

Teton Valley Ranch Camp Parent Handbook 2022



Welcome to the Parent Handbook!

We hope this handbook answers many of your questions and helps prepare you and your child for the summer. We believe it is a useful tool and reference guide for you while your child is away at camp. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions!

-The TVRC Director Team

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Summer Dates



Boys' Season

Arrival Day - June 12

Final Rodeo - July 10

Departure Day* - July 11

Girls' Season

Arrival Day - July 14

Final Rodeo - August 11

Departure Day* - August 12

*Departure Day is for campers who are flying home solo and TVRC will transport to the airport. Most campers leave with their families after Final Rodeo. Please note that TVRC cannot transport campers on the day of Final Rodeo

Contact Information

Jackson Office (before June 1):

Teton Valley Ranch Camp
290 E Broadway Ave.
P.O. Box 4915
Jackson, WY 83001

307-733-2958 (Jackson office)
307-733-0258 (Jackson fax)

mmcgee@tvrcamp.org

Ranch Office (after June 1):

Teton Valley Ranch Camp
4341 US Highway 26
Dubois, WY 82513

307-455-2885 (Dubois office)
307-455-3021 (Infirmary)
307-455-2938 (Dubois fax)

parentcoordinator@tvrcamp.org

Meet the Directors

The year-round staff at TVRC is a dedicated group of individuals that are devoted to providing a fun-filled summer. Their areas of expertise and talents may vary, but all members are committed to youth development and education.

Jim Ligori, *Camp Director*

Born and raised in Jackson Hole, Jim has had the outdoors and camping in his blood from a young age. Jim attended TVRC at the Kelly campus in the early 90s. He has worked at other camps in Idaho, Wyoming, Algonquin Park Canada, and North Carolina as a lifeguard, cabin counselor, fishing instructor, and program director. Jim graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Management and a focus on Nature-Based Tourism. Jim brings enthusiasm and love for the camp that is evident through his leadership and vision for the future.

Jim has also worked as a fishing guide, snowmobile guide, and outfitter all in the Jackson Hole area. He spearheaded the start of a nonprofit outdoor program in Boulder, Wyoming. Most recently Jim comes to us from the Teton County Sheriff's Office in Jackson, where he was the supervisor for the 911 emergency call center; while at the Sheriff's Office, Jim received a Lifesaving Commendation for saving the life of an individual. Jim enjoys sharing ideas and networking with other camp professionals through participation in the American Camp Association (ACA), Western Association of Independent Camps (WAIC) and Wilderness Risk Management Programs.

Jim met his wife Cora at a summer camp near Asheville, North Carolina where they were both parts of the management team. Jim and Cora have three high spirited children; Elsie, George, and Jamie. Their Shetland Sheepdog named Huck rounds out the mix. Jim and his family enjoy all things outdoors, and when camp isn't in season, they can be found hiking, camping, fishing, skiing, and sledding! Contact **Jim** at jligori@tvrcamp.org.



Cora Ligori, *Assistant Camp Director*

Cora grew up in the small North Carolina town of Shelby in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains... famous for its BBQ and Bluegrass. Summer camp was a huge part of her younger life. She attended Camp Greystone, in Tuxedo, NC, as a camper. She then worked 6 summers at Greystone serving as staff in the kitchen and as a counselor. While attending UNC Chapel Hill, she was hired for the summers as the Kitchen Program Director at Camp Arrowhead, a camp down the road from Camp Greystone. She worked in that position for three summers. While at Camp Arrowhead, she met her best friend, Jim Ligori. Their friendship turned romantic and they were married in 2007. Following their wedding, the couple moved to Jim's hometown of Jackson, WY.

Cora knew she would love living in Jackson. As a senior at UNC Chapel Hill Dental school, studying to be a dental hygienist, she spent a month working on the Wind River Reservation near Lander, Wyoming. This was her first trip to Wyoming and to Jackson. Since moving to Jackson in 2007, she truly feels this valley is home. Cora loves to ski, but in recent years she loves cross country skiing the best. Her favorite thing to do is spend time outside, doing almost anything, with her young family. She and Jim have three children, Elsie, George and Jamie.



Before joining the TVRC leadership team, she worked as a Registered Dental Hygienist at Larsen Family Dentistry in Jackson for 13 years. Her office was voted best dentist in the Best of Jackson Hole for the last 12 years consecutively. Although she loved her coworkers and patients at Larsen Family, working alongside Jim in a camp setting once again is a dream come true. "Jim and I always hoped we would once again work at camp together. We love the daily adventure it brings and believe there is no better place to raise our kids."

Contact **Cora** at cligori@tvrccamp.org.

Paige Nielsen, *Communications and Fundraising Manager*

Originally from Memphis, TN, Paige grew up with a passion for community and a love for a good challenge. After moving to Michigan for college, Paige decided that the summer after her freshman year would be her summer to spend working at a camp— her summer to “have fun” before worrying about internships and planning for life beyond school. Eventually, Paige ended up applying to TVRC and despite not knowing anyone who had attended or worked at the Ranch before, she decided to take a chance on a summer in Wyoming. Spoiler alert— that free summer was way more meaningful and formative than just being “fun” and turned into a whole new way of life.

Paige arrived at camp in 2019 as Parent Coordinator and returned in that role for two additional summers. Over her three years on summer staff, Paige grew to love the myriad of challenges that each summer brought and the chance to invest in fellow staff and campers. A Pack Trip with a cabin of Rough Riders her first summer laid the foundation for Paige's love of the wilderness throughout the Teton Valley. Camp holds a special place in Paige's heart for the unique community it welcomes and for the multidimensional growth it inspires in those very community members.



Paige graduated from Hope College in December of 2021. This will be Paige's 4th summer at camp and her first as a member of the year-round team. After living in the Mississippi River Valley for 15 years, Paige is excited to call the Rocky Mountains and Jackson home. When she isn't working in the office, Paige enjoys visiting the Barn or Craft Shop, early morning trailhead drives, and even helping out in Scullery. Outside of camp, Paige loves reading, watching movies, a good game of cribbage, hiking, cross-country skiing, soccer, and the Memphis Grizzlies.

Contact **Paige** at pnielsen@tvrccamp.org.

Matthew McGee , *Office Manager*

Matthew was born and raised in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and first experienced the wonders of Wyoming on a NOLS course in the Absaroka Wilderness. He studied at the University of Montana where he earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology.

Matthew has worked as a ranger-naturalist in Grand Teton National Park, spent a year as a graduate student at the Teton Science Schools, and then earned an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Wyoming researching coyote ecology. He also spent a summer studying wolves in Denali National Park. Upon returning to Wyoming, he earned a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Montana State University. Matthew most recently worked as graduate faculty at Teton Science Schools. He also teaches wilderness medicine courses for NOLS.



Matthew is a wild lands enthusiast, mountain biker, climber and backcountry skier, and loves discovering new places to explore with family and friends. When he is not working at TVRC you will find him reading, playing guitar, cooking or tinkering with his motorcycle. Along with his wonderful wife, Lisa and adventurous son, Dylan he enjoys his quality of life in Jackson, where he is inspired daily by this beautiful place and the community.

Contact **Matthew** at mmcgee@tvrccamp.org.

Bo Phillips, *Program Director*

Teton Valley Ranch Camp has a place in Bo's heart like nothing else. 2020 was his fifth summer as a staff member and supposedly was going to be his last. But they say timing is everything... When the opportunity to become Program Director for one year before law school came about this fall, it was an instant yes. 2022: Bo's last summer, take two.

The Phillips Family had a long history with TVRC before Bo. His father, John, was a camper then trip leader in the 60s and 70s. Between 1991 and 2020, at least one of Bo's cousins, siblings, or himself spent their summer on a TVRC ranch. Bo is thankful to have that shared history with his family, but he is also proud of the TVRC experience that is unique to him. "Everybody's time at camp is different. The trails and traditions are everlasting, but each wrangle and rite are fleeting."



Outside of working seasonally for TVRC, Bo attended Vanderbilt University then moved to Denver in 2018. He enjoys living with two roommates that also served on TVRC staffs in 2015-2017. Although he grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, Bo now considers the Rocky Mountains his home. He hopes they continue to be a fixture in his life when he attends law school. Colorado Law in Boulder and University of Denver Law are at the top of his list. "There's lots of fun to be had anywhere," he says, but the active, outdoor lifestyle in Denver can't be beat. Bo loves biking, volleyball, hunting, skiing, basketball, and soccer. When he isn't outside, you can usually find him in a theater or on his couch watching a movie.

