies gulls, terns, raptors, and small mammals.

**For more information about the Bridger Raptor Fest please visit:
www.BridgerRaptorFest.org**

BRIDGER RAPTOR FEST 2006
a migration celebration

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 19**
Ins and Outs of Owls
Bismarck Public Library
8:45 - 1:00 pm
- September 29**
International Wildlife
Film Festival: *Food, Fear!*
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture
10:00 pm
Ticket donations are \$1 of the door.
- September 30 & October 1**
Bridger Raptor Fest
Bridger Bowl
9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Free! and fun for all ages.
• Live Birds
• Family Activities
• Incentives
• Adult Lunches
• Bridger Bowl Early Season
Pine Sales
- September 30**
The Lives of Snowy Owls
a presentation by Denver Holt
Museum of the Rockies
- October 7**
Guided Bridger
Raptor Hike
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Pre-registration required

For more information call
Montana Outdoor Science School at
582-0526, located at
Emerson Center 2238
www.BridgerRaptorFest.org

SPECIAL THANKS
Children's Museum of Bozeman
Natural Resources
Bismarck Public Library
Owl Research Institute
Sawtooth Audubon
Wolf and Grizzly Recovery Center

SPONSORS
The BraZona
Bridger Bowl
First Security Bank
The Eagle 104.7, 105.7
Montana Import Group

HOSTS
Bridger Bowl
Montana Outdoor
Science School
Gallatin National Forest

Montana Raptor
Conservation Center
Emerson Center
Museum of the Rockies

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.BridgerRaptorFest.org



IMPRESSIONS

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IMPRESSIONS Contributors

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Michelle Laxson
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Heather Beal

Layout and Design

Rick Holscher - dotOrg Graphics

MOSS CONTINUES TO GROW

It was only a little more than six years ago when MOSS first began to grow beyond Summer Nature Camp to offer year-round programs. With the number of students participating in MOSS programs at close to 7,000, we now serve more than ten times the number of students in fall, winter and spring than the number that comes to the founding Nature Camps. And Summer Nature Camp continues to grow. 620 campers got outdoors at 50 camps this summer, an increase of 78 from 2005. Thank you to all who joined us – we had fun – we hope you did too!

With growth comes the evitable – change. A quarter-time office assistant position has grown into a full-time Office Manager and we are very pleased to welcome Keri Thorpe who started with MOSS September 11th. Our fundraising position, essential in our quest to offer many free and low cost programs (camps average \$6/hour of instruction and many programs are free to schools and other organizations), has now become a full-time position with Michelle Laxson as Development Director. The Education Department (yes – we call them that now!) has three full-time staff with Krista Wright, in her fifth year at MOSS, as Director of Education, Tad Drake beginning his second year as Education Coordinator and Heather Beal transitioning from Lead Instructor to Program Coordinator. And MOSS wouldn't be anywhere without the incredible, passionate and talented team of more than 25 instructors, interns and counselors-in-training!

The staff and students I get to meet are the best part of my job!

Cassie Carter
Executive Director

Montana Outdoor Science School welcomes:

Michelle Laxson, Development Director

Michelle brings more than seven years of non-profit experience to the Development Director position. Most recently she served as Development Director for the Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina in Morganton, NC. Prior to that she was Member Service Manager at the Museum of the Rockies. Michelle earned a BS in Sociology from Montana State University.



Heather Beal, Program Coordinator

Heather has taught with MOSS for three years and will now be overseeing the *Ways of the West* outreach program, After School Programs, and Adult Programs. She graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont with a degree in geology and became certified to teach secondary science. Before moving to Bozeman, Heather worked at Shelburne Farms in Vermont leading field trips and summer camps on sustainable agriculture and environmental science. Drawing on her experience growing up on a dairy farm, she coordinated and taught MOSS' new series of summer agricultural programs.



Keri Thorpe, Office Manager

After completing a Masters of Science in Environmental Education at Southern Oregon University, Keri moved to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in 1999. Spending her winters in Gardiner and summers in the interior of Yellowstone National Park, Keri served as a front-line Park Ranger-Interpreter for the National Park Service and field instructor for the Yellowstone Association Institute in alternate seasons. Keri holds memberships with the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Montana Non-profit Association. She also serves on the Board of Directors with the Montana Raptor Conservation Center. When not at work, you'll find Keri hiking, fly-fishing, skate-skiing or at the movies!



