

the **WRANGLER**

TETON VALLEY RANCH CAMP



Winter



APPLICATION FOR 2021 SUMMER IS NOW OPEN!

Letter to the **COMMUNITY**

In the spring, I wrote what it meant when things “Get Western”. The unknowns in the moment, the need to think fast and draw on your grit are all key aspects of this idea, and of our 2020 season. Through it all, we were able to create the Outrider Program and provide a summer that means so much to our families, our board of directors and our staff.

As we neared our camping season last spring, we had to rethink our summer program. We were challenged to create a new program which held the spirit of TVRC and also met the ever changing guidelines created in response to a global pandemic. Our seasonal and year around staff stepped up to that challenge and created the opportunity for a summer filled with fun and adventure that still held strong to our TVRC roots. Out of the 115 campers we had this summer, over half were brand new to TVRC.

As the campers arrived at the ranch on opening day, that same feeling of excitement was evident. We could see the smiles in each camper’s eyes, although their real smiles were hidden by masks. More than ever, kids needed this opportunity. They needed to leave their homes and their screens for a few weeks to venture outside and be with others their age. They needed the opportunity to challenge themselves, learn new skills, revel in the wild outdoors and forget about the Covid-19 pandemic for a time.

We’re so grateful to those of you who shared your children with us this summer. We know it wasn’t an easy decision to make in such uncertain times. For those families who chose to not attend this summer, we absolutely understand your hesitation and difficult logistics this year required. We hope to see each of our campers back this coming summer for another year of fun, challenge and adventure and be Ready to Ride.

We are already busy planning the 2021 summer. With the experience we have gained from operating under strict Covid guidelines, we are excited to plan with confidence our 30-day traditional program. We can’t wait to bring back Sunday Rodeos, Ceremonies, in-camp activities like Gymkhana, Archery and Lapidary and the evening campfires that end the day with Serenade and Peace. Because of feedback from our families, we will also still offer the Outrider Program for campers who are unable to commit to our traditional program or desire a shorter trip-based experience.

As the leaves on the trees have changed and we are anticipating snow soon, the ranch is full of activity. The new bath-houses are under construction and are slated for completion in the spring. We are also making an effort to strengthen our scholarship program, as well as working with our board of directors to clarify our strategic vision for the future of TVRC.

While our 2020 summer was a different one, we fulfilled and built on our TVRC legacy. This year was one for the history books. At both the ranch and in our office, we are committed to providing a unique western adventure experience that lives up to our 82 year tradition.

In camp spirit.

Jim Ligori

Camp Director





DATES & PROGRAM



We're excited to announce that our traditional program is already 70% enrolled for the 2021 summer as of the publication of the Wrangler this Fall. We're thrilled to have our traditional program planned for this coming summer and hope that your family can join us!

We are also running our Outrider Program, which has spots for 40 campers who would prefer a 2-week trips only program. The dates of these two sessions were set to more easily accommodate families that have conflicts with the school year, sports or other family events.

If you are interested in applying to either please visit our website. Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to Matthew McGee – 307-733-6122 or mmcgee@tvrcamp.org.

Traditional 30 Day Program Dates

Tuition: \$7,200

Boy's Season

Arrival Day: Sunday, June 13
Final Rodeo: Sunday, July 11
Departure Day: Monday, July 12

Girl's Season

Arrival Day: Thursday, July 15
Final Rodeo: Thursday, August 12
Departure Day: Friday, August 13

Outrider Expeditions Program Dates

Tuition: \$3,900

Session 1

Arrival Day: Sunday, June 20
Departure Day: Saturday, July 3

Session 2

Arrival Day: Thursday, July 22
Departure Day: Wednesday, August 4

Scholarships are available for both programs. The scholarship application can be found on our website under Financial Aid. All application are due by January 15, 2021.

ROUNDUPS 2021

This year all of our RoundUp's will be held online via Zoom. We are in the process of creating our RoundUp schedule and you can find more out on our website tvrcamp.org/roundup-schedule

These Virtual RoundUp's and Campfires will be co-hosted by current TVRC camper families and alumni. We'll be sharing experiences from our co-hosts, and at times having seasonal staff and other TVRC alumni present as guests sharing their stories from TVRC past and what makes our programming unique.

If you know of any potential camper families please share the list of upcoming RoundUps from our website with them. We hope to engage our current camp community in spreading the word about TVRC!

