

the **WRANGLER**

TETON VALLEY RANCH CAMP



Fall



APPLICATION FOR SUMMER 2022 IS NOW OPEN

Letter from

CAMP DIRECTORS

The leaves on the Aspen trees have turned the Ranch into an explosion of colors and the ground has already seen its first dusting of snow. As the final projects are completed and we prepare to close the Ranch for the winter, we are taking time to reflect on another fruitful summer and to start planning for next season.

While many camps reduced their numbers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic this summer, TVRC saw higher enrollments and served more youths than ever before. Not only did we run our traditional 30-day Boys' and Girls' programs, but we also operated 4 Outrider Expedition trips and hosted three youth-serving groups postseason. In addition, we were able to offer scholarships to 14 campers which equaled \$66,175, which allowed us to provide the TVRC experience to a wider population of campers than ever before. Although challenging, we have learned so much from running TVRC successfully through a pandemic. What continues to be apparent to the Leadership Team and Board of Directors is that camp is more important than ever, and the demand for the experiences TVRC provides is growing. When writing this letter for the Fall Wrangler, we are already 90% enrolled for our 2022 season with several Adventure Groups already wait-listed. Staff hiring has already begun because our growth in enrollment necessitates an increase in staff for next summer. Overall, there is a buzz of excitement as we plan with hope in mind for a more normal 2022 summer season filled with all of the parts of TVRC that make it special and transformative for the many campers, staff, and community members who call our corner of the valley home for the summer.

As always, what remains the same is the heart and soul of TVRC and the legacy our camp community has inspired. We couldn't do what we do without your friendship, support, and faith in our program. Our former campers, staff, and board members have paved the way for our success with their grit and determination, and we are forever grateful to continue to carry the torch and provide life-changing experiences to TVRC campers and staff for many years to come. Come join us for 2022 and become Ready to Ride.

Ready to Ride,

Jim and Cora Ligori





PROGRAM



New Additions to the Board

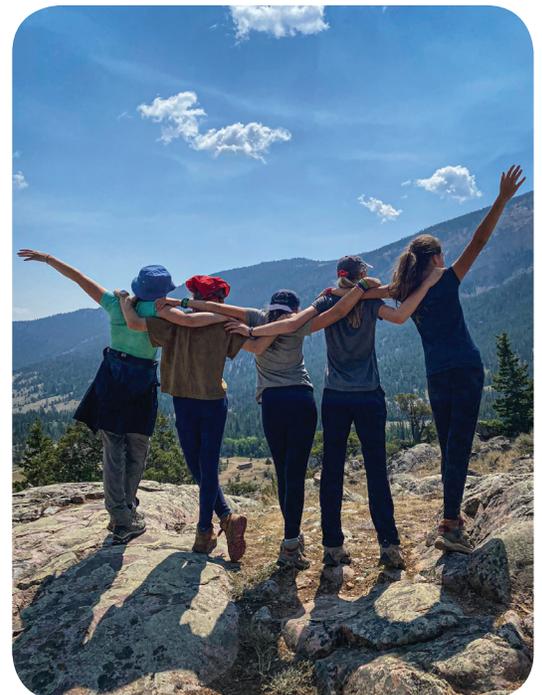
As you may remember from the Summer 2021 edition of the Wrangler, we have been searching for new board members to help guide the legacy of TVRC. To that end, we elected two new board members: Reyn Whitman and Dan Kunsman. Reyn Whitman attended TVRC at the Kelly Ranch and worked at all three TVRC ranches, taught and led expeditions at High Mountain Institute, and is currently a psychotherapist in Massachusetts. Dan Kunsman is a current parent of a TVRC camper. Dan also serves as Chief of Staff for US Senator (WY) Barraso and has numerous connections and networks within Wyoming. We are thrilled to have them both on the board as we continue to develop our strategic plan.

Uppdate on Enrollment for 2022

All of us here in the office are excited to announce that we are 90% enrolled for next summer and expect to fill our Expedition (aka Outrider) Program again as well. This summer was our first season with a wait list in a few years, and we are on the same track for next year.

Growth in our community is always something to celebrate whether it be the individual accomplishments of a camper, the triumph of an adventure group, or adding new faces to TVRC family. The continued growth and stability of our enrollment numbers is certainly something for us to rejoice in as we look forward to the future.

We recently announced the dates for our six Expedition trips. Find out more about our cohorts and offerings on tvrcamp.org! If you have a camper interested in this program please be sure to reach out to Matthew McGee, mmcgee@tvrcamp.org, as soon as possible to be on the contact list when the trips open. If you know of any families who may be interested in this experience be sure to share our website and social media channels with them.



