2017 Dates

Boys’ Season
Arrival: Friday, June 16
Final Rodeo: Friday, July 14
Departure: Saturday, July 15

Girls’ Season
Arrival: Monday, July 17
Final Rodeo: Monday, August 14
Departure: Tuesday, August 15

Expeditions:
Teton Crest & Grand Teton Climb
Arrival: Monday, July 17
Departure: Saturday, August 15
Dear TVRC Friends and Family,

Our favorite song at Teton Valley Ranch Camp begins with the lyrics, “I know a place…” Anyone lucky enough to attend TVRC as a camper, work here as a staff member, or drop their child off for the adventure of boys’ or girls’ season knows how important that place truly is. For generations these same mountain spires and cool sparkling streams have inspired young people to grow as individuals and as members of this remarkable community.

There’s absolutely no doubt that 2016 will forever be remembered as a year of extraordinary ups and downs here at Teton Valley Ranch Camp. Through it all I’ve seen and felt the strength and support of our entire community! Our Roundup Tour in January and February saw eight wonderfully-attended stops. These were not only camper recruitment events, but also served as opportunities to reconnect with old friends and the mission of TVRC.

Our staff recruitment and hiring season yielded a group of counselors, barn staff, program staff, and trip leaders who were dedicated to making the most of every day they had with the campers. This enthusiasm and engagement blasted out of orientation and made our boys’ season a huge success in two main areas. The first area is in the lessons and skills our campers learned. From building horsemanship skills to cooking in the backcountry, we saw great gains in both confidence and competence across all adventure groups.

The second was in the important realm of friendships. One of the greatest examples of this came during boys’ season Trailblazer vespers. One by one, these young men stood before the entire camp and affirmed the values of exploration, respect, patience, and empathy. One Trailblazer recounted stories of his five years at TVRC and how he learned to give a “hand up, rather than a put down” to a struggling peer.

At the start of girls’ season, the Lava Mountain Fire loomed to the west. We saw teamwork and shared support among and within adventure groups. Our campers displayed real courage and cooperation in the process, helping me further understand what we mean when we talk about “the strength to lead and faith to follow.”

As we look toward the work ahead of us, we’re grateful for the help that’s already come from generous friends. We’re also grateful to have the help of experts in forest fire recovery to guide us in the process of taking steps to mitigate the negative effects of erosion, and to promote regrowth of a healthy ecosystem. The way I look at it, we just happen to be in place to witness a process that happens once every 100 to 150 years. We’re used to living on “nature’s time” here at TVRC. Our commitment to this community, and to each of our campers is not simply recovery, it is progress. We plan to move confidently in the direction of our dreams!

As we plan our 2017 Roundup Tour we hope to see as many of you as possible. I would love to have the opportunity to share the vision of where we are, and where we’re going. I also want to hear your stories of TVRC yesteryears. Please join us, bring friends, and help spread the word about TVRC!

Yours in Camp Spirit,

Matthew Cook, Executive Director
In 2013, The TVRC Education Foundation launched an endowment campaign to support the ranch and camp program and make the TVRC experience more accessible through financial aid. With the Lava Mountain Fire this year, we proved the significance of having an endowment fund. In the coming months, we are excited to be in touch as we move to complete this campaign in order to secure the future of camp for generations to come.

The Endowment will allow us to focus on making our camp program the best it can be while supporting the ranch and facility.
Our summer got off to a wonderful start as we began welcoming our first staff members to the ranch for training in mid-May. Boys’ season Arrival Day was a gorgeous Wyoming summer day. Our boys’ season campers embarked on adventures through the Wyoming wilderness, honing their skills with each passing day. In camp, we spent sunny days practicing roping for weekly rodeos, learning about our ecosystem in the discovery program, and establishing lifelong friendships.

Due to the Lava Mountain Fire, we evacuated camp on the fourth day of girls’ season. Despite the circumstance, our campers demonstrated resilience and tenacity throughout the evacuation, setting the example for all of us.

As a trip that operates almost entirely in the backcountry, our Expeditions program continued and completed their entire 21-day program despite the Lava Mountain Fire. Expeditions students demonstrated their leadership, carrying forward in an atypical summer, capping off the whole trip with a successful summit of the Grand Teton!

Although our summer presented significant challenges, we were able to come away stronger than ever due to the support of the TVRC community. We had many opportunities for our campers to put our desired outcomes to the test and they all passed with flying colors! We look forward to seeing everyone back on the ranch in 2017!
The heartbreak associated with the death of our dear friend Alex “Razz” Razzolini on August 30, 2016 ran deeply across the entire TVRC family. Razz had been working full time for three years and seasonally for five years. In that time, Razz established himself as a man of the strongest character and kindness. His ironclad work ethic and willingness to help anyone at any time earned him true friends and scores of admirers. Undoubtedly, we all feel the loss in our own way, but one thing we’ll all miss is the way Razz embodied his values in all he did. Razz was hardworking, respectful, kind, generous, selfless, honest, and had the “strength to lead and faith to follow.”

Razz made a conscious choice to live his ethics day to day. This was certainly not the easy path, and he would be the first one to admit that he wasn’t perfect, but he tried every day—can we all say the same?

Let us hold Razz in our hearts as we go out in the world. Let us remember, honor, and recommit to living our values out loud, the way Razz did—with a smile and a firm handshake. And may his story be told.

In the 2016 summer, we added a new pack trip. After 37 years of dedicated service outfitting hundreds of pack trips for many generations of TVRC campers, this winter Warren Fleming announced his retirement as a TVRC outfitter. As a community, we cannot thank Warren enough for countless early mornings and late nights, for keeping hundreds of our campers safe and happy on his trips, and for the wealth of knowledge he has offered to our campers and staff throughout his many years working with TVRC.