Currently we're over 70% enrolled for the 2021 season and expect to be fully enrolled by the beginning of the new year. If you have friends or family members who are interested in TVRC and would like to learn more we encourage them to join our Virtual RoundUp's or reach out to Matthew McGee our Admissions and Office Manager – mmcgee@tvrcamp.org or at 307-733-6122.



Update on **BATHHOUSE**

Thanks to help from so many of you in the community we've raised the funds and started the Bathhouse project. This summer we met with multiple contractors and in August began the first phase of the bathhouse project. By the first full week of September we had both the Staff Bathhouse and St. John's demolished and the contractors started laying the foundation and setting up the framework for the buildings.

Currently, we have both bathhouses enclosed and the construction crew is committed to working until we get snowed out. We're well on track to have both bathhouses completed before staff arrive in the spring. Then in late April or early May, as soon as we can safely get the contractors back up to the ranch after the spring melt, we'll put the finishing touches on both Bathhouses.

We're ever grateful to all of you who supported this much needed effort. It is our goal to continue to care for the ranch infrastructure and ensure we have a solid foundation for our legacy programming to operate.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM & UPDATE

Our Scholarship Program has been a longstanding tradition at TVRC. For generations we've offered the opportunity of adventures in the backcountry on trail and horseback. Now more than ever we see the need for TVRC to offer these experiences to campers from all over the country, regardless of their ability to pay.



There are two ways we as an organization support scholarship opportunities for campers. One is our annual fund, which we use each year to award several scholarships to campers, annually we aim to raise \$70,000 which allows us to offer a variety of full and partial scholarships in that year. The second way to support this effort is to help us reach our goal of fulfilling our Scholarship Endowment. To date, we've raised \$300,000 for the scholarship endowment, once this is fulfilled at \$2 million we will be able to use this fund our annual scholarships.

We're currently looking for support with our annual and endowment efforts. If you would like to support our continued efforts to bring campers the opportunity of challenge, growth and adventure in the Wyoming wilderness please join us by donating to our scholarship efforts. You can choose to donate to either the Scholarship Endowment or our annual fund. Both are amazing opportunities to share the TVRC experience with campers who would not have the opportunity otherwise.

Currently, we've raised \$60,000 for our scholarships in the 2021 season, and need a few more gifts getting over the finish line!

"I am so grateful for the opportunity of going to TVRC this year especially because of this unusual situation of COVID-19. I've learned to love backpacking and hiking even more because of my experience on the Winds trip. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity of being a TVRC camper this summer." - Jade B, Outposter Girl

Please reach out to Whitney at woppenhuizen@tvrcamp.org or 307.733.6122.

CAMPANION APP INFO

The Companion mobile app is a new way for you to follow your camper's experience at TVRC this coming summer. This app allows you to connect with their child's camp experience through a personalized stream of content. The Companion app connects you to camp like never before, with the following features:

Face Finder – upload a photo of your child and make sure every photo we take of them is tagged and shows up in your custom photo stream!

Microposts – where we'll update you on occasion of your campers trips, ceremonies and other fun activities at the ranch! As well as general news about Rodeos.

Photos – daily photo uploads will still occur and happen here and are fully customized to your camper. No more digging through photos to find your camper in group shots – they'll show right up on your home feed.

Letters – write your camper a letter right from the app and we'll print it and post it in their mailbox.

We'll have a larger update on Companion in our Spring newsletter, but in the meantime any current camp families can reach out to Matthew McGee with questions – mmcgee@tvrcamp.org or 307-733-6122.

Tales from *THE* TRAIL



Christopher Hunt was a TVRC camper at the Kelly ranch and, as it is for so many, his time at TVRC was a formative experience. Below Chris shares a bit about his experience around horses growing up and at TVRC and how that has carried through in his life and his work today.

