



1221 N. Russell St.
Missoula, MT 59808
www.blackfoot.com

Contact: Kate Olney
Blackfoot Telecommunications Group
Phone: (406) 541-5020
FAX: (406) 532-5018

PRESS RELEASE

Blackfoot Sponsors Two Students to Tour Washington, D.C.

May 8, 2008 Missoula, Mont - Blackfoot Telecommunications Group will again sponsor an educational trip to Washington, D.C. for two students, May 31 – June 4, 2008 to attend the fourteenth annual Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour. Adam Ness of Potomac, Montana and Lindsey Franz of Heron, Montana were selected to attend this year. The youth tour will introduce the telecommunications industry to students from rural America within a legislative context. Aside from the educational aspects of this trip, students will also have the opportunity to tour many of the historical sites in the nation's capital.

The trip will feature a comprehensive overview of the telecommunications industry, including careers in telecom, the critical role telecommunications plays in rural America, and how legislative and regulatory decisions affect the industry.

"We hope that by providing our youth with telecommunications services comparable to those found in urban areas, as well as exposing them to cultural and educational opportunities, such as the FRS Youth Tour, our youth will remain in and become active members in their rural communities," said Joan Mandeville, Chief Executive Officer of Blackfoot Telecommunications Group.

This year, the youth tour will bring together over 110 high school students, from throughout rural communities in the United States. Students arrive in Washington, D.C. for a four-day, educationally- and culturally-enriching experience. Students will meet with members of Congress who represent their communities. They will also participate in educational sessions about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and more.

The Foundation for Rural Service was established by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which Blackfoot Telecommunications Group is a member.

About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot (Blackfoot) Telecommunications Group was originally established in 1954 as Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative. Blackfoot offers state-of-the-art telecommunications, Internet and data solutions to customers in Missoula and throughout Montana and Idaho. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot employs more than 165 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE