



Welcome to Blue Mountain Ranch! As a new camper you probably have a lot of questions about what will be going on. Well, I'm going to try to ease your mind a bit!

Arrival at camp is usually between 10:00 and 2:00, but people will be arriving all day. **When you arrive at camp the first day**, you will check in with the office so we know you are here. Then, depending on the time, you will either go to a planned activity or your cabin, eat lunch (your parents are invited!) or go on a "rotation" of important camp places with your cabin group. You will have a chance to talk with the counselors about different classes and ask them questions! For example, you will meet with the horseback counselors who will need to know how much experience you have. (YOU NEED BOOTS OR SHOES WITH HEELS TO RIDE HORSES.) You'll also see the nurse (**take any medications you brought with you to her**) and to the office where you'll have your picture taken for the camp yearbook, so be ready!

Before dinner, we will have **registration for classes for the first week of camp**. Someone will be glad to help you if you need help! The whole schedule of classes will be posted outside the dining hall. Inside, each counselor's classes will be listed on signs posted on the wall behind where they are sitting, and you walk around to fill in five activities. The next week, you may stay in some of those or try new ones! Also, if you get an activity that you know after the first day is NOT FOR YOU, come by the office and we will put you into something else. It's that easy!

After dinner, there will be a **bonfire and some singing and storytelling!** It's lots of fun and a great way to start out your camp experience. Be sure to wear long pants and a jacket or sweatshirt (**a rule for night activities**). Then it's off to your cabin where your counselors will explain camp and cabin rules, and you'll help make a chart of duties for the cabin. Phew! What a day!

The second day of camp you will start your activities at 9:00. After breakfast, you will go back to your cabin for cleanup (there is an inspection after cleanup and the best cabin wins a treat!). There are three activities in the morning. Lunch is at 12:15 and there is a short "rest period" after that. During rest period, you stay in your cabin and either lie down or read or do something quiet for about an hour. Next, you go to SILVER DOLLAR

where you can buy an afternoon treat or choose one of the free treats offered by camp. **You have money in an account so you don't need cash.**

There are two activity periods in the afternoon, followed by **dinner at 6:00.**

Evening activities will usually be decided after dinner by a voice vote of the campers!! That way, you get to do the things you like to do. For example, there may be a big softball, soccer or Capture the Flag game. There will also be two other offerings (one rather quiet for the tired souls), such as tennis, lake (canoeing or fishing) a hike, etc. So you may choose from three different activities most nights!

Some nights we have **special activities** like Sing Song or Talent Night! Saturday nights there are usually camp dances – don't knock it until you try it!! On Sundays, unless it is the very first day of camp, we have a lazy day when we sleep a little later and have a casual breakfast. Inspection is later, and then we have several different activities to choose from. Later that night, we have "Chapel Under the Stars" where we talk about making good decisions in our lives, experiences we have learned from, and thinking of others.

We take a **field trip** during second session. On those days, we leave around 9:00 in the morning and return about 4:30. **We will check out money to you from your spending account before leaving on the trip.** While we are out of camp, you will be **staying with your cabin group and counselors.** You are allowed to have your phone for the trip. It's a fun day! We will have special events for other sessions.

All the campers have **one overnight horseback trip** to "The Meadow", our own outpost seven miles away from camp. If you do not want to ride horses, you may go over in a van. While there, you will cook out and probably have a chance to hike with your group. Maybe you'll see an elk or deer. It's a delightful spot to sleep under the stars!

Your laundry will be taken out after you have been in camp about 4 or 5 days. It is usually gone about a day and a half, so bring enough clothes for 7 days at least.

1. We strongly discourage the use of technology at camp. However, most MP3 players are allowed to play **music (only in cabin)** but use will be monitored. Any phones or tablets (Nooks, iPads, Kindles, etc.) **will not be allowed at camp.** If they are brought to camp they will be checked in the office.

2. Campers must wear long pants and sleeves to night activities

3. Each camper must have five activities on his/her schedule.

4. No one leaves camp, even with a parent, without obtaining permission from the office.

5. Campers stay in the cabins after lights out and in the morning until staff members are up and about.

6. Campers aren't allowed in activity areas without a counselor (especially the lake, pool, corral, rifle range, ropes course!).

7. We don't allow smoking, drinking or drug usage – these things will get you sent right home! We'll talk about these rules more after you arrive at camp.

8. We don't allow bullying or any sort of misbehavior of that type – staff on camper or camper on camper. It's just not done.

This is how camp runs! The Grafts are usually in the office We are here to make sure that this will be an unforgettable experience. That's our job! So be sure to let us know if you have any questions or need any help. We are really looking forward to a super summer as we enter our **78th** year of camp!