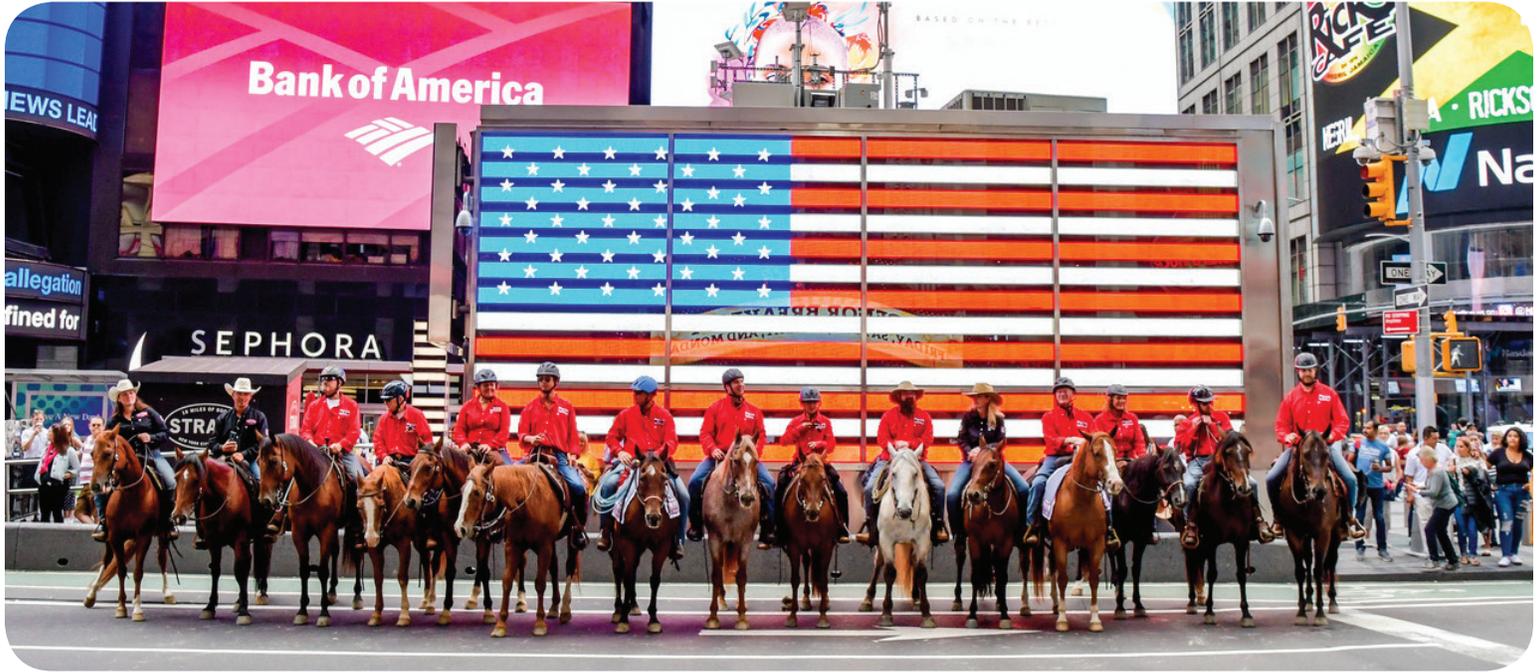
Horses have always been a part of my life. I was born into an equine family and some of my earliest memories include horses. I am not the finest horseman and after 50 years in the saddle I am still learning! It was my grandfather, a master horseman himself, who introduced me to riding. I remember, after he died, I went to his stable for the last time to say goodbye to the horses. I was so sad and confused I couldn't even shed a tear. A horse named Eagle, a mustang, began crying while I was petting him... as if to cry for me, feeling my deep sorrow. The tears rolled down his cheek and I felt a strong appreciation and wondrous connection... that he somehow understood what I was feeling. Happily, I am not the only one who has noticed a deep bond between horses and people! My grandfather, with the help of John Davies, started a NARHA program for children in the 1960's, one of the first in the nation. The acronym stood for: North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, now called PATH, Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International). He knew, from a lifetime around horses, that hippotherapy was real.

I was very fortunate to attend the Teton Valley Ranch Camp in beautiful Jackson Hole Wyoming... what happy years those were! We would be sent out into the corral to collect our horse, groom and saddle them. Occasionally we would be chosen to ride into town to collect the camp mailbag, just a pair of us, unchaperoned on our horses... oh the freedom and trust were exhilarating! I have traveled the world and never seen a more picturesque mountain range ... and we had it all to ourselves. One of my favorite parts of becoming a Rough Rider was the long pack trips on horseback. We would be gone for a week at a time, climbing mountains and fording rivers with our horses, eating our packed lunches under the big blue sky sleeping under the infinite stars! Learning to stay in the line, keeping your distance from the horse in front of you, and communicating the challenges (rocks, holes, branches, etc) to the riders behind you all became part of the group lifeline. You had to establish a bond with the horse you were actually riding for 8 hours a day also, and maintain constant communication and vigilance of their wellbeing...