Contact **Bo** at bphillips@tvrccamp.org.

Doug Ross, *Ranch Manager*

Doug hails from Long Island, KS, a small town of 120 People, where he grew up around horses and cattle that he showed in 4-H and AQHA shows. He then attended Kansas State University and earned a degree in Animal Science. In 2000, Doug saw an ad in the back of Western Horseman magazine offering positions at TVRC and applied.

Doug's first summer at camp was 2001. At the time, you had to be 21 to be on barn staff, so Doug spent that first season as a counselor. After a few years away, he returned in 2004 as the Head of the Barn and spent a total of 10 non-consecutive summers in that role. Over his tenure, Doug learned to love Jackson and Dubois, all of the wildlife, and the mountains that make up this valley.

After working at TVRC, Doug spent many years living in Texas training AQHA show horses and traveled all over the country showing them and coaching amateur clients. More recently, he returned to his family's farm in Kansas to assist in the ranching operation which made his summers more flexible and allowed him to return to TVRC in the summer of 2019 as Head of the Barn.

Camp has been a huge part of his adult life and Doug returns to us yet again, this time as Ranch Manager, because he loves spending time on the Ranch in all of its iterations. In fact, he is one of the very few staff members who have worked at all three TVRC locations from Kelly to Double Bar J to the current Crooked Creek Ranch.

Contact **Doug** at dross@tvrccamp.org.



Marshall Cherry, *Assistant Program Director*

Marshall immersed himself in the world of camp throughout his childhood years at the Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center in Dowling, MI. At the age of 12, he ventured off with his brother to Wyoming for his Rough Rider summer at Teton Valley Ranch Camp. Despite crying for the first ten days due to homesickness, Marshall returned for summer after summer, fostering an unshakable love for, and belief in, TVRC along the way. Marshall returns for his tenth summer at TVRC as the Assistant Program Director with much joy and gratitude.

Marshall's mother, Amy, (the 1974 Rodeo Queen of Kelly) and brother, Alex, both attended TVRC as campers and staff members in their respective eras. Several of Marshall's cousins and family friends have also spent time at the Ranch in some form. Marshall believes that the sharing experiences and memories of TVRC with his loved ones further adds to the magical quality of time spent at the Ranch.

Marshall relishes time spent outdoors, especially when hiking, mountaineering, skiing, disc golfing or playing various lifelong sports. Marshall finds outdoor activities all the more enjoyable when he shares them with his older brother, and best friend, Alex. Marshall has also spent much of his time making music with various choirs, marching bands, theater companies, and a cappella groups. Of all his musical pursuits, Marshall enjoys singing and playing guitar at the Ranch's campfire ring the most.



Contact **Marshall** at mcherry@tvrccamp.org.

A Note on Safety

At Teton Valley Ranch Camp, the health and well-being of our campers and staff is our highest priority, and we continually seek to enhance our systems of risk management. As an outdoor adventure program that utilizes the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as its classroom, we acknowledge an inherent level of risk in everything we do; whether summiting mountains in Grand Teton National Park, or wrangling horses on the TVRC Ranch.

Our approach to risk is one of respect gained through knowledge, skill, and experience. For risks that should be avoided altogether, we strive to implement clear procedures and foster the exercise of sound judgment. Other risks require the balancing of active management and the awareness that grit gives our program relevancy and practicality in the lives of the young people we serve. As an organization we value critical thinking, reflection on experiences, and resilience in difficult times.

Please take the time to read the “Essential Eligibility Criteria” and the “Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk & Release and Indemnity Agreement” included in the Campminder forms section. Together, those documents outline the risks associated with the activities that we engage in on the TVRC Ranch and in the backcountry. Feel free to contact our Camp Director, Jim Ligor, with any and all questions about our approach to Risk Management.

We believe that teaching our campers to manage risks inherently helps teach them critical life skills. The activities that we undertake and environments that we travel in hold wisdom for our campers. We feel honored to partner with you in offering these lessons to our campers, whom we recognize first and foremost as your precious children.

Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures

- Our leadership team monitors accepted and current child protection practices by attending American Camp Association (ACA) conferences, other camp association meetings, and sexual abuse workshops. We adopt practices from, the State of Wyoming, our insurance providers, and the ACA.
- Teton Valley Ranch Camp is accredited by the ACA and complies with ACA Accreditation Standards related to staff hiring and screening and pre-camp staff training.
- Teton Valley Ranch Camp posts the Department of Family Services and the National Child Abuse Hotline numbers in plain sight within the camp office.
- Staff candidates are interviewed, screened, and undergo a criminal background check before hiring.
- Teton Valley Ranch Camp checks staff under the National Sex Offender Public Website.
- Staff complete annual online training on child abuse awareness.
- Seasonal staff engage in on-site pre-camp training each spring on child abuse prevention guidelines and procedures, including appropriate interaction with campers, incident reporting requirements, child abuse awareness, and related issues.
- Staff sign a commitment statement each year to observe and abide by these guidelines and procedures.

Essential Eligibility Criteria

What are Essential Eligibility Criteria?

Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) are the requirements that all participants must meet to successfully participate in Teton Valley Ranch Camp (TVRC) programs. These EEC include the fundamental criteria necessary to engage in TVRC activities—inexorably tied to community, safety and risk management considerations. EEC are used with increasing frequency in outdoor programs as a way to identify that participants can meet the basic requirements for participation, and, in the important endeavor to obtain a good “fit” between the participant and the program. Seeking a good fit is particularly important at TVRC because of our remote location and the demanding nature of some of our activities. For example, all campers have the opportunity to explore national parks, forests and wilderness areas on foot and on horseback. During these trips, campers may be 48 hours or more from medical attention and may encounter rough terrain, river crossings, snow fields, and other hazards. Weather and wildlife can be unpredictable. Through these EEC, we strive to give potential participants, parents, and guardians the information they need to make an accurate, objective assessment when deciding if their interest, abilities and needs are an appropriate match with the TVRC program.

How are EEC Used?

In order to attend TVRC, all participants must be able to meet each of the EEC listed below. TVRC is a residential camp in which every individual is part of an age-appropriate program group (Yearling, Rough Rider, Top Hand, Wrangler, and Trailblazer) and each program group involves a wide range of riding, hiking, and in-camp activities. The safety and enjoyment of the entire group is in part dependent upon the ability of every individual to participate in all of these activities. The inability of a camper to meet one or more of the EEC could adversely affect not only his or her own experience and wellbeing, but that of the entire group.

Although these EEC are not intended to exclude potential participants, TVRC takes them seriously and seeks to apply them objectively. Individuals who cannot meet each of these criteria may be advised to find a camp that can better accommodate their needs and abilities.

What Should I Do if I Have Questions About the EEC?

Contact us. TVRC is committed to making reasonable modifications in appropriate circumstances. In this regard, good communication—and early communication—is critically important. Our goal is to make sure that every camper who arrives at TVRC is fully prepared to join in the fun.

