



Volunteer FAQs

All about the Ranch

1) What is Circle Square Ranch all about?

Founded in 1985, IntersVarsity Circle Square Ranch Grand River has been operating ever since as a life-changing summer camp for children and youth. We are committed to seeing young people transformed by the love of God actively at work in their lives.

We run overnight camp & day camp programs throughout the summer for ages 5-16. These programs include leadership camps, horse specialty camps, discovery camps, junior camps, boys camps, & more.

2) What are the benefits of volunteering?

Volunteering at camp is a great way to:

- have one of the most fun and exciting summers of your life!
- make an impact on the lives of children and youth
- develop leadership skills
- be part of an amazing Christian community
- grow in relationship with God as you serve Him in a meaningful way

You will earn 70 hours of community service for every full week you serve with us. You can use this experience to put on future job applications, university/college applications, scholarship applications and more!

3) How many staff members are there?

We have approximately 20 individuals on our Senior Staff team and 80 volunteers that serve at camp over the course of the summer.

4) What activities do the campers do?

Activities vary depending on the camp, but they include: horseback riding, swimming, high ropes, initiative course, climbing tower, zipline, archery, crafts, sling shots, trampolines, variety of recreational activities, large camp games, canteen, devotions, campfires, theme meals, and more.

5) What are the accommodations like?

We have a mixture of cabins & covered wagons with bunk beds. Your accommodations will change from week to week depending on how many kids we have at camp & your job assignment.

6) Is there electricity & flushing toilets?

Yes! All bathrooms have electricity, regular flushing toilets and showers. All cabins & covered wagons have electricity.

Hiring process

1) What do I need to do to become a volunteer?

-Start by completing an online application. Please visit our website at www.csranchgrandriver.ca and click on the "Staff & Volunteers" tab, then click "Apply Now" button.

-You'll need to submit references as a part of the application process. Please contact the office if you're not sure if you have the correct type of references. We can help you figure out who to ask.

-You'll also need to get a police check.

2) How old do I need to be?

We would like you to be 16 by the end of calendar year. We are able to have volunteers younger than that if you are available for some extra training. Please contact the office for details.

3) Do I have to come for the whole summer?

We would love to have you here as much as possible, but some volunteers only come for 1-2 weeks due to their schedule. You can check off when you are available on the application. You are always welcome to add more weeks later!

4) I don't know my availability yet.

No problem. For now, just check off 1 week and we can update this once you know. It is better to under commit then over commit as we plan our numbers based on staff availability. You are always welcome to add more weeks later!

5) How much will I get paid?

You will receive a \$40.00 honorarium and a \$10.00 tuck (candy) credit for every week you work.

There are also a few ways to make additional funds such as:

- Inviting friends (we'll pay you for every friend you get to sign up as a volunteer)
- Summer missions program
- Ask us about our NEW bursary program (you can receive \$75+ per week based on the amount you work)

6) I can't make it to staff training, can I still come and volunteer?

Yes! We know that staff training may conflict with your exams and other events. It is best to attend staff training, or as much of it as you can, because it is a great way to begin developing friendships, but we have other training opportunities available. We will have sessions available online and we will also catch you up on additional information when you arrive at camp to work.

A Day in the Life

1) Will you provide all meals, what will I eat?

Yes, we will provide all your meals from Sunday at dinner until Saturday at lunch. You are welcome to bring along any extra nut-free snacks & beverages that you would like. We have a rotating summer menu. While we are still determining the exact menus, they typically include a good variety of kid-friendly foods, such as tacos, pizza, pasta dishes, hamburgers, perogies, chicken Caesar wraps, etc. along with a variety of fruit & veggies.

2) When do I arrive & leave?

We hold a staff meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon to discuss job roles, expectations for the week, provide extra information, and to pray before the week begins. We are typically done around 12:30-1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

3) What do I do on the weekend?

If you live close enough to go home on the weekend between camp sessions, we strongly encourage you to go home to rest, do laundry, and spend time with your family. This provides a good opportunity to recharge before the next week begins.

4) What will I be doing?

Job roles include: overnight camp counselling, day camp counselling, group leading, program staff, adventure staff (extra training provided), barn staff (extra training provided), maintenance, kitchen help, etc.

Your job role may change from week to week over the course of the summer depending on the camps we are running, the number of volunteers we have, and to give everyone the opportunity to try out new things.

Typically, we will discuss job assignments with you before they are given.

5) What are my expectations?

Our general expectation of you is that you will help to create a positive & caring camp environment centred on serving God in whatever way you can. More specific expectations will be taught to you throughout the training process and within our weekly staff meetings.

6) I want to work at the barn or as an adventure (climbing) instructor, is this possible?

We enjoy being able to place volunteers in areas they are gifted in & passionate about. In order to be considered for a barn or adventure role, you will need to attend our specific training for those departments. Job assignments may change each week, so there may be some weeks you are in the requested area and other weeks where you are placed in other roles. The reason for this is to give others the opportunity to try out new positions & also dependent on what our needs are for the week based on camper numbers. We will talk with you about potential positions to ensure you feel equipped and comfortable filling your role.

7) What do I bring?

We will give you a list of what to bring a bit closer to summer but it would be a good idea to pack:

- Enough clothes for the week for a variety of weather conditions
 - Bathroom/hygiene items including towels
 - Variety of foot wear including close-toed shoes
 - Sunscreen
 - Water bottle
 - Pillow/bedding
 - Bible
 - Theme meal costumes (we have some fun evening themed meals. Our calendar for these will be ready closer to summer)
- Swim suit
 - Bug spray
 - Hat
 - Fan
 - Flashlight

8) Do I get any breaks while I am volunteering?

You will be given a minimum of a 1 hour break each day from Monday-Friday. Staff also have the opportunity to attend staff-specific devotions each day.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Call us at 519-754-0171 or email us at brantford@csranch.ca