U-TURN RANCH – OVERNIGHT CAMP INFORMATION & PACKING LIST

We are so excited to welcome your camper for an unforgettable week at U-Turn Ranch! Whether this is their first overnight camp experience or they are returning for another year, we want to help make the week fun, comfortable, and memorable. Below is some important information to help you and your camper prepare for their time at the ranch.

ARRIVAL

Drop-off is Monday morning between 7:30 and 8:00 AM. (The exception is our short week, when drop-off will take place on Tuesday.)

We kindly ask that you do not arrive before 7:30 AM, as our staff are busy completing final preparations for your camper's arrival.

A parent, guardian, or responsible adult must accompany your camper for sign-in on Monday morning.

Please ensure the adult dropping off your camper knows who will be picking them up on Friday and is familiar with any medical or food allergy arrangements.

For everyone's safety and to help keep our arrival process running smoothly, we ask that everyone remain in their vehicle. You will be directed through our drive-through drop-off process. Your camper will stay with you in your vehicle till the second last check point, where our staff will assist your camper to their sleeping quarters for the week and help them get settled.

Your final check point will be our First Aid Attendant/Cook if needed. Please ensure all medication is with you in your vehicle and is not packed in your camper's suitcase. Medication must be checked in directly with our First Aid Attendant.

DEPARTURE

New this Year – anyone picking up your camper needs to be listed in your registration portal. We will send a notice closer to camp for you to update this information.

Friday pick-up and sign-out will take place at 4:45 PM using our drive-through system.

Please plan to arrive at 4:45 PM, as sign-out is usually completed within 5–10 minutes.

Any medication checked in at the beginning of the week will be returned at this time.

If you require an early pick-up, please let us know during Monday morning drop-off so we can have your camper packed and ready to go at the requested time.

LICE CHECKS

A lice check will be completed for all campers on the first morning of camp.

If lice or nits are discovered, your camper will need to return home for treatment. Campers may return once all lice and nits have been removed. Please note that refunds are not available in these circumstances.

U-Turn strongly encourages all parents and guardians to complete a lice check at home before the first day.

PETS

We ask that any pets accompanying you to the ranch remain safely in your vehicle with you during drop-off and pick-up.

MEDICATION

Please bring any medication your camper will require during the week on Monday morning at drop-off. You will have an opportunity to check it in directly with our First Aid Attendant. Please keep any mediation with you for drop off and not in your camper's bag.

The Ranch reserves the right to refuse admission to any camper with a suspected contagious condition. To help ensure your child has a safe and enjoyable week, while also protecting the health of our other campers and staff, we ask that any contagious condition be fully treated before arriving at camp. If you have questions or are unsure whether your camper should attend, please contact us ahead of time so we can discuss the situation with you.

CANTEEN / TUCK SHOP

Our tuck shop will be open every afternoon, giving campers the opportunity to choose a snack based on the amount purchased during registration. Campers may select between 1 and 2 items per day, depending on the amount purchased for the week.

If you are unsure which option you selected, please refer to the receipt found in your camp protal.

The tuck shop offers a variety of treats, including chocolate bars, chips, candy, and pop. We also offer a selection of other options, including crackers, cheese strings, yogurt, granola bars, Goldfish crackers, juice, and water.

If you purchased the 2-items-per-day option, campers will be encouraged to choose one drink and one snack each day.

Please note that refunds will not be issued for unused tuck shop funds, as the majority of campers use their full amount during the week.

MEALS

Meals will begin with Monday lunch and continue through Friday lunch.

We provide all meals during your camper's stay, so there is no need to pack additional food or snacks! Please do not send food, including candy or treats, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Ranch.

FOOD ALLERGIES & SPECIAL DIETS

If a special diet was noted on your camper's registration, our office will contact you during the week before camp to provide a menu.

As outlined during registration, if your camper requires something other than what is being provided by our kitchen, we ask that you send a meal replacement that can be heated up for your camper. Our menus are based on what campers have loved in the past and camper friendly meals.

Please bring any required meal replacements on Monday morning and hand them in to our staff. All food brought to camp must be nut-free.

If you do not hear from us regarding your camper's dietary needs, please contact the office before camp to ensure the information was included on the registration.

We want every camper to enjoy mealtimes and feel included, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns about food allergies or special dietary requirements.

BUNK BEDS & SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

If all goes as planned our new lodge is to be ready for camp. Should this not happen, we will have campers sleep in our covered chuck wagons as they have in the past.

We ask that you prepare your camper for the possibility of sleeping on either the top or bottom bunk. Please talk with your camper ahead of time so they are comfortable with the possibility of either bunk. Our staff will do their best to make sure everyone feels settled and comfortable in their sleeping arrangements.

