

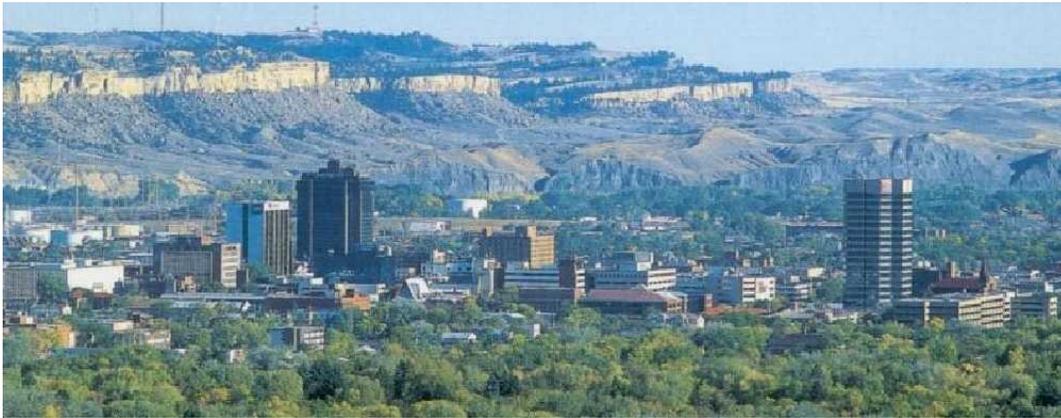
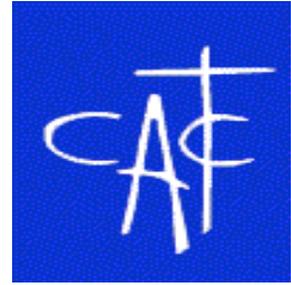


Missouri Breaks region in central Montana

Catholic Alumni Clubs International 2016 Convention/Vacation BILLINGS, MONTANA

Sunday, July 17 – Saturday, July 23

“Montana – Adventure Awaits!”



Founded as a railroad town in 1882, Billings is Montana’s largest city and is surrounded by four scenic mountain ranges.

Come join your fellow CACers as we visit ‘Big Sky Country’ for the 2016 Convention/Vacation of Catholic Alumni Clubs International, scheduled at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Billings, Montana, from Sunday afternoon, **July 17**, to Saturday afternoon, **July 23**. This 57th annual gathering of CACers from throughout the United States will include social events, daily Mass, daily breakfasts (except Saturday), hotel banquet dinners, an offsite **Chuck Wagon Dinner** on Tuesday evening, and much more, in addition to opportunities to sign up for **several tours of breathtaking views and historic sites**.

Billings was nicknamed the ‘Magic City’ because of its rapid growth from its founding as a railroad town in 1882. The city is named for Frederick H. Billings, a former president of the Northern Pacific Railroad. It is surrounded by mountains: the Beartooths to the southwest, the Crazy Mountains to the west, the Pryor Range to the southeast, and the Snowies to the north. Billings connects you to the authentic historical west. Guests can immerse themselves in modern conveniences on the edge of the genuine frontier. Billings is Montana’s Trailhead.

Area attractions include Pompeys Pillar, Pictograph Cave, Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Zoo Montana, and the **Yellowstone Art Museum**. Within 100 miles are Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Red Lodge Mountain Resort, and the Beartooth Highway, which links Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Billings, in close proximity to shopping, restaurants, and the Yellowstone Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. Our hotel is the tallest building and largest hotel in the state. The **Montana Sky Restaurant** on the top floor offers a unique dining experience with unparalleled views of the nearby mountain ranges.

Billings Logan International Airport (BIL) provides non-stop service to ten major cities: Denver, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Chicago, Seattle, Portland and Atlanta. The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport, which is less than 4 miles from the hotel. All major auto rental agencies have counters at the Billings airport, with Enterprise having a location just a few blocks from our hotel. **For those who plan on driving**, Billings is just west of the juncture of I-90 and I-94. The Crowne Plaza, 27 North 27th Street, (406-252-7400), is just a few blocks off I-90 at exit 450, and offers complimentary self parking, either at the hotel or in a covered garage.

