



Peer Ministry at Outlaw Ranch - 2010

Information for Campers and Parents

Your week at Outlaw Ranch will be a special time for all campers. Our Christian camping program is situated in the southern Black Hills between the city of Custer and Custer State Park in a Ponderosa pine forest. Outlaw Ranch offers many opportunities for spiritual growth through our programs of devotions, morning worship, small-group Bible study time and evening campfires. It is a great place to make new friends, have fun and live in a Christian community of faith.

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 pm (Mountain Daylight Time) on **Monday**. Due to other groups in camp please do not arrive before 3:00.

Departure Time: is between 11:00 and 12:00 noon on Friday.

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 follow the instructions of your pastor/youth director. **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 to get into camp! The \$100 deposit is not refundable, but is transferable to another camper going from your church group.

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

Housing - Campers will stay in cabins that have electricity and heat. A nearby shower house has toilet and shower facilities. Adult advisors will stay in the lodge as space is available.

Meals - Most meals are served in the dining hall. We also eat some meals outside, at an overnight camping site or at the picnic tables. We have a reputation for providing excellent food. If you have special dietary concerns, please notify us by phone (605-673-4040), before hand to help plan for your stay.

Daily Schedule/Staff - Our staff includes 30 college-age or older people who serve as counselors, cooks, program director and wranglers. Counselors and Peer Trainers will lead the campers through the day from morning devotions to meals, to campfire worship and Bible study, to recreational activities and through lots of small group Peer Ministry training. Activities include horseback trail rides, hiking, games, low ropes course, and canoeing.

Pastors, youth directors and parents are welcome partners with the staff at Outlaw. 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 Info - Lutherans Outdoors carries a minimal insurance policy for accidents and illness incurred at camp. Our policy assumes the camper's insurance will be the primary coverage. If we must take someone to the doctor for treatment, the clinic will first file a claim with the camper's insurer. If there is no insurance, or if the camper's policy will not pay for this accident or illness, our insurance will cover the costs up to \$2,000 for an accident and \$200 for an illness. 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.

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

Lutherans Outdoors in SD is an equal opportunity provider and is operating on the Black Hills National Forest under the terms and conditions of a Special Use Permit.



How to prepare you and your child for camp

Giving your child to the care of other people is perhaps the greatest act of trust you as a parent can give. We aim to do everything we can to earn and keep that trust; and, we know we cannot do this without your help. We want to partner with you to ensure your child/children will have the safest, most fun and faith-filled experience possible while at camp. Following are a few suggestions as you prepare your child for their week at camp:

- Talk about camp before you go. Ask questions together and discuss what camp might be like and what they might expect. Let them know what you will be doing when they are away. Help your child focus on making new friends and on being involved in camp activities.
- If your child has any special health, food allergies, or sleep related concerns, please share those with the camp staff so they can prepare for your child's arrival.
- Send a letter to your child before camp begins so a message from home will be awaiting his/her arrival. Ask specific questions about what they are doing and encourage them to write back. Send self-addressed stamped envelopes or postcards with your child so they can write home. While campers do not have the ability to use email while at camp, if you send an email to camp we will make sure and give it to your child when we hand out mail.
- For safety sake, we have a **“no cell phone” policy at camp**. Cell phones can be lost, stolen or used inappropriately with photos or calls to outsiders who could potentially put campers at risk. Regular use of cell phones/texting also tends to slow the formation of community and takes away from the learning and growth of being in an outdoor setting. For these reasons we ask you to **please leave cell phones at home**.
- Be prepared to talk about camp with your child upon their return home. This is important. The act of “processing” your child's experience helps them not only share with you what they did; it also serves to involve parents in the experience and helps the child reflect on how they have grown.
- If this is your child's first time away from family for an extended period of time and you feel they may become homesick, speak openly on the topic before your child leaves camp.
- Try brainstorming some positive coping strategies like talking to their camp counselor, writing letters, or drawing pictures of what they did that day. It is not always helpful to simply tell your child that you will come and get them (even phone calls prevent this opportunity for success). Overcoming homesickness can be a great achievement for your child. Rest assured, should your child get homesick while at camp—and we feel it would be helpful—we will contact you by phone. If this happens, please use this as an opportunity to build up your child and help them face this new experience.

Going away to camp is a wonderful growth experience for both campers and parents. Please let us know how we at camp can help YOUR child have the best week possible. **And here is the best tip yet...** pray for YOUR child while they are away at camp... and everyday for the rest of their lives!

THE PACKING LIST

- **Sleeping bag** (good for 30 degrees), **pillow** securely rolled and packed in waterproof stuff-sack.
- **Two pairs of sturdy shoes**
- **Plenty of socks**
- **Warm jacket**
- **Camping clothes** for warm days and cool nights (no halters, shoulders must be covered due to UV exposure at high altitude)
- **Towel and personal toiletries**
- **Denim jeans and sturdy shoes** for horse riding*
- **Raingear** - the program continues, rain or shine!
- **Bible, notebook, pen**
- **Flashlight; Camera**
- **Cap, hat or bandanas** for sun protection
- **Medications** if needed, **sunscreen, inhalers, etc. (Please send prescriptions in original bottle with doctor's directions on label.)**
- **Your health form**

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

DO NOT BRING junk food, electronic devices (i.e., MP3 players, iPods), cell phones, 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.

The Canteen is open each afternoon. You may purchase sweatshirts, t-shirts, snacks etc. Clothing prices range from \$10 - \$40.

* Horseback Riding requires everyone to wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots. Cowboy boots work best, however any sturdy closed-toed shoe with a 1/2" heel will work. Sandals, fabric shoes, or other soft-bodied shoes are not suitable for horse riding.

Adults and most children aged 9 and above will go on a trail ride. Smaller children and those aged 8 and under will go on a pony ride (child alone on saddle, led by staff).

Swimming is not available at Outlaw. However, fishing or canoeing is an option at Bismarck Lake.

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 to the Program Director. Feel free to call ahead and talk to the Program Director if you have concerns.

DO NOT BRING A CELL PHONE TO CAMP!



DIRECTIONS TO OUTLAW RANCH

Outlaw Ranch is located in the Black Hills east of Custer. From Rapid City: Follow Highway 16 south through Hill City to Custer. In Custer turn left (east) at the stoplight at the bottom of the hill. Take Highway 16A east 3 miles. Turn left (north) at the "Outlaw Ranch" sign, onto America Center Rd. Go left at the fork and continue on America Center Rd. for 1 1/4 miles. Turn right at our sign and mailbox and follow our driveway into the Ranch.

Outlaw Ranch is about 400 miles from Sioux Falls. It takes 6-7 hours driving time from Sioux Falls and remember it is Mountain Time in the Hills!

Offering - Each week we take an offering at camp at our closing worship. This year the offerings will go to the **Lutherans Outdoors Campership Fund, to ensure that truly everyone is able to attend camp.** We are also collecting food and toiletries for the food pantry and women's shelter in Custer if you would like to contribute.

Other questions and concerns? Contact Cheryl Lundeen at (800) 888-1464 for information about scheduling and registration. Contact Outlaw Ranch (605- 673-4040) for questions about programming and facilities.

Address for Outlaw Ranch:

**Outlaw Ranch
12703 Outlaw Ranch Rd
Custer SD 57730**

**Phone: 605-673-4040
Email: outlaw@losd.org**

Lutherans Outdoors does not discriminate.

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BE SURE TO BRING YOUR HEALTH FORM WITH YOU TO CAMP!!