



# MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

## In Teton County

**Tech Wreck** - Participants in this class have ranged from ten-year olds to seventy-year olds. During the class, participants learn advanced skills for using the Internet. Subjects covered include: Internet safety, search engines, results rankings, spiders, anti-virus software, spy-ware, site reliability and validity, spam mail, phishing and identity theft. Students apply the knowledge immediately through on-line "techno treasure hunts." The class also includes a "hidden treasure" listing of favorite and useful Web sites. People who have taken the class display a dramatic increase in confidence with all computer skills, but particularly with their knowledge of the Internet. All participants reported that they intended to use the skills acquired in the class and that the skills learned in this class would help them in learning other useful skills. The class is taught in conjunction with Jamie Smith, Teton County Administrative Assistant and Choteau Library Computer Technician.

In 2004, this class has been taught at State 4-H Rec Lab, Teton County 4-H Camp Retreat, Choteau Schools Enrichment Education and Dupuyer Schools. It will be among classes at Cabin Fever in Havre in 2005.

**Take Your Best Shot** - A picture is worth a thousand words and digital photography has nearly a thousand new words for consumers to learn and understand. Through this course, participants learn digital definitions, camera features and use of digital cameras and associated software. By the end of the program, students can successfully download photographs, edit, insert photos into many types of software applications, and attach photos to e-mail. Participants also learn many practical skills related to general computer use, such as the differences between operating system functions and software-specific functions. Students also gain a better appreciation for file management structures in their computers. Students have reported that because of the class they understand the difference between computer functions, for example: save and save as, copy and paste. Students attest to the gains they make in overall understanding of the computer.

Eighty-five percent of participants report that they are confident in their ability to purchase a digital camera suitable to their needs. One-hundred percent of participants reported that the information presented in class would assist them in becoming financially profitable. Students who have taken the class use the skills for on-line businesses, sales transactions, publishing livestock sale brochures and communicating with editors about illustrations for children's books. A digital photography tip given to one client had the potential to save one employer 150 employee hours and \$1200 in hourly costs.

**Power Up with Print Shop** - Business cards, brochures, flyers, albums and banners are at your fingertips if you just have the power to connect with computer skills. In this class, participants learn how to use software tutorials and how to take a "self-guided" tour of any new software they purchase. Students are challenged to look for features and use help menus to increase their out-of-class success with all software. Participants benefit from the interactive class as they create and enhance documents, banners, business cards, flyers and stationary. Students also learn some photo editing skills as they apply to Print Shop software. Participants reported that they enjoyed the enthusiasm of the instructor and the time allowed for interaction. All participants planned to use the skills learned during the class.

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Teton County Extension Office is located at the Courthouse in Choteau

Phone: 406-466-2491



An educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities and agricultural enterprises.

**To the Point** - Computer generated presentations have become a new standard. Students in this class discuss the goals of presentations and presentation methods. Participants learn how to compile research, create an outline, and design a professional Power Point presentation. Students are guided through creating a new slide show, adding text, graphics, text art, changing backgrounds, color schemes, inserting pictures, searching on-line for clip-art, adding sound, applying transitions and custom animations. Students are given time to create a simple Power Point presentation during class. Students learn to add, delete, hide and re-order slides. Students also discuss different learning styles and effective teaching techniques. By the end of the course, students have mastered techniques for creating educational presentations enhanced with Power Point.

**TNT – Technology N Textiles** - This class is a blast! Clients join their technology and textile skills through the instruction provided. Participants learn how to use digital images, manipulate and edit images and create one-of-a-kind fabric through several different procedures. The class helps participants enhance their computer and technology skills. When finished, students can create heirloom projects. One participant has been researching the possibility of opening a service business to custom print fabric. This class will also be among other valuable classes offered at Cabin Fever.