Program Directors: Welcome Bo and Marshall

At TVRC, we are incredibly fortunate to have a wealth of institutional knowledge passed down from one generation of campers and staff members to the next as camp alumni return and teach the next set of community members about the ethos of TVRC. For that reason and many others, we are ecstatic to welcome Bo Phillips and Marshall Cherry to the full-time team as Program Director and Assistant Program Director. If you've spent any time at camp from 2008 to 2020, you probably know either Bo or Marshall. Both are former campers who attended TVRC from Rough Rider year through their Trail Blazer summers and have experience on staff. Bo belongs to the celebrated 5-year staff member club. He started out as a counselor, moved to the Barn for several summers before becoming Ranch Office Manager, and eventually rounded out his time as Infection Control Manager in the summer of 2020. Marshall on the other hand, spent four years as a counselor guiding campers through their TVRC journey from Rough Rider to Trail Blazer and working as a Trip Leader and Lapidary leader which gave him the moniker "Lapidary Cherry". In many ways, camp and TVRC are in Bo and Marshall's DNA, and when asked to describe themselves, they both speak in terms of TVRC. So, here is a brief introduction from Bo and Marshall in their own words:

THE TVRC COMMUNITY TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Marshall: "I am somebody who has had camp in their life for a long time. I grew up in Michigan spending a lot of time at and eventually living at an outdoor education center near Battle Creek that my mom has worked with for almost 30 years. The camp world has been the normal world for me for a large part of my life, so returning to TVRC makes me feel like I am returning home again. I've been away from camp for a few years and found myself missing the camp atmosphere due to the pandemic and my day-to-day life—you don't find the same genuine connections elsewhere in the world. When the Program Director position opened, it was a dream come true. I've wanted it since I was 15 years old. Camp has been a part of my background and something I want to make a career out of."

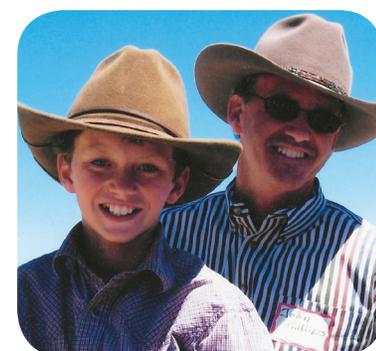


Marshall Cherry

Bo: "Within the context of this position at camp, I'd like for people to know me as nothing more than the latest in a long line of incredibly selfless and passionate people who have had the good fortune of having this as their job. I am not more than a steward of a place and a spirit and a tradition and a set of values that are all greater than myself. And my understanding of myself in that role comes from being a camper, being a staff member for 5 years, having my father be a camper in the 1960s and work there in the 70s, having my cousins start to go to camp in the late 80s/early 90s, and essentially the way camp has been a constant in my family, in some way or another to today. I have a deep appreciation for the historically anonymous and faceless people who have played a part in creating, augmenting, and maintaining all that TVRC is over the years. I am only trying to carry a torch that I received from staff members who carried that torch 13 years ago when I first arrived at camp and provide the campers of the present day an experience that helps them understand who they are in a vacuum, who they are in relationship to other people, and who they are in relation to the natural world and ecosystem that surrounds us."



Bo Phillips



Bo and John Phillips

More from our Program Directors

WHAT ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR TIME AT CAMP?

Marshall: “As a camper, I cried for about 10 days as a Rough Rider when I first arrived in 2010 and was horribly homesick. I didn’t really want anything to do with camp until my first trip. 5 Pockets was my first off-camp trip and spending time with my cabinmates and not thinking so much about being homesick but starting to plug-in to everyone and everything around me made TVRC a home for me. My favorite place to be during my camp years was the campfire ring at Teton Valley Ranch Camp because no matter what you have to share in that space, you know your friends will be there for you at the end. I would recommend to everybody who goes through the full program to come back as a staff member because you get to re-experience the program in an entirely different way. You already know the grand secrets of camp and have the wonderful privilege of recreating TVRC’s impactful experience for the next generation of campers. Realizing that the magic of the camp is the people who pour into it behind the scenes and getting to be one of those people is a really wonderful thing. Something that makes me proud and nostalgic is knowing that some of my campers will start coming back as staff and that the generational cycle of camp is continuing.”

Bo: “Simply having TVRC as a part of my family both historically and presently, being surrounded by my cousins on the staff, and having a backstage look at how valuable it was to their lives made camp an integral part of my life. As a staff member, being a counselor my first summer drew me in for the future. Part of that is just in absolute terms TVRC and a lot of it was also the context of my life at that time and how valuable the relearning of living in the present and being in the wilderness was for me. I didn’t anticipate going into it at all how much working at camp would affect me outside of camp, too. The highlights of working on staff are all the relationships you make with the people you work with and with campers because having campers come back and tell you how they have taken their TVRC experience that you helped shape and applied it to their life in the rest of the world, those two things are really important. Ultimately, I want to go to law school, and I think I want to practice environmental law and steward the environment that TVRC helped me to realize I loved so much. I have a core group of friends in Jackson, in Denver, and around the world that I have TVRC to thank for.”

WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK TO TVRC?

Marshall: “There are a lot of barriers in the “real world” that we put up to get through our day to day lives. Camp has a really great way of pulling back the layers you might put up elsewhere through challenge and through the warmth of community. At Camp, people become a lot more genuine, and you can get to know people for who they are really quickly in a way that isn’t possible elsewhere. And I don’t think that is a coincidence. Having all that positive energy in one place— it doesn’t really matter if it is on the Crooked Creek Property or on the trail or on the tarmac of the Jackson Hole airport— makes camp a place for everyone. That is why people are drawn back. The location is just a backdrop to the core of camp—that energy and ingenuity that allows you to foster great relationships, develop who you are, and helps to bring out the best parts of you. Getting to support something that I believe in so wholeheartedly as my job is something that I am so excited for. There is really nothing else out there that can compare to camp in that way.”

Bo: “It never really feels like I left even though I did. One of my favorite interactions that I had this summer when I visited was with Jim. I asked him, “why don’t I work here, can you tell me?” And he said, “no that’s for you to explain”. And I couldn’t come up with a good answer, so I told Jim and Cora I would come back for summer 2022 before law school and that commitment has escalated in a way that I am excited about. And so really it was just that I knew I wanted to come back, and I felt foolish that I hadn’t returned in 2021. After 2019, I felt really good about what we had done that summer even though it had been difficult, and I was really excited about 2020 because it was going to usher in a new era with Jim and Cora running the show. I was excited to take that first step with them and to set the trajectory of TVRC for the future, but of course, our program was completely adapted and abbreviated that summer. While I feel that we were successful with the Outrider Program in 2020, there is a part of me that was hoping to be a part of laying the foundation for the long term to set the tone for the progression of things. 2020 ended up being a transitory year in that way instead of the beginning of something more permanent, so this year is the chance to lay that foundation.”

Both Bo and Marshall have spent time away from TVRC working in different industries and growing as individuals, but now they return in these new roles. Their return is driven by how camp shaped them as individuals and by their desire to steward the TVRC experience for the next generations of campers and staff. In their own ways, these men exemplify those ideals we impart to campers through the Cowboy Ethics and know how to: live each day with courage, take pride in their work, finish what they start, do what has to be done, be tough but fair, ride for the brand, talk less and say more, draw the line, keep the promises they make, and honor that some things aren’t for sale. Bo and Marshall add a depth of knowledge and passion to the team, so we are excited to see how they will manage camp programming and to have them back home in the valley with us.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

SUPPORT TVRC'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The Ranch is the heart of our TVRC programming. While the trail may be where memories are made, the Ranch is where we launch every trip and where we return to share stories from our victorious summits.

If we were to search for the “heart within the heart” of camp, it would be our rodeo arena and grounds. Every week this is where we gather as a camp to cheer each other on and compete in rodeos, showcasing the special skill set you build during your summers here at TVRC.

Whether you prefer barrels, pole bending, or team roping, the view from the center of the rodeo arena is one that stays with every camper for the rest of their lives.

We've been lucky to have excellent leadership over the decades to ensure this arena held up to the elements and kept both children and horses safe and healthy. This year we're turning our focus again to the Rodeo Arena for some much-needed updates.

We're looking for support from our community to help us raise \$75,000 towards making these updates possible. Thus far, we've raised, \$15,000, and our goal is to raise the remaining amount in the next three months. This total will resurface the rodeo arena and offer some much needed upgrades to the berm and surrounding area of the arena, including a new PA system.

In the spring of 2022, we'll hire an experienced crew and buy the materials needed to rebuild the footing in the arena allowing us to enjoy the heart of our program for another decade or more.

If you're interested in supporting this effort, please consider donating online, via check, or by wire transfer.

SCHOLARSHIP EFFORT FOR 2022

This year our Giving Tuesday efforts are focused on building our Scholarship Fund for the coming summer. We were so fortunate to make our goal last year of raising \$70,000 to support annual scholarships and offered scholarships in varying amounts to 14 campers who otherwise would not have been able to attend TVRC.

Our hope is to keep this momentum going and raise another \$35,000 towards scholarships by the end of this year. As Giving Tuesday approaches, please keep an eye out for an email from us and posts on our social media channels with details on how to participate.

You can also donate to this effort via mailed donations. Details on mailing a donation are below.