Contact us at: Jackson Office: 307-733-2958 (September–May)

Ranch Office: 307-455-2885 (June –August)

TVRC Essential Eligibility Criteria

Each Teton Valley Ranch Camp participant must:

- Be in good mental and physical health and refrain from causing harm to him/herself or others;
- Be willing and able to follow TVRC rules and instructions;
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances
- Be able to dress him/herself and perform basic personal hygiene and self-care, in camp or in a wilderness or camp environment;
- Be free of any medical or psychological condition that requires the consistent availability of medical facilities or trained medical personnel (at times, such assistance may be 48 hours or more away);
- Be free of any existing medical condition that may make them more vulnerable to severe illness. These medical conditions include Asthma, Chronic Lung Disease, Compromised Immune System, Diabetes, Chronic Kidney Disease, Liver Disease, and Hemoglobin Disorders;
- Be able to share living space in a cabin and tent (group living in close quarters will require reduced expectations of privacy and personal space, greater tolerance of others, respect for personal property, and neatness);
- Be willing to live with and be around others who may have different viewpoints and beliefs; be respectful of all stated identities and beliefs. Maintain appropriate, non-exclusive relationships with other group members and staff.
- Refrain from sexual activity, harassment, bullying, and all behavior that disrupts the experience of others and the cohesion of the group.
- Be willing and able to eat a camp diet served in three standard meals, unless special dietary accommodations have been discussed and agreed upon with TVRC in advance;
- Know how to swim and be physically able to mount, dismount, and balance on a horse;
- Be able to communicate effectively with TVRC staff about his/her physical, medical, behavioral or emotional wellbeing, including, among other things, personal distress, injury, illness, allergies, asthma, anxiety, ADHD, homesickness, depression, and/or phobias;
- Be able to understand, communicate, and act appropriately when encountering hazards and risks that may include, among other things, cliffs, loose rock, dead trees, snow, swift and/or deep water, and wildlife;
- Be physically able and excited to hike for several hours on rough mountain trails at high elevations (up to 12,000 feet above sea level) while carrying a heavy backpack (distance, elevation, pack weights and other physical demands vary between age groups);
- Be able to adjust to the challenges of a multi-day trip in a remote backcountry environment (up to 48 hrs. from definitive care) where the conditions may vary from cold (below freezing) to hot (above 90 degrees) and may include, among other things, rain, snow, lightning and/or hail (trip duration may vary from 1 to 14 days depending upon age group);
- Be able to responsibly handle and wear equipment (including safety equipment) for various activities after receiving appropriate instruction, including, among other things, riding, backpacking, riflery, archery, fishing, lapidary, craft shop, and cooking equipment; and
- Be willing and able to work as a member of a team to accomplish group tasks and support a safe social and emotional learning environment.

Please Note:

These EEC do not encompass all criteria for participation in Teton Valley Ranch Camp programs. As detailed in your enrollment agreement and other materials, participation is also conditioned on receipt of full payment and receipt and review of all completed and signed forms, including medical forms. In addition, these EEC are intended to give you a snapshot of some basic eligibility criteria for participation in TVRC programs and do not encompass every criteria or function of the program activities a camper may participate in while at TVRC.

Packing Instructions

In CampMinder, you'll find a detailed equipment list for your camper. This list shows all necessary and optional gear for camp. Most items should fit in the duffel and trunk in order to be shipped to camp or checked on the airplane. Many parents also find it helpful to send an extra box with bedding, etc. Please bring 3-4 reusable face masks (no buffs or bandanas) and a small bottle of hand sanitizer.

Laundry Service:

Laundry service is offered to campers twice weekly at the ranch. Counselors will help campers keep their clothing clean and ready for whatever adventure awaits! Because the laundry room is a very busy place, it is essential that you clearly label EVERY item (including bedding and sleeping bag) your child brings to camp. Camp is very rough on clothing and personal belongings. Please don't pack cloths or things that you would be upset about being ruined at camp!

Important: Electronics Policy

Campers **MAY NOT** bring electronic devices to camp. After many discussions with camp parents and careful consideration, we do not allow campers to have any electronic devices (with the exception of digital cameras and flashlights) at Teton Valley Ranch Camp. Please help us support this unique opportunity to disconnect!

This includes but is not limited to:

- Music Players (iPods, MP3s, etc.)
- Handheld Games (DS, PSP, etc.)
- Cell Phones
- Electronic Readers (Kindles, iPads, Nooks, etc.)
- Radios
- Go Pros
- Smart Watches (Fitbits, Apple Watches, etc.)
- Devices that require recharging to operate

As electronic devices have grown increasingly more complex (with features like video, internet access, etc.), we believe they disrupt the cabin environment and negatively impact the TVRC experience. If a camper brings a device for their travel to and from the ranch, we will store these devices in the office and they will be returned at the end of the camp session. Cameras will be allowed, although we recommend a disposable camera.



Packing for Wyoming Weather:

The beautiful mountains of Wyoming are full of unpredictable weather. In order to make sure that your camper is prepared, please ensure that he/she has adequate bedding and warm layers. It is not uncommon to wake up to frost and go to sleep to snowfall in June. While summer days may be warm and sunny, mornings and nights will require a jacket, warm socks, a hat, and mittens! A rain jacket and rain pants are also critical around camp and on backcountry trips.

Packing for the Backcountry:

Before your child heads out on a backcountry trip, he/she will meet with a TVRC trip leader and counselor to review a packing list. TVRC will provide sleeping pads, backpacks, and all group gear (tents, stoves, cooking utensils, etc.) for backcountry trips. All items that your child will need to provide are included in the camper equipment list, which can be found through your CampMinder account.

Lost and Found:

At the ranch we attempt to have as few lost items as possible. While we try our best to reconnect all lost items with their owner, please do not send anything irreplaceable with your child to camp! Your Trading Post account will be billed for lost and found items sent home at the end of the summer.

To help us manage the lost and found, be sure to LABEL EVERY ITEM that your child brings to camp (including headlamp, boots, sleeping bag, Crazy Creek® chair, etc.) with his/her full name. You can purchase labels through your CampMinder account.

Shipping Instructions

To Camp:

Most campers bring a duffel and a trunk to the Ranch with them. Many parents also find it helpful to ship a box of bedding and other items. Some campers ship their items to the Ranch while others bring their luggage with them on the airplane. UPS, FedEx, Ship Camps* and USPS all deliver to the Ranch address. If you decide to ship luggage, please ensure that a TVRC luggage tag (we will send these to you) is on each piece of luggage. In CampMinder, you'll find a baggage form, where you can indicate what luggage you've shipped. Once we receive your luggage at the Ranch, you will receive a confirmation phone call or email. When your child arrives at camp, his/her luggage will be waiting for him/her in the correct cabin. Please allow 10 days for your child's luggage to arrive at the Ranch.

*Ship Camps is a service that we recommend and encourage you to consider. They specialize in shipping camp gear and have been able to simplify the shipping process for our families. You will also find that they already have our bag arrival and departure dates. If you are interested in this service, you can find out more at <https://www.shipcamps.com/tetonvalleyranchcamp>.

From Camp:

You will receive a phone call or email toward the end of camp confirming the method of sending your camper's luggage home. You will have already specified this information on the baggage form (found in your CampMinder account), but we find it helps to double check with parents before the end of the season. Your child can either take luggage with them on the airplane or have their luggage shipped home via FedEx Ground or Ship Camps. If you choose to have your luggage shipped, your camper's Trading Post account will be billed according to the size and weight of your package. Shipment typically costs between \$125-175. Please allow 10-14 days for the delivery of your camper's luggage.

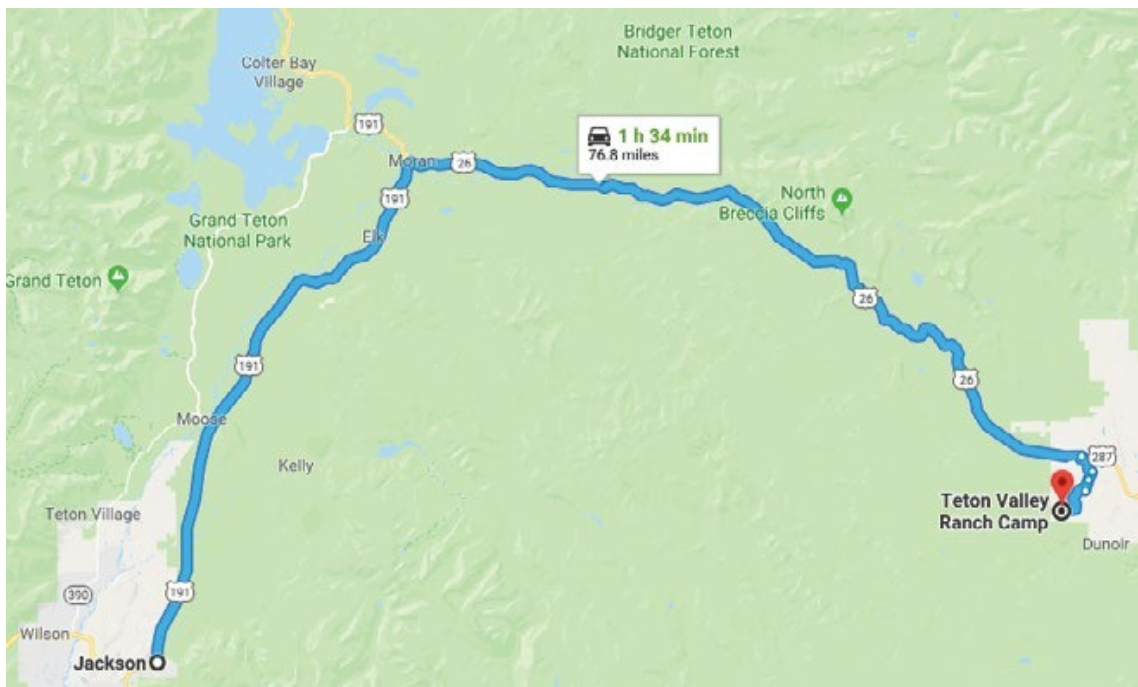
****Please note** that it is extremely common for trunks to be damaged or destroyed during shipment. While they can be insured through the shipper, TVRC accepts no responsibility for damaged or destroyed luggage. Because of the large volume of luggage that is shipped from the Ranch at the end of each season, it is impossible to meet specific needs (e.g. placing each trunk in a box). If you are concerned about the condition of your trunk, it is best to check it on the airplane with your camper, or ship it home yourself from the FedEx or UPS stores in Jackson, WY.