We are unable to reserve bottom bunks for campers unless there is a physical reason they are unable to safely use a top bunk.

If the lodge would not be ready for camp, please note that our wagons are canvas-covered, there may be occasions when bedding becomes a little damp from morning moisture. If this happens, please encourage your camper to let our staff know so we can arrange to have their bedding dried if necessary.

LOST & FOUND

Although we do our best to care for and protect campers' personal belongings, U-Turn Ranch cannot assume responsibility for lost or damaged items.

On Friday after camp, we will send an email with pictures of any remaining lost-and-found items. If you recognize something that belongs to your camper, please contact the office and arrange to pick it up the following week.

All items will be held for **one week following your camper's week at camp**, then donated to a charity.

MAIL – PONY EXPRESS!

U-Turn Ranch has a special tradition called **Pony Express!** Every day, mail is delivered on horseback.

Feel free to drop off letters on Monday morning, and we will make sure they are delivered to your camper throughout the week.

Please do not include snacks in the letters.

We also ask that letters not be emailed to the office, as we cannot guarantee they will be printed in time to make the daily mail delivery.

There is absolutely no pressure to send a letter for every day. Even one special note during the week will be sure to bring a smile to your camper's face!

PHONE CALLS HOME & HOMESICKNESS

Campers have a very busy and exciting schedule while at camp, with lots of activities to keep them engaged throughout the day.

If you need to get a message to your camper, please email our office and we will pass along the information at the next meal.

We understand that being away from home can sometimes be a big adjustment, especially for campers experiencing their first overnight camp. If your camper feels they need to call home, we ask that they first speak with the Camp Director.

Phone calls home can sometimes increase feelings of homesickness, so we encourage campers to speak with our staff first. Our team is experienced in helping campers work through these feelings and will do their best to help them feel comfortable, supported, and included.

If your camper becomes very homesick and is having difficulty continuing with the camp experience, we will contact you to discuss the situation and determine the best plan moving forward.

Our goal is always to help your camper feel confident, supported, and excited about their time at U-Turn Ranch!

DIRECTIONS

We are located just outside of Tavistock, across from the John Deere tractor dealership.

When using your GPS, please enter: **537097 County Road 34, Tavistock Ontario**

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP – PACKING CHECKLIST!

We want your camper to feel comfortable and prepared for a fun-filled week! Here is a checklist to help you get everything ready before Monday morning.

Please be mindful when packing, that your camper will need to carry items to their sleeping area. Don't make them too heavy.

SLEEPING & PERSONAL ITEMS

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Extra blanket
- Thin small blanket for campfire time is a bonus
- Toiletries, including toothbrush, toothpaste, and deodorant
- Swimming towel
- Shower towel
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Hat
- Flashlight
- Bible, notepad, and pen (optional)
- **Refillable water bottle (all campers must bring one)**

CLOTHING

- Long pants for cool nights and horseback riding (4 pairs)
- T-shirts (5)
- Shorts (5 pairs)
- Long-sleeved shirts (2)
- Sweatshirts (4)
- Underwear (5 pairs)
- Socks (8 pairs)
- Pyjamas (2 sets)
- Swimsuit – One-piece swimsuits or tankinis are ideal, as campers will be participating in games and activities in the pool.
- Warm jacket or sweater for campfire evenings
- Nice outfit for our Thursday evening banquet

SHOES & OUTDOOR GEAR

- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots for horseback riding. Crocs and sandals are not permitted in the barn area. Solid running shoes or rubber boots are ideal.
- Sandals or Crocs that can get wet – These are great for hot weather and water activities!
- Running shoes
- Raincoat and rubber boots or shoes that can get wet – our program continues during light rain, so please be prepared for changing weather.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

U-Turn Ranch is an alcohol-, non-prescription drug-, vape-, and tobacco-free camp. Please discuss these expectations with your camper before arriving at camp, should this be a concern.

Chewing gum, inappropriate reading materials, and technology (including cell phones and tablets) are not permitted at the Ranch.

If these items are brought to camp, they will be held securely in the Ranch office until the end of the week.

If you have any questions or concerns about these expectations, please contact the Ranch before the start of camp.

We also recommend leaving valuables and special personal items at home. Although we do our best to keep everyone's belongings safe, we cannot guarantee that items will not be lost or damaged during the week.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOUR CAMPER!

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and prepare your camper for their overnight adventure.

We know sending your child away for an overnight camp experience can bring a little excitement, and sometimes a few nerves too! Please know that our team is here to help make the week a positive, safe, and memorable experience.

We look forward to making wonderful memories, sharing lots of laughs, and giving your camper a week full of adventure at U-Turn Ranch!