



# ELK CREEK RANCH

## 2024 APPLICATION

To apply to Elk Creek Ranch, detach the application and complete the applicable portions of the form, indicate your session and optional activity preferences, attach the deposit, and mail to Elk Creek Ranch, PO Box 1476, Cody, WY 82414. Keep the Fact Sheet and Equipment List for your future reference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

School and Grade Completed in June: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Billing Address** (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

From whom or how did you learn about Elk Creek Ranch?

Friends  Family  Website  Facebook  Google  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Previous Riding Experience:

Western English

Please be specific and offer detail regarding your previous riding experience.

Never Ridden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Novice Rider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Average Rider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Advanced Rider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**Name of Company Carrying Health and Accident Insurance:** Please attach a copy of your insurance card

\_\_\_\_\_ Policy/Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_

### RANCH SESSIONS:

### LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: *(see fact sheet)*

	Tuition	Preference		Tuition	Preference
June 12 to July 8	\$7,200	<input type="checkbox"/>	June 9 to July 8	\$6,900	<input type="checkbox"/>
July 9 to August 4	\$7,200	<input type="checkbox"/>	July 8 or 9 to August 4	\$6,900	<input type="checkbox"/>
June 12 to August 4	\$13,200	<input type="checkbox"/>	June 9 to August 4	\$12,700	<input type="checkbox"/>

## OPTIONAL RANCH ACTIVITIES:

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Select</b>	
Yellowstone-Teton Caravan	\$375	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Please note: Due to space limitations in vehicles, participation in the Caravan will be limited to the first 15 children to be signed up.</i>
Fishing	license required	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Backpacking	no additional cost	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Target & Skeet Shooting	ammunition used	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Tuition includes the Wyoming State Sales Tax and shuttle service between the Billings or Cody airports and the ranch.

**Deposit:** In order to reserve your spot, we must receive a completed application and a deposit of \$1,500. The deposit is refundable if you notify us of a change in plans before February 1. For applications received after February 1, the deposit is not refundable.

**Discounts:** A 10% discount is available for applications received before January 1, and a 10% discount is also available for the second and third children from a single family during the same summer. Only one discount can be applied per Rancher.

**Tuition Refund:** The tuition balance is due by May 1. No refunds can be made for cancellations after that date. If applying after May 1, the full tuition must accompany the application.

**Canteen Account:** We ask for a \$125 deposit in our ranch store to cover miscellaneous expenses such as laundry, spending money for trips, and other personal purchases. Those who opt to participate in target and skeet shooting will be charged for the ammunition they use. Any unused funds will be returned to the parents at the end of the summer. If the account has been overdrawn, the Ranch will bill the parents.

## AGREEMENT:

Elk Creek Ranch is aware of the safety challenges involved in the Ranch programs. Although we stress "safety first" as part of the best western tradition, we cannot assume responsibility for accident or illness, both of which can occur under the most vigilant supervision. It is required that you accurately complete and sign the Elk Creek Ranch medical form and medical release permitting hospital care. This information and authorization will allow us to respond to medical emergencies in the most effective manner possible.

In signing this application, you acknowledge that the use, handling, and riding of a horse involves a risk of physical injury to any individual undertaking such activities. You understand that a horse, irrespective of its training and usual past behavior and characteristics, may act or react unpredictably at times, based upon instinct or fright, which is an inherent risk assumed by a horseback rider.

In signing this application, you expressly assume such risk and waive any claim against Elk Creek Ranch as a result of physical injury incurred in said activities, except to the extent such claim might be based upon the sole and exclusive negligence of the Elk Creek Ranch. You further agree to hold the camp harmless for physical injury to others, or for property damage, which results from your child's use of the camp's horse in violation of any camp rules or the terms and conditions of this agreement.

The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other drugs or drug paraphernalia is not permitted, and therefore constitutes grounds for dismissal without a refund.