Travel To and From TVRC

We request that families and campers wear face coverings while traveling to and from camp and maintain social distancing as much as possible to reduce the risk of contracting Covid on the way to camp.

Driving from Jackson Hole:

Camp is just a hop, skip, and a jump from Jackson! To reach the ranch, follow Highway 89 north out of Jackson. This road will take you up and over Togwotee (TOE-gah-tee) Pass towards Dubois. The total distance from Jackson is approximately 70 miles and the drive will take about 1.5 hours. Once you are over the pass, you will see Lava Mountain Lodge on the right side of the road. TVRC is 6.2 miles past Lava Mountain Lodge on the right (south) side of the highway, look for the ranch between mile markers 42 and 43. There is a large ranch gate with a “Teton Valley Ranch Camp” sign at the road along with a small cabin and corrals. Follow this road approximately 4.5 miles back to the main campus. Here, you will be greeted by the TVRC staff!



Driving from Dubois:

TVRC is located about 20 minutes from the town of Dubois. If you are coming from Dubois, look for the ranch between mile markers 42 and 43 on the left hand (south) side of the road. There is a large ranch gate with a “Teton Valley Ranch Camp” sign at the road along with a small cabin and corrals. Follow this road approximately 4.5 miles back to the main campus. Here, you will be greeted by the TVRC staff!

Travel (Continued)

To Camp by Air:

If your child is flying in for Boys' Season, please note that the Jackson Hole Airport will be closed April 11 to June 28, 2022. For more information, please visit our Arrival Day website at <https://www.tvrcamp.org/parents/arrival-day> or contact Matthew McGee at mmcgee@tvrcamp.org.

Approximately half of our campers fly to Jackson Hole (JAC) without their parents each summer. Usually there are many campers on each flight, so they get to know each other before they have even landed in Wyoming! Please make sure that every piece of luggage your camper brings to the Ranch (including all carry-ons) is labeled with a TVRC luggage tag (we'll mail these to you) —including first and last name. This way they will be able to spot other TVRC campers during their travels!

To help make travel as smooth as possible, please send us your child's flight itinerary so that we can be at the Jackson Hole airport to provide the final leg of transportation to camp. If anything changes with your child's flights on their travel day, please notify the camp office.

We strongly recommend that campers who are flying to camp alone use the Unaccompanied Minor service provided by the airlines. If your child is traveling as an Unaccompanied Minor, **please contact our office to determine who will be our unaccompanied minor liaison at the Jackson Hole Airport.** NOTE: is only the Unaccompanied Minor Liaison for travel to the Ranch, NOT from the Ranch. The requirements of and fees for this service vary based on airline. Please call the office with any questions or concerns and we can help explain this process.

Once your child arrives in Jackson Hole, they will be welcomed by several staff members from TVRC, including our Unaccompanied Minor liaison. You will receive a phone call from the Ranch as soon as your child is at the airport to inform you of their safe arrival. The staff will help campers retrieve their baggage before boarding our 15-passenger vans for the trip to the Ranch. The drive from the airport to the ranch is about 60 miles and will take about 1.5 hours. There will be snacks in the van to tide campers over until they arrive at the Ranch.

From Camp by Air:

About 10 percent of our campers fly home after Final Rodeo without their parents. If your child will be flying home alone after Final Rodeo, they will be taken to the airport with other campers and TVRC staff on Departure Day. Staff members will ensure that your child is checked in, through security, and has taken off before they leave the airport. Please ensure that your child's flight is scheduled to leave Jackson Hole (JAC) by noon on departure day.

Many parents choose to use Unaccompanied Minor service for the flight home. If you choose to use this service you must list yourself or whoever will be picking up your camper from their final destination. If your camper checks baggage on the way home, we will charge your camper's Trading Post account for baggage fees.

Arriving Late or Leaving Early:

TVRC offers a 30-day program. In order for your child to experience all the exciting opportunities available at the ranch, it is important that they are at the ranch for as much of the season as possible. We understand that school and other commitments can make this a challenge. We will allow campers to arrive a few days late or leave a few days early, but are not able to prorate tuition or change programming to accommodate them. Please call the office for more information or to discuss questions and concerns.

Packing for the Plane:

1. **Minimal Cash:** To purchase snacks during travel. Money is not allowed once your camper arrives at the ranch, so be sure to instruct them to give any remaining money to the office for safe-keeping until they depart camp.
2. **Carry-on Baggage:** Even though it's summer camp, Wyoming can have some unpredictable weather! Be sure to pack a warm layer (sweatshirt, jacket, etc.) in your child's carry-on. This is especially important for campers arriving in the late afternoon and evening—it can be chilly. We have even seen snow on Arrival Day, so these layers are essential! Make sure all luggage is marked with a TVRC luggage tag (we'll mail these to you) so we can claim it at the airport.
3. **Personal Medications:** Please send all necessary medications with your campers. See page 26 for more information regarding medications .
4. **Cell Phone & Electronics:** We understand that many parents like their campers to travel with a cell phone. Please instruct your camper to hand cell phones over to staff as soon as they arrive at camp. All electronics (with the exception of digital cameras) are strictly prohibited at the ranch and will be held in the office for safe-keeping until your child departs. Please refrain from sending your campers with laptops or other large electronics as we have limited storage for such items.
5. **Masks:** Wear a mask and bring a small bottle of hand sanitizer.



Arrival Day & Final Rodeo

Arrival Day:

Look for Arrival Day and Final Rodeo specifics in a later email. Our plan for final rodeo will depend on relevant health guidelines near the time of the event. Please plan for immediate family only and keep an eye out for more information in the coming months.

Departure Day:

Campers flying home without their parents will fly out of Jackson Hole the day after Final Rodeo, Departure Day. Please ensure that your child's flight is scheduled to leave Jackson Hole (JAC) by NOON ON DEPARTURE DAY.



Final Rodeo:

Join us for Final Rodeo! This is a day to celebrate the end of the camp season as a community. We highly encourage you to attend this event if possible because it will give you a glimpse into life on the Ranch, allow you to cheer on your camper as they compete in a Rodeo, and include fun for the whole family.

- Boys' Season Final Rodeo is July 10th.
- Girls' Season Final Rodeo is August 11th.

This year the schedule will be as follows:

- 10:30 AM Rodeo Starts
- 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM Rolling BBQ Lunch
- 3:00 PM Rodeo Ends and Cocktail Hour Begins

Additionally, if you attend Final Rodeo, your campers should depart with you following cocktail hour. The next day, Departure Day, is for those campers who are flying home unaccompanied by parents or guardians. These campers flying solo will also depart the Ranch on Final Rodeo and campout near the airport with TVRC staff in order to arrive early to the airport for their flights the following morning.

Program Design

While going to summer camp has always been about more than riding horses, pitching a tent, and making crafts, it has only been in the last decade that the camping industry has moved toward establishing outcomes and measuring the effectiveness of camp programs. Teton Valley Ranch Camp is no different.

