

# THE Durango HERALD

Mountain Studies Institute celebrates 15th birthday

## The mountain center to offer day-long event in Silverton

By Herald Staff Report (/staff/140-herald-staff-report)  
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Mountain Studies Institute will celebrate its 15th anniversary Sept. 9 in Silverton with a full day of free and family-friendly activities.

“This 15th anniversary celebration will be community focused, highlighting the importance of our partners as well as MSI’s impact in the San Juan Mountains,” Marcie Bidwell, executive director, said in a news release. “Morning service projects and tours will give participants firsthand experience with our work, as well as an opportunity to give back. The afternoon and evening will be spent celebrating our achievements, honoring the many people who helped make the organization what it is today, and envisioning a bright, sustainable future for MSI and the communities we serve.”

Since its start in 2002, MSI has established itself as a valuable community resource, and provides services such as ongoing Animas River monitoring, science education opportunities for high school students, on-the-ground restoration efforts, forest health initiatives and watershed action plans.

The organization now operates more than 48 research and education programs in 11 counties of Southwest Colorado, and serves a population of about 164,000.

Events to be held Sept. 9 include:

- Workshops, tours and service projects will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will meet at the Mountain Discovery Center, 114 E. 12th St. A picnic lunch will be provided, and registration is requested.
- A champagne and cupcake reception will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Mountain Discovery Center.
- The anniversary celebration will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Southern Pacific Wyman Hotel, on the corner of Greene Street and 14th Street.
- A party, including music by Liver Down the River, a \$20 appetizer buffet and cash bar, will be held at 4 p.m. at the Southern Pacific Wyman Hotel.

Free camping will also be available in Memorial Park on Friday and Saturday.

For more information or to register, visit [www.mountainstudies.org/15th](http://www.mountainstudies.org/15th) (<http://www.mountainstudies.org/15th>).

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