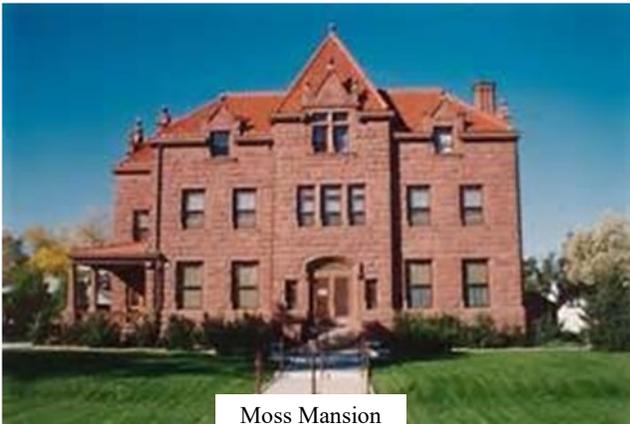
Optional Tours

An extensive selection of tours is being offered as part of this year's convention. Make your tour reservations as soon as possible because some have limited seating.

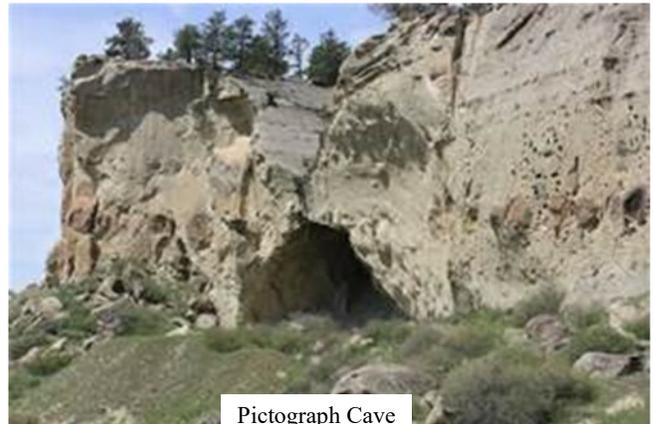
Historic Billings Tour

Learn about Historic Billings as we travel through the **Historic Home District** and visit **Moss Mansion**, built by P. B. Moss in 1903. Designed by the same architect as New York City's Waldorf- Astoria and Plaza Hotels, its original fixtures still remain intact. We will also visit **Boothill Cemetery**, and the **Rimrocks**, from which you will get a spectacular view of Billings, the Yellowstone River, and the mountains in the distance.

This tour will be offered both Sunday and Monday and will last approximately 3 hours.



Moss Mansion



Pictograph Cave

Indian Trails Tour

Pictograph Cave is a place to contemplate the origins of human habitation in Montana. The **Pictograph Cave** site was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1964 because of its archeological significance as the home of generations of prehistoric hunters. Prehistoric hunters who camped in Pictograph Cave left behind artifacts and over 100 pictographs, or rock paintings. The oldest rock art in the cave is over 2,000 years old. Also included on this tour is a visit to the home of **Chief Plenty Coups**, the last traditional Chief of the Apsáálooke (Crow) people. In 1928, Chief Plenty Coups and his wife presented this area in trust to Big Horn County, saying: "Today, I who have been called Chief of Chiefs, among red men, present to all the children of our Great White Father this land where the snows of many winters have fallen on my tepee. This park is not to be a memorial to me, but to the Crow Nation. It is given as a token of my friendship for all people, both red and white."

This tour, offered on Tuesday, lasts about 4 hours. Lunch is not included in the tour cost.

Yellowstone National Park Tour

A day trip to Yellowstone National Park is planned for Wednesday. Enjoy the wide-open vistas along the way as we head for the eastern entrance at Cody, WY. We will visit **Old Faithful**, and stop for a box lunch (included) at the **Grand Canyon of Yellowstone**. Our exit from the Park will be via **Mammoth Hot Springs**, on the north. A dinner stop (cost not included) will be arranged.

This tour is planned for Wednesday and will last approximately 16 hours.

Beartooth Highway and Red Lodge Tour

The **Beartooth Highway** is an All-American Road that has been called “the most beautiful drive in America,” by late CBS correspondent Charles Kuralt. We will climb to an astounding 10,947 feet above sea level. The journey will take us through the town of **Red Lodge** to the Alpine Ski Area, which is the oldest summer ski racing program in the USA. The highway traverses an impressive range of ecosystems – from lush lodge pole pine forests to alpine tundra. Since completion of the highway in 1936, it has awed visitors with its astonishing views of the most rugged and wild areas in the lower 48 states.

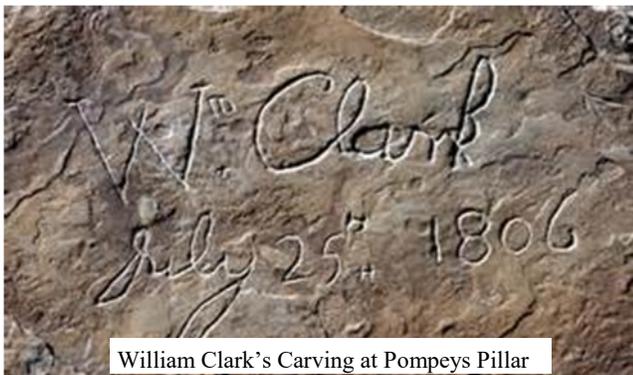
The historic mountain village of Red Lodge offers shopping and a variety of ethnic foods. The food represents the many ethnic groups that came to Red Lodge for coal mining, ranching and farming. Some of the characters associated with the Red Lodge area include Crow Chief Plenty Coups, Buffalo Bill Cody, Liver Eating Johnson, Calamity Jane and members of the ‘Wild Bunch’ (including the Sundance Kid, Kid Curry) who rode into Red Lodge with the intention of making an unauthorized withdrawal.

This tour is planned for Wednesday and again on Friday, and takes about 6 hours. Lunch is on your own.

Lewis and Clark Tour

Captain William Clark carved his name on a towering sandstone butte. He named the butte Pompeys Tower (later became **Pompeys Pillar**) and it became the only remaining physical evidence of the **Lewis and Clark** Expedition along the Trail. He made note of it in his journal on July 25, 1806. This guided tour will retrace Sergeant Pryor’s bull boat and horse, capturing experiences as we travel to **Pompeys Pillar** from Billings. Indian lore will be shared as you rest under the shade, viewing the Yellowstone River and listening to the birds. We will bring you up in time from the fur trading era to pioneer settlement and present day farming and ranching with a stop at the Agricultural Center.

This tour will be offered on Thursday, and lasts about 4-5 hours. Lunch not included in the cost.



William Clark’s Carving at Pompeys Pillar



Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

Little Bighorn Battlefield Tour

Relive history as we travel to where Lt. Colonel George A. Custer and his men were greatly outnumbered by over a thousand Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapahoe people as they met on a grassy ridge rising above the valley of Montana’s Little Bighorn River. Little Bighorn Battlefield was created in 1897, initially to honor only Custer and US soldiers killed in the battle. Over the years, Native Americans who fought Custer have also been memorialized in what was one of their last armed efforts to retain their lands.

This tour, lasting 7 hours, is offered on Friday. Lunch included in the cost.

Zip Lining—Whitewater Rafting—Horseback Riding

For the more adventurous among us, we are offering Zip Lining (on Tuesday), Rafting and Horseback Riding (Friday). See a later page in this packet for more information, or contact Mike Coogan at 301-916-6336.

For more information or any questions about the convention and most tours, contact Teddi Tri (952-797-6633, tedtri07@gmail.com), or Mike Kappel (618-397-2320, miked21798@aol.com).

Zip Lining – Whitewater Rafting – Horseback Riding

For the more adventurous CACers, we have whitewater rafting, horseback riding, and zip line trips available to you. If you need more information on any of them, you can contact Mike Coogan at 301-916-6336.

Zip Lining

With not one, not two, but six zip lines to travel, you will be freaking out on a continuous basis. No rest for the weary here. The first zip line you'll traverse is about 350 feet long – and it's the shortest! Another line, the "Bobcat," is 505 feet long with fast speeds and trees lapping at your side, begging for a collision. At 708 feet, you may lose consciousness with the "Righteous" – it springs you from the ground to 40 feet high in just a few seconds. With the 698 foot "High Road," you'll zoom along at 40 mph and an ear-popping over 50 feet in the air (please watch out for airplanes!) And these don't even include the 2 *longest* zip lines. Holy gee-willikers! Cost: \$70/person. **Transportation is extra.** This trip would take place on Tuesday, 11 am – 3 pm.

Whitewater Rafting and/or Horseback Riding

On Friday, July 22, CAC is offering whitewater rafting, horseback riding, and a combination of both (paddle/saddle). You can go on just one, or both!

Whitewater Rafting (Full Day) – 10 am – 4:30 pm: Your adventure on the Stillwater River begins in the Beartooth-Absaroka Wilderness and meanders through a one-sided canyon that was once the home of the Crow Indians and majestic buffalo on this beautiful, wild river. Class II-IV rapids. \$110 (includes lunch).



Whitewater Rafting (Half Day) – 2 pm – 4:30 pm: You'll be rafting on the lower half of the Stillwater River. Both the whitewater – and Montana's highest mountain peaks – abound. Watch for jumping trout, elk, deer, and other wildlife. \$49 (lunch not included).

Horseback Riding (Full Day) – 10 am – 4:30 pm: Enjoy riding on a major trailhead in the Custer National Forest in the Beartooth Mountains. Delight in the sublime beauty of the wilderness. Chase after the wild mountain sheep, goats, foxes, beavers, and otters! \$165 (includes lunch).