TVRC's program has a thoughtful, comprehensive design that leads our campers toward developing into independent, confident, and competent young adults ready to make a contribution to their families, their communities, and their world.

What we teach at TVRC:

- Teamwork
- Positivity and Optimism
- Resilience and Courage
- Creativity
- Respect for Others and the Environment
- Leadership Through the Strength to Lead and the Faith to Follow
- Community Living
- Gratitude and Appreciation for Others, for the Wilderness and for Ourselves

How do we measure these outcomes?

The TVRC leadership team works with the American Camp Association's youth outcomes battery (YOB) to regularly measure the strength of our outcomes. The YOB helps us ensure that our intended outcomes are strong, and will support the continued improvement of our summer camp program.

Daily Schedule:

Below is the general schedule for camp. This schedule may vary depending on special activities (such as a Rodeo), trips, weather, etc.

8:00am—Wake-Up Bell

8:15am—Warning Bell

8:30am—Breakfast

9:15am—Cabin Clean-up

9:45am—Fence Meeting

10:00am -12:15pm—Morning Activities

12:30pm—Lunch

1:30-2:30pm—Rest Hour

2:30pm—Guzzles

3:00pm—Fence Meeting

3:15-5:30pm—Afternoon Activities

5:30pm—Free Time

6:30pm—Dinner

7:30-8:30pm—Evening Activities

8:30-9:30pm—Campfire

10:00pm—Lights Out!



Activities offered at camp include horseback riding, fly-fishing, archery, riflery, arts & crafts, lapidary, hiking, nature discovery, and swimming. While a lot of days at camp follow this schedule, we do have other “Special Days” where the schedule is different. For example, Rodeo Days (typically Sunday or Thursdays) have a different schedule, as well as other various days throughout the summer.

Adventure Groups:

At TVRC, campers are divided into five Adventure Groups based on age and experience with the program:

Yearlings – first-year campers, 11 years old

Rough Riders – first or second-year campers, 12-13 years old

Top Hands – returning Rough Riders, and older first-year campers, 13-14 years old

Wranglers – returning Top Hands, 14+ years old

Trailblazers – returning Wranglers 15+ years old

Adventure Groups were created to arrange campers together according to their age and experience. Several cabins generally make up an Adventure Group. For returning campers, each summer builds upon the previous summer’s experience, providing new challenges and adventures each year. Many campers return for up to five summers.

Cabin Requests:

Cabin requests are solicited through your camper application. We work our hardest to match campers with their requested cabin-mates, but cannot guarantee this in every instance. If you have any questions about cabin requests, please email **Bo Phillips** at: bphillips@tvrccamp.org.

Trips Program

In addition to our daily activity programming on the Ranch, campers will participate in our backcountry trips program. Campers often cite their trips into the wilderness as one of the most memorable and impactful experiences of their summer(s) in Wyoming.

TVRC has maintained its backcountry permits for generations; the trips we take today trace their roots back to our beginnings in 1939. We are permitted to bring campers on day and overnight trips into three surrounding national forests (Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, and Shoshone), Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.

All campers will be scheduled to go on at least one backpack trip and one horse pack trip while at camp.

Backpack Trips:

On backpacking trips, each group of staff and campers will carry all necessary clothing, equipment, and food in internal frame hiking backpacks (provided by TVRC). At least one counselor and one TVRC trip leader will lead each backpack trip, and will guide the group through all three stages of each trip: preparation in camp, travel and camping in the backcountry, and cleanup at the end of the trip.

The level of challenge (distance, elevation, grade, conditions, duration, etc.) on each backpacking trip varies by adventure group. Younger campers will go on three and four-day excursions, while older campers may be out for as long as six days.

For more information on basic physical requirements of TVRC programming, please review the Essential Eligibility Criteria on page 10-11 of this Parent Handbook.

Horse Pack Trips:

TVRC runs three different horse pack strings in three different locations, one of which each camper will be assigned to for their pack trip. To help run these operations, TVRC contracts with three local outfitting companies. Outfitters provide mules, horses, and a variety of other equipment necessary for backcountry living. They have extensive knowledge of our local wilderness areas and have built their professional reputations by managing the risks associated with guiding groups of people in the backcountry.

Every pack trip will have at least one TVRC pack trip leader who accompanies the camper group, and is responsible for coordinating with the outfitter leading up to, during, and following the trip. Trip leaders and outfitters partner together to run a successful trip. Pack trips last four or five days, depending on the adventure group. For more information on basic physical requirements of TVRC programming, please review the Essential Eligibility Criteria on page 10-11 of this Parent Handbook.

Associated Risks:

We believe that backcountry camping provides exceptional growth value for our campers. It is worth mentioning that, as with many of our activities, there are inherent risks associated with traveling into the backcountry (see the introductory 'Risks & Safety' statement on page 8 of this Parent Handbook). Examples of these risks include:

- Our groups travel to remote locations where emergency assistance may take as long as 48 hours.
- Wyoming experiences some extreme weather during the summer — cold and hot temperatures, harsh storms including rain, lightning and snow, and rapidly changing conditions.
- We have a wide variety of wildlife in the ecosystems where we travel. Local denizens include moose, bison, elk, black bears, grizzly bears, as well as other large carnivores and smaller creatures.
- Environmental Hazards—Dead trees, moving water, snow fields, lightning, etc.

Safety Management:

We strive to manage the risks associated with backcountry camping in a variety of ways, understanding that we cannot completely eliminate those risks while immersively interacting with the environment.

Each TVRC backcountry trip, whether a day trip or overnight, will have at least one TVRC Trip Leader-trained staff member guiding the group. Counselors and Trip Leaders receive extra backcountry training prior to regular staff training, in which we teach and practice various technical camping, communication and decision-making skills. Trip leaders are also required to be at least 18 years old and have a minimum certification of CPR and Wilderness First Aid.

Each backcountry trip will also have at least one or two counselors who are CPR and First Aid certified and who have received basic backcountry safety training. Counselors are also encouraged to receive Wilderness First Aid certification.

We devote time at camp and during pretrip planning to educating our campers on the skills and concepts necessary to travel and camp in the backcountry. We discuss wildlife, weather, and safety, as well as how to set up camp and cook in the wilderness. We also discuss the important safety principle that each camper in the group shares responsibility for their own well-being and the well-being of the group. We review all of these skills in small groups again, prior to trip departure.

Before every trip, trip leaders participate in a trip briefing with the trips director (or another member of the leadership team), to discuss the route, specific hazards and considerations unique to that trip, and possible contingencies. A follow-up trip debriefing will occur after each trip has returned.

While traveling in the backcountry, each group will have a satellite phone for calls to TVRC or emergency responders if needed. These phones typically function well; however, satellite phones—as with any technology—have the potential to fail in the backcountry. Trip leaders are trained regarding evacuation routes, in the case that they determine to proceed with an evacuation.

We travel in public land areas and emergency services are available if needed.



Outcomes:

While in the backcountry, we strive for our campers to learn and experience many things. First, spending time in the wilderness can be FUN! Second, we will teach basic backcountry camping skills, such as setting up a tent, cooking meals, land navigation, etc. Third, we strive to develop a love and passion for the natural wilderness and outdoors. Finally, we hope to impart lessons about the importance of the environment and minimizing our impact in nature.

Medical Care

In-Camp Care

Infirmary:

At the ranch, the infirmary is staffed with 2 registered nurses, and an infirmary assistant. We will also have on-call support from an MD. This medical staff is on call 24 hours a day to help with any situation that may arise at camp or in the backcountry. Your child will receive medications, as well as care for injuries or illnesses, at the infirmary.

Medications:

Please bring with you or send your child's medication on the opening day of camp. Every camper must check in with the Infirmary on opening day and present the infirmary staff with their medication. All medications (prescription, OTC and "as needed") must be kept in the Infirmary; medication cannot be kept by campers in cabins or trunks. All Camper medication must be in the original container, with the camper's name, prescribing doctor's name (if prescription), medication name and dosing information clearly legible. Prescriptions and daily medication must have at least 30 days' worth; as it is very difficult to refill medication at camp. You will need to contact your physician to secure a 30-day prescription. It may be helpful to clarify for your physician that this is an early fill prescription due to vacation at camp. Campers that come with multiple medications should bring them all in a ziplock bag, with the camper's name on the outside of the bag. There is no need to send common medications such as pain relievers, antihistamines, ear drops, wound ointments, antacids or band-aids as they are stocked in our Infirmary.