Elk Creek Ranch welcomes campers of any race, religion, national, and ethnic origin and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national or ethnic origin. In our mission to create a close-knit community, we do not tolerate any bullying or discrimination of any sort. If your child's behavior/actions prove to be harmful to the Elk Creek Ranch community, the directors reserve the right to send your child home without tuition refund. In addition, all travel expenses will be covered by the parent/guardian.

In signing this application, you hereby give permission for Elk Creek Ranch to use photographs, addresses and e-mails of or including your child in the brochures, newsletters, website, Facebook and slide shows.

This agreement shall be effective and binding upon the parties hereto for the duration of their stay at Elk Creek Ranch. The parties hereto acknowledge having read and understood this agreement.

In signing this application, you understand that, under the Wyoming Recreation Safety Act, Wyoming Statutes #1121-1123 (sign. 1993), your child's participation in dude-ranching activities, swimming, alpine skiing, snowboarding, mountain climbing, river floating, fishing, backcountry trips, horseback riding, and any other equine activity, and similar recreational opportunities implies that you have assumed the inherent risks of injury associated with such activities.

In signing this application, it is Elk Creek Ranch's understanding that you, as parent or guardian, having reviewed the information made available to you about the Ranch program, have judged your child capable of participating safely and fully in all of the Ranch activities.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_



# ELK CREEK RANCH

## FACT SHEET

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

**Fishing** of all sorts is available in the Sunlight country. The Ranch provides short afternoon and evening stream fishing trips with longer overnights to the lake country of the Beartooth Mountains. There is no Ranch charge for fishing, but a state fishing license is required and can be purchased through the Ranch or online in advance of the summer. A Rancher will need to have his or her Social Security number to make the purchase.

Our **Backpacking** program has become very popular in recent years, in part because of the proximity of large national wilderness areas. We offer short day and overnight trips, and end each session with your choice of a challenging four-day backpack or horse pack-trip.

The **Yellowstone-Teton Caravan** is a three-day van tour through the two national parks seeing the spectacular mountain country and the unique thermal features. The group will spend two nights at Colter Bay Tent Village in the Tetons and will devote part of the second day to time in Jackson and part of the day rafting the Snake River. Please note, due to space limitations in vehicles, participation in the Caravan will be limited to the first 15 children to be signed up.

### LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AT ELK CREEK RANCH:

When Emily and Doc Ridgway first started Elk Creek, they envisioned an experience for young people between their youth-camp years and their first summer jobs. Elk Creek was to be a place where young people faced more challenges and took on more responsibilities while at the same time enjoying an authentic western ranch experience. Over the years many Ranchers have actually graduated to leadership positions as Junior and Senior Counselors. In 2013, we established a process to enhance the leadership opportunities Elk Creek offers young people. The Ranchers can look ahead to a progression of challenges and responsibilities.

- All Ranchers participate in the Work Crew Program, creating a sense of responsibility and personal accomplishment, and will receive a refund of up to \$100 at the end of the summer in recognition of their efforts.
- Ranchers who have attended Elk Creek for at least two sessions over two summers and who are at least 15 years of age can choose to return to the Ranch in the Leadership Program. They will arrive before the other Ranchers for orientation and will be given increased responsibilities in the different Ranch programs. Those Ranchers interested and who meet the qualifications above should indicate their intent on the application and include a letter of interest.
- Elk Creek has been very fortunate to have developed our staff from past participants in the Ranch program. First-year Counselors pay half the normal ranch tuition, and Second-year Counselors pay no Ranch tuition. Senior Counselors are salaried.

### TRANSPORTATION:

We make arrangements with a travel agency to organize each individual's trip to and from the Ranch. Upon receipt of your application and deposit, we will contact the agency giving them all the necessary information. The agency will in turn notify you regarding final travel plans. This arrangement allows all Ranchers to travel as a group while at the same time enabling us to coordinate our surface transportation between the airports and Sunlight. Some families opt to use their travel miles for their children's transportation, but it is important to coordinate the flights with those arranged by the travel agency. Please remember that Billings, Montana is 120 miles from the Ranch, and individual travel arrangements are very difficult to arrange. Arrivals to Billings should be scheduled between 11:00am and 2:00pm MDT and departures should be between 10:00am and 2:00pm MDT. Parents of Ranchers under the age of 15 should check with our designated travel agent or their airline on any "unaccompanied minor" restrictions.