Board of Directors Update

Please welcome new board members – Sue Higgins, Jennifer Miller, Tawnya Rupe and Marcia Youngman. Visit their profiles on the MOSS website : www.outdoorscience.org.

MISSION:

Founded in 1994, Montana Outdoor Science School (MOSS) is a Bozeman based nonprofit dedicated to promoting an awareness, appreciation and understanding of the natural world through quality educational experiences.

THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS AND FOUNDATION DONORS

We are very grateful to the following businesses and foundations who recently supported MOSS through the Watershed Festival, Summer Programs and Scholarship Fund. Our goal is to offer outdoor science programs that are accessible and of interest to all ages and all backgrounds. With the support from these businesses and foundations, along with very generous individual donors, MOSS was able to give out more than \$8200 in scholarships this summer.

\$25,000+

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

\$10,000 – 24,999

Charlotte Martin Foundation
Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation
Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund
San Joaquin Foundation
Qwest Foundation

\$5,000 – 9,999

Cinnabar Foundation
Jonathan L. Foote and Associates
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Starbuck Foundation

\$1,000 – 4,999

ArtsMarket
Bozeman Daily Chronicle
Community Food Co-op
Color World Printers
First Interstate Bank
Montana Community Foundation
Moonlight Basin Ranch

** If you see an error please let us know!*

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Zoot Enterprises

\$500 – 999

Bozeman Community Foundation
DA Davidson
Fanwood Foundation
Project WET
Project WET International
Simms
Stuart Foundation
Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch

\$250 – 499

Field of Dreams, PC
First West Insurance
Gallatin Local Water Quality District
Kenyon Noble
Kristian G. Hansen, DDS
Montana Watercourse
Trout Unlimited

Up to \$249

Downtown Bozeman Association
Empire Building

Thank you for helping MOSS create experiences that inspire, motivate, educate and build confidence!

SWEET PEA PARADE 2006!

The students of MOSS had a strong showing at this year's Sweet Pea Parade. The theme the parade was Sweet Pea on Broadway. With all the enthusiasm in our summer classes and at the Museum of the Rockies for reptiles and amphibians, MOSS churned the Lion King theme into the Lizard King. Students and staff all posing as their favorite scaly-skinned, cold-blooded creatures, paraded down Main Street singing songs paying tribute to our slimy and scaly friends. To honor their efforts, the MOSS float was awarded Best Children's Float by the Sweet Pea Parade Judiciary Committee.



8TH ANNUAL WATERSHED FESTIVAL MAY 2006 AT THE FISH TECHNOLOGY CENTER-BRIDGER CANYON

This past May, MOSS hosted the 8th annual Watershed Festival at the Fish Technology Center (below "M" trail). MOSS partnered with over a dozen other organizations who shared a passion for the water of the Gallatin Valley and beyond. Over 600 people attended the event to celebrate and learn about the water we all depend on with activities ranging from crafts and painting; story telling and music; aquatic macroinvertebrates and raptors; fly tying and casting. A highlight of the festival was "Res of War", a theatrical performance by the Equinox Teen Theatre Company. Look for another exciting festival coming again in May 2007.

CALENDAR

FALL/WINTER - 2006

SCHOOL'S OUT CLASSES

GRADES K-5 All classes meet at MOSS, The Emerson Center room 222

Wednesday, September 20 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Fall on the Farm \$23

Check out the going-ons at Story Hill Farm this fall! Assist with farm chores and work together to create a fall harvest feast!

Thursday & Friday, October 19 & 20 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

The Hunter and the Hunted \$40 each day

Animals that hunt for their food, and ones that are hunted have unique talents that help them survive "the wild". Take a close look at the MOSS animals and our collection of specimens, exploring their special tools. Test your skills by playing camouflage and archery games.

Tuesday, November 7 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Take Flight! \$23

Have fun with flight and experiment with the ideas of what makes something fly. Learn about animals with wings- birds, bats and insects and create your own flying creatures. Wrap-up this adventure with a high-flying party!!

Friday & Monday, November 10 & 13 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Eye on Nature \$40 each day

With a click of the shutter, capture nature's uniqueness and mysteries. Investigate and question the nature of science through the eye of a camera.

Wednesday - Friday, January 3-5 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Snow-tacular! \$35 each day

Spend your vacation days playing in the snow! Investigate snow crystals, track animals, build a snow-fort and express your creative splendor in the snow sculpture contest. Go sledding and warm up next to a fire with hot cocoa and winter treats!