Horseback Riding (Half Day) – 10 am – 12:30 pm: Ride along the Stillwater River and up on the trail that overlooks the Beartooth Mountain Range and Stillwater Valley. Be careful of the "obstacles" – eagles, cranes, white-tailed deer, and antelope. \$55 (lunch not included).

Paddle/Saddle (Combination of Horseback Riding and Whitewater Rafting) – 10 am – 4:30 pm: You'll enjoy horseback riding in the morning (10 am – 12:30 pm) and frolicking down the river in the afternoon (2 – 4:30 pm). \$115 (includes lunch).

Please note that transportation costs extra. Also, even if you choose only a half-day adventure, in all cases we will be leaving the hotel at about 8:30 am and leaving the rafting/horseback facility at approximately 5 pm, getting back to the hotel around 6:30 pm.

Additional Tours of Interest

In addition to the above scheduled tours, there are several others available to you. If you are interested in any of them, you will need to make arrangements on your own. Contact information for the Wild Mustang and St. Labre tours is Renee at montanafunadventures.com or 406-254-7180.

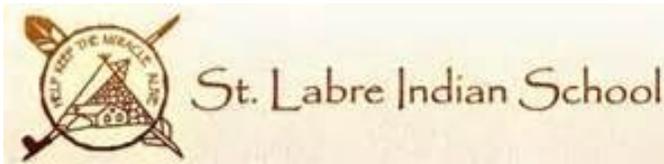
Wild Mustang Tour

The Pryor Mountains wild horse range straddles the Montana and Wyoming border. Created in 1968 by order of the Secretary of the Interior, it is the first of 3 wild horse ranges in the nation. A herd of about 140 horses may be spotted in various locations. These wild horses are unique and believed to be descendants of the Spanish horses introduced to the area in the 1700s. Besides the horses, you may be able to see other wildlife, such as mountain lions, bear, big horn sheep, and deer.



Learn of mystical stories of the Pryor Mountains as you view their grandeur. You will travel across the Crow Indian Reservation and see historical Indian and legendary mountain men sites. The trip lasts about 10 hours, 8 am – 6 pm, and can be scheduled any day. Cost: via Jeep - \$550 for 3 people. Via SUV - \$600 for 6 people. Lunch is an additional \$15/person.

St. Labre Indian Tour

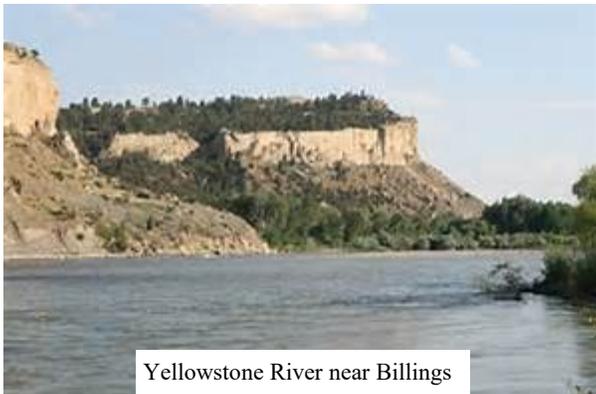


This trip takes you to the St. Labre Catholic Indian School, east of Billings. The trip takes about 6 to 7 hours, including a two hour drive each way, and a 2-3 hour visit at the Mission. The mission of St. Labre is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Catholic traditions by providing quality education celebrating

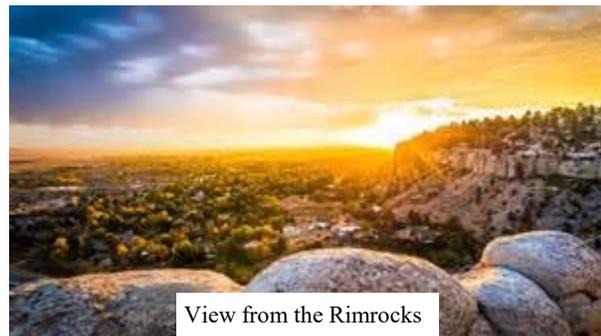
both our Catholic faith and Native American Culture, empowering members of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow tribes to attain self-sufficiency. Cost of \$70/person is based on a minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 10 per van. A lunch stop is \$15/person extra.

Walking Tour of Billings

Plan to do a walking tour of Billings. There are regularly scheduled walking tours during the summer. The schedule for 2016 has not been posted as of the printing of this brochure. You might want to plan to do this on our 'Free' day (Wednesday). Cost is about \$10 per person. Contact Teddi Tri (952-797-6633, tedtri07@gmail.com).



Yellowstone River near Billings



View from the Rimrocks

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