## EQUIPMENT LIST:

Most of the items listed below can be purchased in Cody if the need arises. Be certain to **label all clothing and equipment**. In all cases the more rugged the equipment the better its chances of surviving the rigors of a Wyoming summer.

### RANCH - required

- compressible mummy sleeping bag with stuff sack (*good to at least 20 degrees. Please, no cotton or flannel*)
- Thermarest or similar sleeping pad
- sheets (1 set)
- blankets (2)
- towels (2)
- riding boots with heel and smooth sole (*Western or eastern boots will work*)
- sneakers
- warm jacket (*down recommended*)
- hiking boots
- socks (8 pairs)
- wool socks (4 pairs)
- blue jeans (4 pairs)
- shirts (10) (*mixture of long and short sleeved shirts*)
- underwear (10 sets)
- long underwear, top & bottom (*polypropylene*)
- pajamas (2)
- laundry bags (2) labelled with name

- toilet articles (*including sunscreen*)
- shorts (*gym or quick dry*)
- heavy wool sweater, fleece jacket, down or fleece vest (*combination of 2*)
- fleece pants
- work gloves
- warm hat & gloves
- waterproof rain jacket (*no ponchos*)
- waterproof rain pants
- swimming suit
- water shoes/boots/Crocs
- 32 oz water bottle (2)
- flashlight/headlamp
- western hat/baseball cap

### RANCH - optional

- musical instrument
- fishing equipment (*licenses should be purchased in advance at [wgfd.wyo.gov/apply-or-buy](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/apply-or-buy)*)
- camera (*see policy below on cell phones*)
- books

- pocket knife
- writing/drawing supplies
- pillow/pillowcases
- day pack (30 to 35 L) (*for hiking or fishing*)
- cell phone (*for travel days*)
- camp chair (*Crazy Creek or similar*)
- dress clothes for square dance and town trip

Please, no hair dryers, straighteners or curling irons.

### BACKPACKERS - required

- hiking boots (*well broken in, with cleated soles*)
- backpack (*large capacity, 65L to 75L*)
- moisture wicking shirt (2)
- light socks (4 pairs) (*polypropylene recommended*)

Please call if you need suggestions for new equipment.

## REFERENCES, COMMUNICATION & FURTHER INFORMATION:

The Ridgway Reporter (available at [elkcreekranch.com](http://elkcreekranch.com) under the News menu), lists the names and cities of all last summer's Ranchers. If you would like to contact someone on that list as a reference, we are happy to connect you or provide additional references.

We only have one phone line at the Ranch. We ask that Ranchers and family be thoughtful with limiting the number and duration of phone calls. If you would like to call, you will most likely reach your child at meal times (8:00am, 12:00pm and 6:00pm MDT). Dinner on Saturday is at 6:30pm and Sunday meals are at 10:00am and 4:00pm MDT. Parents can also reach Ranch personnel via phone or email at the addresses listed in our contact information.

**Elk Creek Ranch Cell Phone Policy:** Cell phone usage can be very detrimental to our efforts to immerse Ranchers in a western experience and to create a close community. We understand that having phone contact during travel is often important, but Ranchers will check in their cell phones (and we recommend their other valuables) upon arrival at the Ranch. **Ranchers should not rely on their cell phones as cameras or music devices.**

As we all know from painful experience, the airlines are charging much more for baggage. Some families have turned to UPS and FedEx, but that option has turned out to be even more expensive and difficult for the Ranchers on their final day. We recommend pre-paying the baggage fees through the airlines (**but making sure to send us the pre-paid receipts**). Sometimes other family travel plans require non-airline shipping in which case the address listed below should be used.

Letters and packages sent USPS should be addressed your child at Elk Creek Ranch, PO Box 1476, Cody, WY, 82414. Packages sent UPS, FedEx, etc. should be addressed to your child at 114 Sunlight Road, Cody, WY, 82414.