Thursday, January 18 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Chinophiles! \$23

Some creatures leave when the snow comes, some shut down to avoid it and some LOVE it! Come discover who thrives in the winter and why as we investigate the snow-loving Chinophiles.

Wednesday, February 7 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Wednesdays, November 1, 8 & 15 3:45 - 5:00 pm

Montana Landscapes

Through a camera lens look into the past and discover a bit of Montana's history. Using photography we will explore the lives of miners, ranchers and trappers who were part of the Montana Landscape.

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Ages 3-5

Nature Ramblers is back!

This introductory course provides a safe and fun experience for you and your young one(s) to discover the wonders of nature first hand! Parents or a "big buddy" are asked to attend.

Fridays 10:00 - 11:30 am, \$15 per class

Sensing Fall

Falling Leaves - October 6

Feathered Flyers - October 13

Prey & Predator - October 20

Pumpkins - October 27

Wonders of Winter

Winter Weather - February 2

Snowology - February 9

Snowflake Detectives - February 16

Animal Snowshoes - February 23

Donate to the Scholarship Program Fund

Call MOSS to find out how!

FAMILY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Tuesday, September 19 3:45 - 5:00 pm, Bozeman Public Library
Ins & Outs of Owls

Saturday, September 23 5:30 pm until..., Roys' Barn
MOSS Barn Dance

Join Montana Outdoor Science School for some heel-kick'in fun at our

Snowflake Detectives \$23

Why does it seem quiet after a snowfall? Why does snow look white when it's made of ice, which is clear? How does a snowflake's shape tell scientists what conditions are like high above? These questions and more can be answered by examining snowflakes!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR CLUB

Begins the week of October 2nd! 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Mondays – Chief Joseph Room 111, Wednesdays – Sacajawea Room 157

The Middle School Outdoor Science Club is primed for another year of exciting activities and events in and around the Gallatin Valley. This FREE club offers hands-on, scientific-based adventures with our weekly meetings and monthly field trips.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF BOZEMAN Call 522-9807 to register

Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:30 pm

September – Naturescape

October – Scales & Tails

November – Animal Tracking

December – Where Do They Go In the Winter?

January – Winter Discoveries

February & March – People From Cold Places

April & May – Wild & Wacky Weather

IRVING SCHOOL Call school to register

Tuesdays 3:30 – 5:30 pm

September & October – Falling for Fall

November – Predators

December – Winter Discoveries

January – Snowology

February – Animal Snowshoes

MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES Call 994-5282 to register

October 12 3:45 – 5:00 pm

Skull Sleuths

Become a detective and unravel the unknown. Investigate animal skulls and make a prediction of “who was it”?

November 2 3:45 – 5:00 pm

The Hunter & The Hunted

Animals that hunt for their food, and ones that are hunted have unique talents that help them survive “the wild”. Take a close look at the MOSS animals and the collection of specimens and explore their special tools.

An experience that leaves a lasting impression

**Montana Outdoor Science School • PO Box 502 • Bozeman, MT 59771
406 582-0526 • 406 586-3489 fax • www.outdoorscience.org**

largest fundraiser of the year! Enjoy fabulous food, lively music and take home great items from the exciting live and silent auctions.

Friday, September 29 7:00 – 10:00 pm, The Emerson Center
International Wildlife Film Festival Post Tour returns to Bozeman! The 2006 Bridger Raptor Festival is proud to host the International Film Festival Post Tour. One-night only! Ticket donations are \$5 at the door. Visit www.BridgerRaptorFest.org for detailed movie descriptions.

Saturday September 30 & Sunday October 1, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Bridger Bowl Ski Area

2006 Bridger Raptor Fest – A Migration Celebration

The festival will include live birds, exhibits, kid's activities led by MOSS and Children's Museum of Bozeman, raptor identification talks, adult lectures and storytelling. Hosted by Montana Outdoor Science School, Montana Raptor Conservation Center, Gallatin National Forest Service and Bridger Bowl. Free and fun for all ages!

Saturday, September 30 7 pm, Museum of the Rockies

Snowy Owls – a presentation by Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute

Saturday, October 7 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Guided Bridger Raptor Hike

Pre-registration required.

Saturday & Sunday, October 21 & 22, The Emerson Center

4th Annual Bioreers Conference – Visit the MOSS Booth!

Visit www.bornnetwork.org for more information.