You can contact the camp nurse at **307-455-3021** after June 1st or the Jackson Office at **307-733-6122** before June 1st and speak to our staff with any questions regarding medications.

Incidental treatment and supplies are handled at camp with no charge, but prescriptions or "in-town" doctor or dentist visits will be billed to the campers insurance on file and parents will be responsible for payment. Any outside medical charges will be billed back to the family via the Trading Post for any medical or prescription charges incurred by Teton Valley Ranch Camp.

Food Allergies:

Please alert the office to any allergies and/or dietary restrictions your camper may have. Allergy/dietary restriction notifications are distributed to the kitchen, infirmary, counselors, and trip foods. TVRC is a nut aware environment; we will not have nuts in the kitchen or trip foods, but we will not be able to guarantee that foods are prepared in a peanut-free environment. Depending on the allergy/dietary restriction in question, parents may be asked to provide some food for their children during the camp season.

If your child has an Epi-pen, please check the expiration date and send your allergist's plan of care for allergic reactions with the Epi-pen. If your child has history or risk of anaphylaxis, please send him/her with **TWO** Epi-pens.

Correspondence with Infirmary Staff:

You may hear from the infirmary staff prior to camp to clarify information on your child's health form. Please call us if anything changes in your child's health history or prescriptions between the time you submit the forms and the start of camp. In order to provide the best care for your child, it's important that we have the most up-to-date information. During camp, the infirmary staff will call you if:

- Your child has received an injury that is more significant than needing a band-aid
- Your child is ill and needs prescription medicine or outside evaluation
- There is a question about your child's health or medicine
- Your child needs a refill of prescription medicine he/she takes during camp
- Your child is being transferred to a Medical Clinic, a specialist, or emergency department for care
- Your child misses a trip due to illness
- Your child spends more than one activity period in the infirmary
- Your child is having any issues the medical team feels are significant and/ or need to be clarified, or should be followed up on at home
- You may also receive a call if your child loses a tooth, has issues with braces, breaks or loses their glasses, etc.

The direct phone number for the infirmary is: 307-455-3021.

For COVID specific medical questions please see the COVID section on page 38.

Backcountry Care

Backcountry Trips:

All TVRC Trip Leaders are trained in Wilderness First Aid. Trip leaders carry medical kits along with two-way radios, a cell phone, and a satellite phone. Satellite phones are not 100 percent reliable, but often provide a good line of communication between the backcountry trip, the leadership team, the ranch infirmary team, and outside emergency responders if need be. Trip Leaders are briefed on emergency evacuation routes prior to each backcountry trip. Trip Leaders are also briefed on the relevant medical histories of all program participants on each trip.

Out of Camp Care

Dubois Medical Clinic:

The Dubois Medical Clinic is located approximately 30 minutes east of the ranch. During the summer, TVRC-EF uses this clinic if participants or staff members need medical attention that is not available in the infirmary. In addition, individuals needing medical attention while on a hike or trip in Shoshone National Forest may be taken to the Dubois Clinic due to its proximity to those areas. The Dubois Clinic is typically open on weekdays, from 9am-5pm.

St. John's Health, Jackson, WY:

St. John's Health in Jackson is located approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes from the ranch. If your camper requires medical attention while on a hike or trip in Grand Teton National Park, Targhee National Forest, or Bridger-Teton National Forest, he/she will likely be taken to St. John's due to its proximity to those areas. St. John's is also available if medical needs exceed those available at the Dubois Clinic. You will be notified immediately if your camper is taken to a hospital. In the event of the closure of Togwotee Pass between the ranch and Jackson, TVRC or emergency personnel may utilize the Riverton or Lander Hospitals instead. Individuals needing medical attention while on a hike or trip in Shoshone National Forest may be taken to the Riverton, Lander, or Jackson hospital, depending on their exact location.

In Case of Emergency/Evacuation Plan:

In case of an emergency at the ranch requiring immediate evacuation (e.g. wildfire), campers and staff will be taken to the Dubois Elementary School. Please check our website for updates if such an emergency were to occur.

Camper Behavior

Homesickness:

Many parents are concerned about homesickness when sending their camper to TVRC for the first time. A month is a very long time for campers and their families to wrap their minds around. However, we believe that almost every camper will not only be able to cope with being away from home, but will also thrive and build resilience as they push themselves in ways they never thought possible. We ask you, our camper parents, to be our partners with handling homesickness. Below we will outline steps you can take ahead of camp that will set your campers up for success. We have also included several ways you can help while your child is at camp:

- Encourage independence in your child at home as much as possible. Have them spend a night or two at a friend or cousin's house so they can simulate the camp environment by being away from the comforts of home.
- Involve your child in the process of choosing camp. Visit the website with them and look at the pictures. Visit our YouTube channel and watch the promotional videos or slideshows from past years. The more they feel they are making the choice along with you, the more ownership they will feel once they arrive.
- Discuss what camp might be like before they leave. Consider role-playing situations like setting up a tent in the backyard or using a flashlight to find the bathroom at night.
- Talk candidly with your child about the struggles they may face by being away from home. It is okay to tell them they will miss home, but it is also important for them to understand it is normal and that they can have a wonderful time despite that.
- Don't give them "an out". Don't say, "try it for a week, and if you don't like it we will come pick you up." Your child may be having a wonderful time, but if they have it in their mind that they are going home after a week, they will hold you to that expectation.
- Pack personal items from home such as photos of friends and family or a stuffed animal they are especially fond of.
- Pack bedding items to make sure they are comfortable in their bunk. Include a comfortable pillow and pillow case they love, sheets, and nice warm blankets or comforter. Sleeping bags are wonderful and warm on the trail, but we want campers to feel at home in their cabins while at the Ranch.
- Write often! Whether it be a daily email or regular letters, keep the communication coming. Stay away from mentioning everything they are missing at home. Instead, refer to the daily Companion photos you see. Instead of saying, "We went to Grandma's house yesterday and everyone missed you," say, "I saw you went on a trail ride yesterday at camp. How fun!" This communication lets your child know you are aware of what they are doing at camp and are excited they are getting this experience.

- Avoid trying to call and talk to your camper. We discourage phone calls to campers from home, especially in homesick situations. Hearing a parent's voice can make the situation worse. Write instead!
- If there is something difficult happening at home, try and leave that out of your communications when possible. The family may be heartbroken that the dog has passed away, but that is information that might be better received after camp when your child has the support of home and family.
- Don't feel guilty about signing up a reluctant child for camp or encouraging them to stay once the going gets hard. For many children, camp is the first step toward independence and plays an important role in their growth and development.
- Communicate with the camp director about your camper's homesick struggles. If you consistently receive letters from your camper that are concerning, please call camp and let us know. Sometimes, your child will put on a brave face with their cabin mates and counselors, but if you are concerned, we want to know about it.
- Very few homesickness cases are bad enough for the camper to go home. However, if your child is not eating or sleeping because of anxiety or depression, camp may not be the safest place for them. The American Camp Association research has shown that only 7% of really severe cases lead to needing to go home. If the camp directors are concerned about your camper, we will be in touch with you directly.

Bullying:

At Teton Valley Ranch Camp, bullying is inexcusable and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying. Our philosophy is based on our mission statement, which focuses on TVRC's effort to instill self-reliance, a passion and respect for the outdoors, and confidence to thrive. We work together as a team in our effort to support campers, allowing them to gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with unbelievable memories.

Our camp leadership team addresses all known incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their campers so both staff and campers will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their camp experience. Every person has the right to have a positive and enriching experience at camp. By working together as a team to identify and manage conflicts between community members, we can help all campers and staff have a great summer at Teton Valley Ranch Camp. Please reach out to the leadership team if you think your camper is being bullied. Please also recognize that in today's connected age, not all bullying happens at camp. We also want to know about bullying that occurred outside of TVRC (that involves other members of the TVRC community)!

Food and Nutrition

Meals at Camp:

We have three delicious family-style meals and a snack each day at the ranch. Our meals are balanced and nutritious to keep our campers healthy during their time with us. Campers are offered 2-3 servings of fruit, 3-4 servings of vegetables, 3 servings of dairy and sufficient servings of protein and carbohydrates per day. We always have fruit out for campers if they need to snack during the day, and serve mid-afternoon snacks around 2:45 pm. Most of our meals are served in the Dining Hall, with the exception of the Sunday BBQ, which is served on the green.

