

**Experience is Key: Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch**  
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Mark Jaskot, Human Resources Coordinator for Residential Services at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, offers advice for students who plan to work in the human services industry.



The Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR) is a psychiatric residential treatment facility that provides treatment to emotionally disturbed, at-risk youth and their families. It is a non-profit organization that has been operating for 53 years. YBGR serves over 600 kids with services in nine Montana communities. YBGR is one of Career Services' Gold Employer Partners and has been so since the partnership program started three years ago.

Students working toward a degree in Human Services know that the careers they will encounter post-graduation, such as positions at YBGR, may be physically and emotionally challenging, but the ability to help those in need can be quite rewarding. Mark Jaskot, who is now the Human Resources Coordinator for Residential Services at YBGR, knows that feeling first-hand as he worked as a youth counselor for 22 years prior to taking his new job within the organization four years ago. Jaskot, who is both enthusiastic about his job and humble about the work he has done with YBGR, stresses the importance of the internships available to students through Career Services in order for students to "Find their passion."

The job can be difficult. YBGR employees encounter challenges on a daily basis. Many of these kids have been through very traumatic life experiences and working with them can be demanding. As Jaskot puts it, "It's not easy. These are tough kids, but if it's what you want to do, it's worth it. Students need to see if they have a passion for working with these types of kids; passion is important." There is no better way for students to determine their passion than through an internship.

Jaskot stresses that "Experience is important. Students need to be knowledgeable about the positions they intend to apply for in the future, and gaining experience through an internship helps to build this knowledge." Jaskot believes that securing an internship is a way for students to determine what they are good at and what they can handle, something to be determined before applying for full-time, permanent positions.

Jaskot also believes that "patience, empathy and a sense of humor" are the keys to getting through a work day at YBGR and, arguably, any job in the Human Services field.

The partnership that YBGR has with Career Services is one that YBGR "loves". Not only does it create more exposure for YBGR but it provides an essential benefit: "Interns that oftentimes turn into employees!"

Get experience and determine your career path through an internship with YBGR or with an organization that best fits your needs. Contact MSUB Career Services at 657-2168 today.