This year, we began working with Heath and Sarah Woltman of Bear Basin Adventures. Venturing into the Absaroka and Wind River mountain ranges, these trips will be forever known as the “Warren Fleming” (WF) pack trips to honor Warren’s longtime commitment to TVRC. We couldn’t be happier to have Heath, Sarah, and Bear Basin Outfitters on board and we’re excited for the adventure ahead!
Wendy Millman Troxel, PhD (Camper ‘86-’89, Counselor ‘94) and her husband Jon are delighted to send their daughter, Calla (age 11) to TVRC this summer for the first time. Wendy is a clinical psychologist and sleep researcher, working for the RAND Corporation. Her work is widely published in medical and scientific journals as well as the mainstream media, including being featured in the National Geographic documentary “Sleepless in America.” Wendy notes, “I have always credited TVRC with being one of the most formative experiences in my life—not only giving me a love of the mountains and nature, but also a spirit of adventure and willingness to try new things, even when they seem scary at first! I’ve always thought that I’d love for one of my children, Calla, or older brother, Jack, to get to experience TVRC as I did, but busy schedules, year-long sports practices, and other activities have gotten in the way. What finally did it for me—was running into Kitty Northrop Friedman (TVRC camper) at a child’s birthday party in Utah! It’s been over 20 years, but I recognized her almost instantaneously, and then we were hugging, crying, and sharing camp stories with our children. It was at that point that I knew I had to give the TVRC experience to our daughter.”

Gus Karres (Camper ‘10-’13) is currently a freshman at The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina, in Charleston, SC. He is a biology major, a member of the Honors College, a Navy Midshipmen (officer in training), and a member of the football team. After graduating, he will commission as an Ensign into the United States Navy with aspirations to be a Naval Aviator and hopefully get the opportunity to fly fighter jets. Gus’s four summers spent as a camper at TVRC helped inspire an even deeper love and appreciation for the outdoors as well as sharpen his leadership skills in an environment where decisions came with real world consequences, especially out on the trail. It also instilled in him a desire to never quit and a strong sense of confidence that is vital to surviving freshman year at The Citadel. For Gus, the time spent out in Wyoming was some of the best of his life and is something he will cherish forever. His hobbies outside of school, football, and Naval training consist of skiing, hunting, shooting, and spending countless hours hanging out with his dogs Jackson and Moose (both named after their respective towns in Wyoming). TVRC has been a huge part of his life and will continue to be as his younger brother, Brodie, looks to start his Top Hand year this summer.

This has been a year of many TVRC weddings!

Jeff Broeder (Staff ’07-’11, ’13-’14) and Kristen Piontek, Grant Gerhard (Camper ’01-’04, Staff ’09-’13) and Veronica Tuerffs (Staff ’10-’14), Emmy Kean (Camper ’01-’04, Staff ’08-’11) and Thomas Watsabaugh (T Lazy T Outfitters), Casey Sedlack (Camper ’97-’98, Staff ’10-’12) and Tyler Sorch, Pat Taylor (Camper ’98-’01, Staff ’03-’06, ’09) and Elizabeth McNaughton, Morgan Durham (Staff ’08-’10) and Charlie Burks, Rob O’Neill (Staff ’14-’15) and Michelle Bartley, Nicole Domanski (Staff ’08) and Rich Marshall, Ned Chanatry (Staff ’12-’14) and Carly Platt (Staff ’04-’15), Rachel Patrick (Staff ’07-’10) and Jason Kinsaul were all married this year.
Now that the immediate danger of the fire has passed, we are being put to the real test as we recover. We're working with local contacts to begin harvesting poles to replace fence, felling trees to mitigate erosion on the hillsides, and planting grass to promote regrowth in the burn areas. We've had an unseasonably warm fall in Wyoming this year, which has allowed us to get a head start on many of these exciting projects. The Dubois Crowheart Conservation District is working with us to help execute the best recovery process as we move forward. We will continue working with contacts at Wyoming State Forestry in Riverton and Fremont County Firewise to ensure that we use best practices when it comes to fuels mitigation.

We have lots of exciting projects on the horizon as we continue the recovery process, and we are eager for the opportunity to use the fire as a lesson for our campers throughout the summer. As we rebuild many of the iconic sites on the ranch, including the breakfast ride, chapel, and archery range, we are eager to incorporate our vision for the future into the entire design. We will continue to update the camp community as we rebuild and restore!

In addition to our community, camp families, campers, and staff, we would also like to thank all the groups who worked around the clock to protect our ranch, including:

- Prineville Hotshots
- Midnight Sun Hotshots
- Yankton Agency
- Grayback Hotshots
- Tatanka Hotshots
- Roosevelt Hotshots
- Zig Zag Hotshots
- Dubois Volunteer Fire Department
- Fremont Rural Fire
- USFS-Shoshone National Forest
- Western Montana Incident Management Team
- Great Basin Incident Management Team
- Bureau of Land Management Fremont County Firewise
- Elk Creek Fire Rescue
- Black Tooth Fire Module
- Sedona Fire

Support the Lava Mountain Fire Fund!

To support the Lava Mountain Fire Fund and other camp projects, please visit www.tvrcamp.org/donate. We are grateful for any contribution you are able to make to support this process!
2017 Roundup Tour

The TVRC team may be heading your way this January and February on our annual Roundup Tour! We’ll make the following stops on the tour:

- New York, NY
- Chicago, IL
- Darien, CT
- Los Angeles, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Jackson, WY

Specific dates and locations will be listed at www.tvrcamp.org/rounduptour as they become available.

Roundups are a great way to learn more about TVRC and get involved in the camp community. We hope to see you on the road and encourage you to bring family and friends who may be interested in TVRC!

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