Kitchen Staff:

The kitchen staff at Teton Valley Ranch Camp prides itself on providing delicious meals each and every day. The kitchen is staffed with culinary experts and creative cooks.



Communication

Birthdays:

Camp is a very exciting place to celebrate a birthday! Our staff will be sure to bake a delicious cake and sing a rousing round of “Happy Birthday” to each camper on their big day. Parents are welcome to call the office to speak with their birthday child. Please call the office a day or two before the big day to set up a time to call and ensure that your camper will not be out of camp on a trip. If you would like to send your camper one small gift to open on his/her birthday, please send it to the attention of the Parent Coordinator and we will ensure that your child receives it on his/her birthday. *Please do not send any food.*

Letters to your Camper:

Campers do not have access to telephones (with the exception of special circumstances) during their time at the ranch. Mail is delivered to the ranch each day and placed in campers’ mailboxes. Because of our remote location, it can take up to 10 days for letters to reach us. Please keep this in mind when writing to your camper.

Emails to your Camper:

As mail can take more than a week to arrive at the ranch, parents can write emails to their campers through CampMinder. In order to send your camper an email, you will need to buy CampStamps. Each camp stamp buys one email. This service will be available through your CampMinder account closer to the start of the summer season. Please note, campers are not able to reply via email.

Letters from your Camper:

Your camper will be required to write one letter per week to family and friends. Please send your camper with a list of addresses so their letters make it to the right place. We receive countless pieces of returned mail each summer, and want to make sure your campers’ family and friends receive their mail. If you do not hear from your camper regularly, please let us know and we will be sure to encourage him/her to write home! Also, please note that when something goes wrong, a young and/or new camper will typically write a dire and frightening letter home immediately, sending you running to the nearest telephone! Typically, by the time you receive such a letter and call us, your child cannot remember why they wrote it. We do, however, encourage you to communicate with us if you sense the need. A series of unhappy letters is much more significant than one dramatic letter.



TVRC Package Policy:

TVRC has found it necessary to enact a strict **NO PACKAGE POLICY**. This policy is necessary for a number of reasons, both related to safety and the overall camp experience. Any packages we receive during the summer that are larger than the standard, letter-size envelope will be held until the end of the season and delivered at departure time. If your child has forgotten a necessary item (rain jacket, sleeping bag, etc.) please email the Parent Coordinator, and send the item to the office addressed to the attention of the Parent Coordinator, with your child's name inside, and we'll ensure that your camper receives this item. Please communicate this message to friends and family, and help us guide them toward sending letters, which are a cherished and deeply meaningful way to express love and caring thoughts to campers. Thank you for understanding and supporting this policy, and for helping to keep camp safe! Please read familiarize yourself with TVRC's areas of concern included in your CampMinder forms.

Correspondence with Camp:

At TVRC, we make it a priority to keep in touch with parents and we will be in touch several times throughout the session to let you know how camp is running. We are available at any time for questions, concerns, or just a check in. Please do not hesitate to give us a call or drop us an email. Please note that if you would like to talk to someone on the leadership team, it is best to call between 9:30am-5pm MST, although a member of the leadership team is on site 24 hours a day.

Parent Coordinator:

Each summer, TVRC hires a parent coordinator whose role is to keep parents updated throughout each season. The parent coordinator will be available via email or phone to answer questions or concerns throughout the summer. The email address at camp is parentcoordinator@tvrccamp.org and will be up and running by June 1st.

Summer News & Photos:

Our parent coordinator will update our News and Photos tab on CampMinder and the Companion App most days with photos and a summary of the previous day. At the beginning of the summer, we will contact parents with more information about this service. Due to our remote location, there are times when we will lose our internet connection. We will do our very best to have the news and photos posted by lunchtime each day, but please understand that internet interruptions can sometimes delay this process. Also, if you do not see your camper in photos for several days at a time, chances are they are out on a backpack or a pack trip. Wait a couple of days until they have returned to camp and pictures from their trip are posted.

Campanion:

We utilize the CampMinder Campanion App which allows you to upload a photo of your child and creates a curated stream of every photo we take of your camper during the summer season. It'll also be a place for quick "News" updates from the Ranch! Campanion is also the easiest way to access your child's forms and has all of the same information and forms that are housed in your CampInTouch account.



CAMPANION

Correspondence with Counselors:

Your camper's cabin counselor will contact you with a postcard within the first week of the season to introduce himself or herself and update you on your child. Counselors will also check in with a phone call during the camp season. It may be difficult to reach cabin counselors when calling the Ranch, as they are usually participating in different program areas with campers. Mealtimes are often a good time to call if you need to speak with a cabin counselor.

Facebook/Instagram/Youtube:

Want to stay in touch with TVRC year-round? Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TVRCCamp. "Like" our page and frequent updates will appear in your newsfeed! You can also follow us on Instagram (@tvrccamp), and check out our Youtube Channel "TVRCCamp."



Camper Accounts

Trading Post (Camp Store):

Throughout the summer, campers will have a Trading Post account available to them at the camp store. Every day when the camp store is open, campers have the opportunity to buy camp apparel and backcountry gear. Each camper will be billed for purchases made at the Trading Post at the end of the season. You can see your camper's account balance through our online system, CampInTouch, during the camp season. Other charges to Trading Post accounts may include fishing licenses, return flight travel money, checked baggage charges, town trip money, medical expenses, and FedEx shipping charges. Additionally, you will be able to charge any purchases made on Arrival Day or Final Rodeo to your camper's account. We require families to have a valid Credit Card on file with us. We typically send final invoices in September and can bill the Credit Card on file or a mailed check.

Camper Limits at the Trading Post:

In preparation for camp, please discuss with your camper your expectations for how/if they will spend money at the Trading Post. Additionally, if you have a specific limit for spending that you would like to set, you can email that information to pnielsen@tvrcamp.org and parentcoordinator@tvrcamp.org. We do not preload balances for Trading Post accounts, so you will receive these charges in an invoice after the camping season is over, typically these are sent in September.

A Look Into the Trading Post:

With the exception of Sundays and other special days, including ceremonies week, campers are able to purchase a “guzzle” (snack or drink item) from the Trading Post each day. A \$30 charge to each campers Trading Post account at the beginning of the season will cover the cost for Guzgles. Additionally, the Trading Post has many essential items available to campers, such as toothpaste, stamps, batteries, water bottles, and headlamps. The store also has a wide variety of apparel, such as sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweatpants, and western shirts.

Below are some prices of highly recommended items from the Trading Post, as well as other items your camper may want to purchase:

Lariat: \$50	Roping Gloves: \$12
Nalgene: \$13	Sweatshirt: \$50
T-Shirt: \$20	Sweatpants: \$28
Crazy Creek™ (camping chair): \$50	

Below are some prices of other charges your camper might incur during the summer:

FedEx Charges: \$125-175 (depending on location and size)
Fishing License: \$27.50



Town Trips:

While we are trending towards incorporating Town Trips back into our program this year, we are currently monitoring the COVID situation and we will make final decisions as we get closer to summer.



Mid-Season Family Visits to the Ranch

Visits to the ranch in the middle of the season are unlikely this summer due to the necessity of preserving our camp "bubble" to keep the summer as normal as possible (see "COVID-19" section below for more information). Final Rodeo is a great chance to come and visit camp and your child at the end of the sessions!

Registering Your Child for TVRC

Both boys' and girls' seasons at Teton Valley Ranch Camp fill up very quickly. In an effort to provide the camp experience to as many children as possible, we have several different registration options available.

Returning Campers:

After boys' and girls' seasons conclude, we give returning campers the opportunity to immediately register for the following summer. On September 15, registration opens to new campers, so it is important that **returning campers should apply BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15** in order to guarantee a spot.

Payment Schedule:

A \$1,750 non-refundable deposit is due with each application submitted to Teton Valley Ranch Camp. Billing for the remainder of tuition will occur in the spring. All payments are due to TVRC by May 1.