ROUNDUP UPDATE

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COFFEE TABLE BOOK

We have been hard at work on a Coffee Table Book celebrating the history and ethos of the Ranch we all love. The book includes an overview of TVRC's history, a celebration of traditions and ceremonies, and details of life at camp both on and off of the Ranch. At the moment, we are in the final stages of publishing, and the book will be available via the Trading Post this winter! Keep an eye out for an announcement on social media and via email when the book is added to the Trading Post. We hope it serves as a reminder of all of the reasons that TVRC is special to our community.



FOUNDATION UPDATE

HELP SECURE TVRC'S FUTURE

Believe it or not, we're closing in on our 90th year of operation, and we're thrilled about how we are positioned for the future. As you've seen throughout this edition of the Wrangler, we had one of our most successful years ever! In order to continue our work and offer the amazing and unique programming we specialize in for generations to come, we need to ensure that support for our facility and programming is available beyond the current era of staff and campers.

This is the reason that when the TVRC - Education Foundation was founded, we created the General Endowment. The goal of this endowment is to support the Ranch facility and programming materials through the decades. To date, we've raised over half of the \$8 million we need to sustain the endowment and are only \$2 million shy of our goal.

We're looking for a few more Posse members to join our effort and donate between \$5,000 and \$25,000 annually for five years to help us reach this milestone or create a bequest to the General Endowment.

Posse members and planned giving donors will be kept in the loop on all of the upgrades the Ranch receives each year and future plans for our in-camp and backcountry programming.

It's through the foresight of many TVRC alumni that we've been able to continue to offer life-changing experiences for campers over the past 20 years, and now is the time to ensure we'll be here in perpetuity by supporting our General Endowment.

If you have any questions about any of these development projects or philanthropy at TVRC, please reach out to Whitney Oppenhuizen, Director of Communications and Philanthropy, at woppenhuizen@tvrcamp.org.

POEMS FROM THE SUMMER

This summer we had the pleasure of welcoming many new staff to the Ranch one of whom, Michael Meng, was a Boys' Season Counselor and our Girls' Season Photographer. In addition to these full time roles, Michael became the unofficial TVRC Poet-in-Residence. Michael wrote several poems over the summer that he shared with the camp community, and we thought it only fitting to share them with our larger community as they so beautifully encapsulate the TVRC experience.

We hope you enjoy these words from Michael and that they bring back your own memories of this special place.



Years Michael Meng

*You've seen it all
Or so you think
But the world is not done with you,
Oh no.*

*From hardened crust to molten core
This earth is more than what it seems.
I've come to trust that what's in store
Is beyond the realm in which we dream.*

*Step and misstep,
So you may taste everything on offer.*

*Indulge your eyes
And your ears
For the years,
They do not always come.*

Wild Remembrance Michael Meng

*The Ground is a canvas,
Exploded with flower and fauna.*

*The Sky is an ocean,
Which ebbs and flows like the tide.*

*My Horse is a warrior,
And his will becomes mine.*

*The Mountains are a kingdom,
In which I am merely a guest.*

*The wild air makes wild dreams
Seem ever so slightly more in reach.*

*These fragments of time,
These shards of remembrance,
They will dress my wounds
And illuminate the long dark.*

Dead And Proud Michael Meng

*What would you care
To die for, today?
Because a piece of you dies
With each breath that you take*

*Time is a luxury
Given to precious few
You -- what did you do
To make Death proud today?*

*I submitted to sorrow,
To silence, to sense
I forgave my fears,
My friends, my frets*

*I didn't ask to be born,
To be broken, or fixed
But it's the game we all play,
So I will throw up my fist*

*When It comes for me, I will not beg
Nay, not even a whimper
For I will have made Death proud
Before the eternal winter*



**Teton Valley Ranch Camp
Education Foundation**

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Jackson, WY 83001

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NEWS FROM THE PONY EXPRESS

~ Catherine Leslie (England), camper from 1994 to 1996, passed away this fall. She's remembered by her family and friends, many of whom share the TVRC experience. Her grandfather, Wick Craig-mile, was one of the first campers at TVRC in the summer of 1939.

~ Frances MacKethan, camper 2013 and 2014, graduated from the University of Michigan earlier this year. Congrats, Frances!

~ Callie Platt, Trail Blazer 2012, recently moved to Salt Lake City, Utah full time after graduating from CU Boulder. She is a business development representative at 97th Floor which is a digital marketing company.

~ Haley North, also a Trail Blazer from 2012, graduated from University of Utah in 2019 and is currently pursuing a Nursing degree and will

graduate in April '22. After nursing school, Haley hopes to be a circulating nurse in an operating room.



Callie Platt and Haley North, Trail Blazers '12

WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH TVRC



Receive **newsletters** sent every couple months; take part in surveys and discussion boards—www.tvrcamp.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