Monday, October 31 5:00 – 7:00 pm, The Emerson Center

The Emerson's – All Hollow's Eve Family Open House

Trick or treating for children of all ages in a warm, creative and safe environment.

Friday & Saturday, November 23 & 24 West Yellowstone Ski Festival
Fun in the Snow

Saturday, December 2 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, The Emerson Center

Christmas Stroll – visit the MOSS booth

Headquarters of Bozeman's premier winter festival – gingerbread house construction, wreath making classes, holiday caroling, Santa Claus and general merriment.

For registration information call MOSS at 582-0526 or visit:

www.outdoorscience.org/generalinfo.html

SAVE THE DATE!!

**SnowFest • February 2-4
Watershed Festival • May 19**

MOSS IN THE SCHOOLS

Find MOSS year-round in more than 25 schools within 100 miles of Bozeman

Ways of the West

Discovery and exploration comes to rural schools through the *Ways of the West* (WOW) program this fall. In its sixth year WOW, an interdisciplinary outreach program for fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes, visits 24 participating schools each fall and spring. WOW promotes natural science literacy and creative problem solving while addressing local and state educational standards.

This fall MOSS will instruct three two-hour WOW lessons to twenty-one fifth and sixth classrooms throughout southwest Montana. fifth grade students will be participating in "Native Cycles," a program where students utilize scientific methods to investigate adaptations, species-specific niches, ecosystems and interdependence in a natural area near their school. Students in sixth grade will be participating in "Living Landscapes," where they will investigate relationships between organisms and the environment through a study of land-use management and conflict resolution.

Trail Creek Field Studies, a *Ways of the West* extension, is entering its second year. With this program students warm up with pre-lessons in their classroom in the fall, winter and spring. After gaining an understanding for what they will be studying, the entire class takes their seasonal field trip to MOSS' Trail Creek Field Study Site to conduct hands-on, experiential lessons as they explore the forests, meadows, and streams. Last year over 130 students visited Trail Creek three times throughout the school year, adopting it as their outdoor classroom.

Adventures In Winter Ecology

When the snow begins to fall it is a sign that MOSS is about to start another season of *Adventures in Winter Ecology* (AWE). Every winter 15 to 20 schools head up to the snow-filled forests of the Bridger Mountains at Bohart Cross Country Ski Ranch. Students spend the day skiing through the finely groomed trails, stopping for lessons along the way, with topics that include winter adaptations, snow science, and interpretations of winter.



Angie Hewitt, Lead WOW Instructor

Angie has worked with MOSS as an Education Intern and instructor since Fall 2005, teaching many courses including after-school programs in Big Sky. She graduated from Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in earth science and biology education and outdoor recreation. To earn her certification to teach Secondary Education, Angie taught biology in a high school in Ecuador in the spring of 2005. She has lead backpacking trips in northeastern New Mexico and spent her past two summers teaching her passion – whitewater kayaking in northern Wisconsin.

"Kids Love Science" *Science In Residence* – A Science Literacy Program

Last year MOSS had a special opportunity to partner with Livingston Public Schools and Livingston Education Foundation, offering 30 weekly natural science lessons to Livingston Kindergarten classes. Throughout the year participating teachers and students discovered that "kids love science".

Each week the *Science In Residence* program explored science concepts through award-winning literature that led to hands-on scientific exploration. The fusion between science and literature gave students a deeper appreciation of reading by encouraging them to apply new knowledge to their surrounding environment. Activities that enhanced their investigation included sensory awareness exploration, nature journaling, and observing how seasonal changes affect plants, birds, insects and mammals of their region. MOSS worked with teachers and librarians to choose children's literature that illustrated science concepts contained within the school's curriculum. Books were kept in the classroom during the week and could be read by the teachers during story time, looked at by the students on their own, or otherwise incorporated into the school day.

MOSS will be back in Livingston this school year with an expanded program that includes first grade students as well. Longfellow School's first grade students will be the first school in Bozeman to also share in this unique opportunity.



MOSS OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Science learning doesn't stop when the school bell rings at the end of the day. Join MOSS in year-round out-of-school programs for hands-on, outdoor science experiences that keep the discovery and learning fun! Check out the [Calendar](#) for details!

PIR Days

When school's out MOSS is out too – outdoors that is! Modeled after the Summer Nature Camp, each PIR class has a theme that is explored through hands-on activities, field trips and adventure. School's Out Classes now have extended hours. Parents - we heard you and we understand. Many of our programs now run until 5 pm!