Future Campers:

If you are interested in sending your child to camp sometime after 2022, you are welcome to fill out an inquiry form through our website. These forms are kept on file to alert the office team of your interest in camp. When the year of your choosing arrives, we will contact you about registration. Filling out a form does not require a deposit. To complete an inquiry form, please visit http://bit.ly/TVRC_Inquiry_Form!

Wait List:

We often have a wait list for enrollment at Teton Valley Ranch Camp. The office team will update wait-listed families throughout the winter with the movement of camp spaces. If a spot does become available, you will have the ability to accept or decline the spot. If your child does not receive a spot, or declines a spot that opens, you will receive your deposit back in full. A camper's final acceptance and enrollment in a camp program is contingent upon TVRC's receipt of tuition by the required date, and receipt/review of all completed/signed camp forms (see the application terms).

Financial Aid Applicants:

Financial aid applicants are required to submit a \$250 deposit with each application to Teton Valley Ranch Camp. Once a camper is registered at TVRC, please call the office to inquire about the financial aid process. Campers must be enrolled in the camp program to be eligible for financial aid. If a financial aid applicant does not receive sufficient aid or chooses to decline registration at TVRC, the application deposit will be refunded in full.

Financial Aid Application Due – **February 15**

Financial Aid Decisions Announced – **Early March**

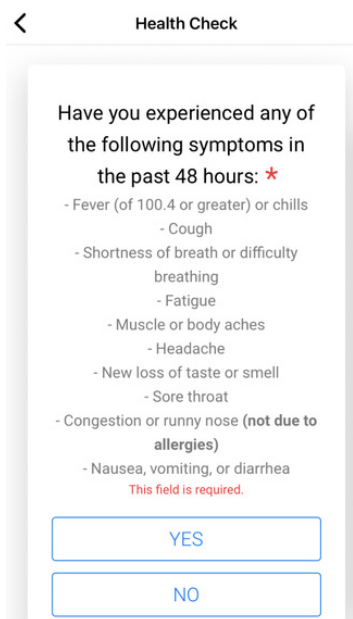
COVID-19 Information

Our goal for the 2022 season is to provide a normal camp experience for our campers, which hasn't been possible since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. By having a high vaccination rate in our camp community, we are able to create our own community immunity which will allow us the comfort to safely return to normal programming.

Vaccine exemptions are due May 1st in order to receive approval prior to the camping season. We are asking our camper families to be our partners by setting us up for a healthy and successful summer season. We understand that a healthy camp begins at home, so we are asking families to do the following prior to camp:

- Download the Campanion App and fill out the daily health log for your camper starting the week before camp.
- Upload your camper's vaccine card.
- Only participate in low-risk activities the weeks prior to camp.
- Have your camper tested 24-72 hours prior to camp and upload the results into the Campanion App.

Please visit the Covid-19 Response page for more up-to-date information at www.tvrcamp.org/covid-19-response



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface titled "Health Check" with a back arrow. The text asks: "Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours: *". Below this is a list of symptoms: "- Fever (of 100.4 or greater) or chills", "- Cough", "- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing", "- Fatigue", "- Muscle or body aches", "- Headache", "- New loss of taste or smell", "- Sore throat", "- Congestion or runny nose (not due to allergies)", and "- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea". A red note states "This field is required." At the bottom are two buttons: "YES" and "NO".



Accommodations

There are three rental agencies that have cars available at the Jackson Hole Airport: Avis, Hertz, and Enterprise. Other rental agencies in town have in-town pick-up with shuttle service from the airport.

If you would like to make plans to visit, below is a list of a few of the accommodations in Dubois and Jackson.

Dubois Area Motels

Stagecoach Motor Inn
800-455-5090
www.stagecoachmotel-dubois.com

Trails End
888-455-6660
www.trailsendmotel.com

Twin Pines Lodge and Cabins 800-550-
6332 www.twinpineslodge.com

Branding Iron Inn 888-651-
9378
www.brandingironinn.com

Cabin on the Winds
303-989-7260
www.glampingdubois.com

Ranches/Lodges/Bed & Breakfasts

CM Ranch
800-455-0721
www.cmranch.com

Jakey's Fork B&B 307-
455-2769

Brooks Lake Lodge 307-
455-2121
www.brookslake.com

Triangle C Ranch 800-
661-4928
www.trianglec.com

West of Dubois

Togwotee Mountain Lodge 800-
543-2847
www.togwoteelodge.com

The Hatchet Resort 877-
543-2413
www.hatchetresort.com

Lava Mountain Lodge
800-919-9570
www.lavamountainlodge.com

Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton Lodge Company
800-628-9988
www.gtlc.com

Turpin Meadow Ranch 307-543-9147
www.turpinmeadowranch.com

Jackson Area

Town of Jackson

Rustic Inn
800-323-9279
www.rusticinnatjh.com

Wyoming Inn
307-734-0035
www.wyominginn.com

The Wort Hotel
800-322-2727
www.worthotel.com

The Lodge at Jackson Hole
800-458-3866
www.lodgeatjh.com

The Lexington
888-771-2648
www.lexingtonhoteljacksonhole.com

Teton Village - Teton Mountain
Lodge 307-201-6066
www.tetonlodge.com

Mountain Modern Motel
307-733-4340
www.mountainmodernmotel.com

The Cloudveil
307-699-6100
www.thecloudveil.com

Snow King Resort
307-734-3000
www.snowking.com

Hotel Terra
307-201-6065
www.hotelterrajacksonhole.com

Ranches

Lost Creek Ranch
307-733-3435
www.lostcreek.com

Triangle X Ranch
307-733-2183
www.trianglex.com

R Lazy S Ranch 307-733-2655
www.rlazys.com



Glossary

Absaroka Mountains — The mountain range just to the north of TVRC.

Black Bart — A villain who haunts TVRC, always stealing the camp horses.

Breakfast Ride — An early morning ride on camp property culminating with a one-of-a-kind backcountry breakfast!

Camp Expo — Occurring on the second day of camp, this event is a way for the campers to learn a variety of different camp skills while also getting to know different areas in camp.

CC Pack Trip — A pack trip venturing into the Gros Ventre Wilderness, near Crystal Creek.

Cowboy Overnight — The overnight at the beginning of camp for the Yearling adventure group, which usually involves an effort to apprehend Black Bart.

Ceremonies — The culmination of every camper's adventure group experience, occurring at the end of the camp month. Ceremonies are a celebration of the summer, designed to show a sense of teamwork and pride.

Chapel — A non-religious time of reflection and thought held by various adventure groups each Sunday.

Disco — Shortened name for the camp activity, nature discovery. A naturalist program that involves science, the outdoors, and creative fun!

First Degree — An introductory course where members of the camp community learn the basics of horseback riding (how to approach a horse, saddle, bridle, ride, etc.)

Games on the Green — An activity held on the camp's athletic field with a large number of participants (examples include: ultimate frisbee, soccer, etc.)

Guzzles — A snack served in the afternoon at the Trading Post most days.

Gymkhana — Equestrian activity for riders on horseback, most often referring to the practice of rodeo events: pole bending, barrel racing, etc.

Hopper — The individual who supplies food to and clears items from the table at a meal. Campers and staff take turns with this important job.

Horsemanship — The basics of learning how to work with a horse, including horse behavior and psychology.

Infirmary — Where campers receive daily medication and health or injury care.

JD Pack Trip — Short for Jack Davis, a historic TVRC pack trip leader, these pack trips venture into the wilderness areas of Bridger-Teton National Forest.

JH Campfire — Occurring the second night of camp, this pageant presented by the staff depicts the history of the greater Yellowstone region.

Lapidary — The craft of cutting, shaping and polishing stones; performed in the lapidary shop.

Mountain (Wo)Man Overnight — A trip taken by the Rough Rider adventure group to gain experience in sleeping outdoors, learn how to use stoves, and practice taking care of a camp site.

Peace of the River — Camp song sung nightly following the Teton Serenade.

TB Vespers (Reflections) — The opportunity given to all Trailblazers to reflect on their experience at TVRC with the camp community.

Teton Serenade — Camp song sung at the end of every campfire to close out the day.

Wild West Night — A square dance that occurs toward the end of girls' season.

Wrangling — The act of turning horses out at night and bringing them in every morning; performed by Wrangler campers.



Teton Valley Ranch Camp
Dubois, Wyoming

www.tvrcamp.org