U-TURN RANCH – DAY CAMP INFORMATION AND PACKING LIST

ARRIVAL

Drop-off is daily between **8:00 and 8:30 AM**. Please allow extra time on the first day of camp, as we ensure we have your campers' details for the week.

When you arrive at camp, you will be directed through our drive-through drop-off process. There will be checkpoints along the way including an opportunity to speak with our First Aid Attendant/Cook if needed. All medication required at day camp must be handed in during drop off the first morning of camp. Please keep this medication with you in your vehicle so that you can check it in directly with our First Aid Attendant, not in your camper's bag.

If you purchased **early drop-off** during registration, you are welcome to drop your camper off between 7:30 and 7:55 AM. If there are already vehicles in line Monday, please let one of our staff members know so we can help direct you through.

If your child will be absent or arriving late on the first day of camp, please email the office.

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.

Monday to Thursday, pick-up is between **5:00 and 5:30 PM**. Our daily program finishes at 5:00 PM.

On Friday, sign-out will take place at 4:30 PM. Pick up on Fridays is very quick. Please arrive just before or at 4:30 PM, as sign-out is usually completed within 5–10 minutes.

All pick-ups are completed using our drive-through system to help make the process quick, convenient, and easy for families.

EARLY PICK-UP / LATE DROP-OFFS

We encourage campers to participate in the full day's activities, as arriving late or leaving early may mean missing out on some of the fun. However, we understand that family schedules and circumstances sometimes require flexibility, and will do our best to accommodate when needed.

If you are arriving after regular drop-off time, we kindly ask for your patience while our staff member makes their way to meet you in the parking lot as soon as they are available.

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

Please ensure any early pick-up or late drop-off arrangements are communicated to our staff at drop-off. Once you have let us know in the morning, there is no need to call the office again.

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.

SUNSCREEN & BUG SPRAY

We ask that sunscreen and bug spray be **applied each morning before drop-off**. This gives your camper a good start to the day and helps protect them while enjoying outdoor activities. We will also encourage campers to reapply throughout the day, particularly around midday.

Please send sunscreen and bug spray with your camper if they will need to reapply.

SWIM SAFETY / SWIM TEST

Water safety is very important to us! Parents/guardians of younger campers will be asked about their child's swimming ability on the first morning of camp.

1. Confident Swimmer: The camper is a confident swimmer and is able to complete our swim assessment.
2. Shallow-End Swimmer: The camper will remain in the shallow end of the pool at all times.
3. Lifejacket/Puddle Jumper: The camper will wear a lifejacket or puddle jumper at all times while in the pool area. Water wings are not permitted.

On the first day of camp, we will conduct a swim assessment for campers who wish to swim in the deep end without a lifejacket or puddle jumper.

To successfully complete the assessment, campers must:

- Swim across the pool (40 feet).
- Tread water for 30 seconds.
- Swim back across the pool (another 40 feet).

The entire assessment must be completed confidently, without stopping, taking a break, or touching the bottom or sides of the pool.

Campers who successfully complete the assessment will be permitted to use the deep end without a lifejacket or puddle jumper.

If your camper does not pass the assessment or chooses not to participate, they will need to remain in the shallow end or wear a lifejacket/puddle jumper.

If you send a lifejacket or puddle jumper with your camper, they will be required to wear it for the entire time they are in the pool area. For safety reasons, campers are not permitted to take their lifejackets or puddle jumpers off and put them back on throughout the swimming period.

For our younger campers, we strongly encourage the use of lifejackets or puddle jumpers, as they are swimming alongside a group of other campers.

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 on 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.

SNACK & LUNCH

A small morning snack will be provided each day. This is not intended to replace breakfast, but rather to give campers a little something to enjoy midmorning, such as a granola bar or a handful of pretzels.

Lunch is also provided daily. Some of the meals we serve include grilled cheese, pizza buns, sandwiches, macaroni and cheese or hot dogs.

We plan portions for our campers! For example:

- Hot dog day: We plan for each camper to have 2–3 hot dogs.
- Pizza bun day: We plan for each camper to have 2–4 pizza buns.

We understand that every camper has different appetites and food needs. If you feel your camper may need additional food, please feel free to send extra snacks if needed. We simply ask that you let us know so we can ensure all food allergies and dietary needs are taken into consideration.

FOOD ALLERGIES

If a special diet was noted on your camper's registration, our office will contact you 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 pack a **nut-free lunch** for the day.

Please hand the lunch in to our staff during morning drop-off, and we will make sure it is given to your camper at lunchtime.

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.

If your camper is missing something at the end of the day, please check with our staff the following morning. Often, group leaders will keep found items at their group's meeting location until the next day.

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

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 every day. Even one special note during the week will be sure to bring a smile to your camper's face!

WEATHER

Our program runs rain or shine! If there is heavy rain, thunder, or lightning, we will adjust our activities and program as needed to keep campers safe.

If rain is in the forecast, please send your camper with a few extra changes of clothing and appropriate rain gear.

Splash pants and raincoats are great options! They help keep campers dry while enjoying outdoor activities. Once the rain stops, they can simply remove their rain gear and continue enjoying the day in their dry clothes.

THEME MEALS & DRESS-UP DAYS

We would love for your camper to join in the fun and dress up for our daily themes if they would like to!

Please don't feel any pressure to purchase anything special or go out of your way. These themes are simply meant to add a little extra fun to the week and should be easy to participate in using things you already have at home.

- Monday – No theme
- Tuesday – Dress in the colour of your day group
- Wednesday – Wacky Hair Day
- Thursday – Jersey / Sports Day
- Friday – U-Turn swag or Western Wear Day

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

Please use the following checklist to help your camper get ready for a fun-filled week!

- Swimsuit and towel
- Lifejacket / puddle jumper, if your child requires one
- Long pants for Horseman activities. Helmets will be provided.

- **Sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots for horseback riding.** While choosing footwear for horsemanship activities, please remember that occasional accidents can happen with our big, gentle friends (horses), and they may accidentally step on feet. Crocs and sandals are not permitted in the barn area. Solid running shoes or rubber boots are ideal.
- Running shoes
- Sandals or Crocs – **Crocs are ideal as they can get wet.**
- Rain gear, if rain is in the forecast
- An extra set of clothes and extra socks
- Sunscreen and bug repellent for reapplication, if needed
- A hat
- Refillable water bottle – **Every camper must bring a refillable water bottle. Please send it filled each morning so your camper is ready for the day!**

Please leave valuables at home. **We ask that technology of any sort, do not come with your camper to camp.** This will allow your camper can fully experience life at camp.

U-Turn Ranch cannot guarantee the safety of items or prevent them from being lost or damaged during the day.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOUR FAMILY TO U-TURN RANCH!

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. We appreciate your help in making camp a safe, fun, and memorable experience for everyone. If you have any questions before camp begins, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office.

We look forward to a wonderful week together!