Outdoor Science Club

MOSS' middle school Outdoor Science Club is poised to begin another exciting year of discovery and adventure. This free club meets once a week at Chief Joseph and Sacajawea Middle Schools and is primarily funded by a grant from Mountain Sky Guest Ranch. Scientific concepts are explored in each unit, often times inviting a local expert in the field to speak to the students. These concepts are applied when the students embark on a field trip at the end of each unit.

This year's units will include the following concepts and activities:

- *Explorers Unit* – Survival skills, water travel, archery, and camping
- *Geology Unit* – Geothermal wonders, trips to Museum of the Rockies and Spire Climbing Center, communication/trust activities
- *Winter Unit* – Snow science, winter camping, the physics and joy of cross country skiing, and a trip to Moonlight Basin

And to kick off the year, the Outdoor Science Club will be part of a PBS DragonflyTV special focusing on Yellowstone National Park, the Museum of the Rockies and MOSS. The students will be part of a research project conducted in assistance with Wild Things Unlimited, American Wildlands, and the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. The topic will be wildlife corridors with the filming taking place on MOSS' Trail Creek property located in a critical habitat along the Yellowstone to Yukon migration route.

After School

MOSS is fortunate to have outstanding program partners that work together to offer high-quality after-school programs to students throughout Gallatin Valley. This year programs will be offered at Irving School, Ophir School, LINKS in Livingston, Childrens Museum of Bozeman and Museum of the Rockies.

Ashley Mearig, NASA Education Intern

Ashley Mearig joins MOSS this fall as a NASA Education Intern, funded through a NASA grant, in partnership with the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center (YERC). Ashley is a freshman at MSU, majoring in Ecology. She grew up in Victorville, a small town in the Southern California desert. For her internship, Ashley will assist with all aspects of MOSS and will complete a curriculum project that makes good use of her passions in ecology.



CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERS

We love working with other organizations. Our partners help us bring exciting, high quality programs to a growing audience. In this newsletter, we are celebrating two long-term partnerships – Museum of the Rockies and the Children's Museum of Bozeman and a new one with Equinox Theatre Company!

Children's Museum of Bozeman (CMB) and MOSS have been partnering for over 3 years to bring hands-on natural science explorations to the Children's Museum once a week for their after school program and Saturday programs! Each month a new topic is explored as students participate in experiments, field investigations, creative projects and museum exploration!

Museum of the Rockies (MOR) and MOSS have been collaborating since MOSS' inception 12 years ago. To enhance both organizations programs, MOSS visits MOR and offers programs that mesh with featured exhibits or permanent collections in the natural sciences. This is a wonderful opportunity for MOSS to tap into the captivating resources at the Museum of the Rockies while providing unique educational experiences with MOSS instructors and curriculum.

Equinox Theatre Company and MOSS have joined forces to offer Science Theatre. Songs, skits and learning about the water cycle kicked off this pilot program for Kindergarten, first and second graders participating in the Watershed Festival. The students had fun, the teachers had fun, we had fun - this program will be back!

MOSS NATURE SUMMER CAMP...“YES!!!”

MOSS knew it was going to be a great summer when during staff training Reeve Basom, lead instructor for the new farming programs said she wanted to share one of her favorite games. A simple game, she explained, on the count of three make eye contact with a fellow staff member, run towards each other, jump up and give a high-five while shouting YES! The highly talented MOSS staff agreed that it was straightforward and gave it their best YES! Seconds later burst of laughter exploded from the group and a sense of victory in carrying out a giant feat overcame us. YES! 2006 was a great summer!

A special THANK YOU to the local farms that generously opened their doors to MOSS students this summer!

Story Hill Farm, 13 Mile Lamb and Wool Farm, Rocky Creek Farm, MSU Horticultural Center, Amaltheia Dairy, Gallatin Valley Botanicals, Milesnick Cattle Ranch, Sabo's Farm and Ranch, The Community Food Co-op, The Tinsley Farm at the Museum of the Rockies and Wheat Montana.



MOSS Record Breaking Statistics for 2006

Number of students: 620

Local farms visited: 11

Number of Nature Ramblers (pre-k): 148

Scholarships awarded: 147

Home-made ice cream consumed: 12 gallons

Mountains climbed: 6



**Look for the 2007 Summer Course
Catalog coming this March!**



A Publication of the Outdoor Science School

IMPRESSIONS

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