These memories all came rushing back to me when, decades later, I found myself on another trail ride... this time in New York City! By another twist of good fortune, I was introduced to a wonderful organization called Bravehearts, in Illinois. Marge Gunner and Meggan Hill-McQueeney both believe strongly in the healing power of the horse. Bravehearts was started by Marge and her husband, Dr Rolf Gunnar, as a way to connect people and horses for wellness. It is a premier PATH, Intl. organization that also saves one of our American treasures- the mustang, through its Operation Mustang program. In 2007 Bravehearts began its equine program for military veterans and Gold Star families. A decade later, in 2017, they began their "Trail To Zero": a horseback ride to raise awareness about veteran suicide. Though I am not a veteran myself, I felt honored when I was asked to ride with these heroes. The ride is 20 miles long for the 20 veterans a day who take their own life. The ride itself is surreal: riding through Times Square, Central Park and Ground Zero on a horse...with full mounted Police escort ! (I have participated on rides in New York City and Chicago). Getting to know these heroes, and riding with them to help save others has been even more amazing. These horses have changed their lives; in many cases even saved them. The pain and suffering of our vets and their families is not something I feel we should overlook in our society. These brave soldiers have sacrificed for us and now they need our help. We should treasure them.

Tales from *THE* TRAIL

Riding in formation with these brave veterans and Gold Star Family members reminded me of the good old days riding under the silhouette of the gorgeous Teton Mountain Range; and I wondered... it's thanks to our veterans that I can even have such cherished memories as these! God Bless America and our veterans, I hope you will consider giving them your support!



FORMER CAMPER USES TVRC FOR UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Generation after generation TVRC alumni have done amazing work in their personal and professional lives and at times it connects to the work we do here at the ranch. Recently Sydney Squires, a TVRC alumni, completed a capstone project for her college major using data from TVRC! We shared with her location data from staff and campers from 2014 to present day. She was able to map the international locations of our camper and staff alumni hometowns and countries and create an interactive GIS map of the TVRC community and where we span across the world. For example, did you know that between 2014 and 2020 we had campers from 9 different countries attend? And 43 of the 50 states have been represented by campers!



The details of her study are fascinating and you're able to review it for yourself via the blog on our website. Head to the blog to see the article and review Sydney's work in detail – tvrcamp.org/blog.



Teton Valley Ranch Camp
Education Foundation

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NEWS FROM THE PONY EXPRESS

A hearty congratulations to David, TVRC Board Member, and Jamie Patterson Jr. as they welcome their first child, David Patterson III, to their family. A big woooahh to your family from the TVRC community.

Charles “Wyatt” Fulghum, TVRC Staff Member in 2016 and 2017 passed away this fall after a two-year battle with brain cancer. He studied at University of Florida where he was an honors graduate. Wyatt worked on our maintenance team and supported our pack trips as a trail cook during his time at TVRC. His love of pack trips and western adventure only grew after his time at TVRC and he spent many hours on the trail enjoying the Wyoming wilderness.

Joann Riesdesl, former TVRC camper and staff member in the 1960’s passed away peacefully at 88 years old. She was a relative of the Wilson family and her family loved TVRC, with multiple members of her immediate and extended family attending TVRC over the years.

Rudy Gray, TVRC Alumni who wrote the Teton Valley Serenade, passed on September 19th of this year. He was 92 years old and had a long love of TVRC and all we stand for. A Rough Rider for life, we honor Rudy and the legacy he leaves behind with his wife Judy and their family.

This summer Cameron Wilding (camper 2015-2019) and his father Keith (past trip leader and counselor in 1990) hiked the 273 mile Long Trail in Vermont. The three-week long hike dropped them off at the Canadian Border, where you can see they’re all smiles!

Lammont “Chip” Copeland III, TVRC alumni, passed away this past summer. An avid mountain climber and supporter of TVRC we’re grateful for all the fond memories those who knew him have shared with us.

If you have any familial updates you’d like us to include in future editions of the Wrangler please email us at mailbag@tvrccamp.org subject: Alumni Wrangler Update.

WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH TVRC



Receive **enewsletters** sent every couple months; take part in surveys and discussion boards—www.tvrccamp.org



Enjoy our frequent posts on **Facebook**—www.facebook.com/TVRCamp
Stay connected with current campers, staff and alumni on **Instagram**—
www.instagram.com/TVRCamp



Take a break with our **YouTube** channel—www.youtube.com/TVRCamp