



Fort Courage at Atlantic Mountain Ranch (AMR)

Information for Campers and Parents - 2012

Fort Courage, nestled in the pine forests of the southern Black Hills, is an authentic replica of an 1880's stockade, a great setting for a week of Christian camping adventures. The Fort is a great place to develop friendships, to enjoy small group living, and to learn horsemanship, outdoor camping and cooking skills, and teamwork. Time for spiritual development takes place throughout the day from First Word at breakfast, to morning worship and Bible study time, to an evening campfire to end the day.

The Fort community is an independent and self-sufficient group. Living at the Fort will take some extra work and requires that we do without some conveniences (electricity and flush toilets do not exist). We feel this is part of what makes this week such a powerful and growing experience for young people and their youth groups. Each week there will be 40-45 campers plus adults and counselors.

Please read this information carefully so that you will know what to expect for your week at camp!

Arrival Time: Registration is between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Time) on Sunday. We will not be registering anyone before 3:00 pm.

Departure Time: is 10:45 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday.

Pastors, youth directors and parents are welcome partners with the staff. We welcome your energy, creativity and assistance. Please share with the staff your hopes and goals for your group's experience so we may work together to make this a rewarding experience for all.

Insurance Information

Lutherans Outdoors does not carry any health insurance for campers. If we must take someone to the doctor for treatment, the camper is responsible for all costs. Personal property is not covered by camp insurance and any claims for loss or theft will need to be submitted to your personal homeowner's/renter's insurance company.

Housing is simple, but comfortable. Bunkhouses with lofts will be your home. Lanterns are used for light since there is no electricity. Toilet facilities are outhouses and the showerhouse has a gravity system for supplying water. There is also a sauna.

It can be cool and rainy, especially in June, so bring plenty of layers and a warm sleeping bag.

Meals - We have a reputation for providing good food. If you have special dietary concerns, please notify us beforehand to help us plan for your stay. We do all our own cooking and baking, most of it over an open fire. Campers will get to help cook and prepare food and pump the water! Meals are wholesome and well-balanced, and flavored by the creativity of the cooking group!

Daily Schedule/Staff - Our staff includes 10-12 people, college-age or older, who serve as counselors, cook, program director and wranglers. Counselors will lead the campers through the day from First Word in the morning, to meals, to worship and Bible study, to recreational activities and ending with fun skits and campfires in the evening. Activities will include horseback trail rides, hiking and climbing the hills, an overnight campout in tents, group games and a team-building low ropes challenge course.

Payment of Fees/Refund Policy

Fees are to be paid two full weeks in advance. If paying individually, please use the enclosed payment return card. If paying through your church group, please do as your pastor/youth director asks. **Do not bring payments to camp!!**

Payments should be sent to:

Lutherans Outdoors in SD
2001 S Summit Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57197

Please notify us immediately if you cannot attend. There may be people on a waiting list! The \$100 deposit is not refundable, but is transferable to another camper going from your church group.

There is a \$25 charge if camp office is not notified of someone not coming within 2 weeks of their scheduled date.

THE PACKING LIST

- **Sleeping bag** (good for 30 degrees) & **pillow** packed in waterproof stuff-sack.
- **Two pairs of sturdy shoes**
- **Plenty of socks**
- **Warm jacket /fleece/sweater/sweatshirt** (2 layers)
- **Camping clothes for warm or cool days and cool nights.** (No halters. Shoulders must be covered due to UV exposure at high altitude.)
- **Long underwear, gloves, knit hat for June – A MUST!**
- **Towel and personal toiletries**
- **Denim jeans & cowboy boots** for horse riding*
- **Rain Jacket – A MUST!** - the program continues, rain or shine!
- **Bible, notebook, pen**
- **Flashlight; Camera**
- **Cap, hat or bandanas,** for sun protection
- **Sunscreen/lip balm**
- **Water bottle**
- **Insect repellent**
- **Swimsuit for sauna**
- **Your health form**
- **Medications, inhalers, etc.** (Please send prescriptions in the original bottle with the doctor's directions on the label.)

*Cowboy boots work best for horseback riding - however, any sturdy shoe with a 1/2" heel will work. Do not bring sandals, flimsy tennis shoes or soft-bodied shoes.

For 'Black Hills Riders' week you **MUST** have sturdy shoes with a 1/2 inch heel.

Personal belongings should be labeled to help identify items in the lost and found and get them returned to you.

DO NOT BRING - cell phones, junk food, electronic devices (i.e., MP3 players, iPods), tons of toiletries, clothing with inappropriate slogans or logos, knives, fireworks, weapons, pets, illegal substances (alcohol, drugs, tobacco products), or other unnecessary or dangerous items.

At the Canteen you may purchase sweatshirts, t-shirts, snacks, etc. Clothing prices range from \$12 - \$40.

Campers will not have use of a phone during the week of camp. Please do not ask them to call home during the week, unless there are special circumstances and you have sent along a note or called the Program Director.

Offering - Each week we take an offering at camp. Financial gifts will go to the **Lutherans Outdoors Campership Fund**. We will also be collecting canned goods for the Custer Food Pantry, especially canned beans, tuna fish, peanut butter, and tomatoes.

DIRECTIONS TO ATLANTIC MOUNTAIN RANCH

Atlantic Mountain Ranch is located in the southern Black Hills just northwest of Custer. The Fort is located one mile from the entrance.

From Rapid City: Follow Highway 16 south through Hill City and on to the Crazy Horse Monument. One mile past Crazy Horse, by "Heritage Village", turn right/west onto Medicine Mountain Rd and veer left at the fork in the road onto Custer Limestone Rd. Continue for another three miles. Watch for the Atlantic Mountain Ranch sign on the right. A welcome party will greet you, show you where to park and help unload. Your luggage will be hauled in a wagon and you will hike one mile down the trail to the Fort.

From Custer: Follow Highway 16 north three miles. Turn left at "Heritage Village" onto Medicine Mountain Rd and continue with above directions.

From Sioux Falls to Custer is about 400 miles. It takes about 7 hours driving time to drive across the state, and remember that the Black Hills is in the Mountain Time zone!

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Lutherans Outdoors does not discriminate. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ADDRESS FOR FORT COURAGE:

**Atlantic Mountain Ranch – Fort Courage
11760 Custer Limestone Rd
Custer, SD 57730**

Phone: 605-673-3017 or 605-673-3435 (summer only)
or Outlaw Ranch - 605-673-4040 (year-round)

QUESTIONS? In regards to registration, please call Cheryl Lundeen at 605-274-5326 or 800-888-1464. For questions about the program or facilities, call Outlaw Ranch 605-673-4040 (year-round).

Be sure to bring your Health Form with you to camp!!