U-TURN RANCH – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY AT U-TURN DAY CAMP LOOK LIKE?

Our campers enjoy a variety of activities throughout the day, with opportunities to try new things, develop skills, make friends, and enjoy the outdoors!

Activities throughout the week may include:

- Horse and barn time
- Swimming
- Fishing and frogging
- Games and team-building activities
- Slingshots and archery
- Nature activities
- Canoeing
- BMXing is offered for our Overnight Program

After lunch, day campers gather for a special time called "Under the Tree." This is an opportunity to enjoy singing, skits, and a Bible-based object lesson. It is a fun and meaningful part of our day where campers can gather together, learn, laugh, and grow.

WHAT DOES OVERNIGHT CAMP LOOK LIKE?

Our overnight campers get to enjoy all the same exciting daytime activities as our day campers! Activities may be organized a little differently depending on the age group, allowing campers to enjoy experiences that are fun, engaging, and suited to their stage of development.

Our evenings at overnight camp include camp wide games, cabin group activities and each night is completed with a campfire. This is a time of songs, skits, a positive message and reflection before heading to bed.

WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE AT CAMP?

Our Cook and kitchen staff work hard to prepare delicious, nutritious meals for our campers, following Canada's Food Guide.

Day campers receive a small, healthy midmorning snack, lunch, and the opportunity to visit the tuck shop in the afternoon.

Overnight campers enjoy breakfast, lunch, supper, and an evening snack each day. They also have the opportunity to visit the tuck shop in the afternoon.

Here are some examples of meals we have served at camp:

Breakfast

- Pancakes, sausage, cereal, milk, and fruit

- Breakfast sandwiches with bacon, egg, and cheese, along with cereal, milk, and fruit
- French toast, bacon, cereal, milk, and fruit
- Scrambled eggs, ham, toast, cereal, milk, and fruit

Lunch

- Grilled cheese and vegetables
- Macaroni and cheese and vegetables
- Hot dogs and vegetables
- Pizza buns and vegetables

Supper

- Chili, cornbread, and salad bar
- Chicken Alfredo pasta and salad bar
- Lasagna, garlic bread, and Caesar salad
- Chicken, mini potatoes, and green salad

Evening Snacks

- Popcorn and apples
- Brownies and cucumber slices
- Cookies and bananas

Tuck Shop

Our tuck shop is open each afternoon and offers a variety of cold drinks, including pop, juice, and water.

Campers can also choose from a variety of snacks, including chips, chocolate bars, candy, fruit, crackers and cheese, yogurt, and granola bars.

We offer both treat options and healthier choices so campers can enjoy a little something they love during their camp week!

HOW DOES THE PURCHASING OF TUCK SHOP WORK?

Tuck shop purchases are selected and paid for during registration, so there is no need to send cash with your camper!

We recommend purchasing **$5 per day** for the tuck shop. Each item is priced at **$2.50**, which allows campers to choose two items each afternoon.

For example, if you purchase $25 for a five-day camp, your camper will have enough for two items each day throughout the week.

We encourage campers to choose one drink and one snack each afternoon. This helps keep them hydrated while still giving them the opportunity to enjoy a little treat during their camp day!

It's a simple and easy way for campers to enjoy the tuck shop without having to worry about carrying money around at camp.

WHAT IF I AM CONCERNED ABOUT MY CHILD CHOOSING TOO MANY TREATS AT THE TUCK SHOP?

We understand that every family has different preferences when it comes to treats and snacks, and we respect that.

If this is something you are concerned about, we suggest having a conversation with your camper before arriving at camp. One option might be to let them enjoy their choice of treats on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, while choosing a healthier snack on Tuesday and Thursday.

A little planning ahead can help campers enjoy the tuck shop while respecting your family's preferences!

DO WE HAVE CAMP MERCH?

Director Scotty loves his U-Turn Ranch swag!

Each summer, we design new T-shirts and hoodies, along with other U-Turn Ranch merchandise. Day campers may purchase these items at drop off and pick up throughout the week. Overnight campers are able to purchase items at sign out Friday afternoon.

It's a great way for campers to take home a little reminder of their week at the Ranch!

WHERE DO OVERNIGHT CAMPERS SLEEP?

We are very excited to have our lodge being constructed Fall 2026 to Spring of 2027. It is our full intention to have our campers sleep in the new facility. HOWEVER, we all know that construction can sometimes throw us curves and we will be prepared that if the lodge is not ready for campers, they will still be able to utilize our very own enclosed, Conestoga-style chuck wagons as they have past summers!

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO SLEEP IN A WAGON?

Each wagon contains four bunk beds and can accommodate up to eight people. Most wagons will have six campers and two staff members.

The wagons are raised off the ground and have canvas-style coverings. They provide shelter and protection from the weather while still allowing campers to enjoy a unique outdoor camping experience.

There is space underneath the bottom bunks for campers to store their suitcases and belongings throughout the week.

Although the wagons provide shelter, evenings and early mornings can get chilly, especially in August. We strongly recommend packing an extra blanket to help keep your camper comfortable throughout the night.

HOW WILL THE LODGE BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WAGONS?

The lodge features larger cabins with bunk beds, allowing us to comfortably accommodate more than six campers in each sleeping area.

Depending on the sleeping arrangements, staff may sleep in the same room as the campers or in a separate room located directly beside the campers' sleeping area.

Regardless of the arrangement, our staff are always close by and available throughout the night should campers need assistance, have a question, or require anything.

CAN MY CAMPER REQUEST TO BE WITH A FRIEND?

Absolutely! We understand that having a familiar friend at camp can make the experience even more enjoyable, especially for campers who may be attending for the first time.

Campers are welcome to request one friend to be placed with for the week. We make every effort to honour these requests!

- **Day Camp:** Campers with a mutual friend request will be placed in the same activity group.
- **Overnight Camp:** Campers with a mutual friend request will be placed in the same activity group and sleeping cabin.

A few things to keep in mind when making friend requests:

- We ask that friend requests are made between campers who are relatively close in age, as activities and groupings are planned with age and developmental stages in mind.
- If there is a age difference, campers will be placed in the younger camper's age group to help ensure appropriate supervision and age-appropriate activities.
- Please ensure both campers are registered for the exact same week of camp. We do not cross-reference registrations, so friend requests must be submitted for both campers.

Will my request be honoured?

We do our very best to accommodate all friend requests, and they are almost always honoured! In the rare situation where we are unable to accommodate a request, our office will contact you within the two weeks leading up to camp.

This may occasionally happen if a large group of friends requests to be together and group sizes or cabin capacities do not allow us to accommodate everyone.

WHAT IF MY CAMPER DOESN'T KNOW ANYONE COMING TO CAMP?

No worries at all! Many campers come to U-Turn Ranch without knowing anyone, and some of the best camp friendships begin this way!

We are intentional about placing campers who don't have a friend request with other campers in similar situations. This gives them the opportunity to meet new people, build friendships, and experience camp together.

Coming to camp without a friend doesn't mean being alone. It is a wonderful opportunity to step outside your comfort zone, meet new people, and make friendships that may last long after camp is over!

We want every camper to feel like they belong at U-Turn Ranch, whether they arrive with a group of friends or come ready to make some new ones!

IS THERE A LOST AND FOUND?

We do our best to keep our lost-and-found collection to a minimum! One of the best ways to help us return belongings to their owners is to label everything your camper brings to camp.

Although our staff make every effort to ensure campers take all their belongings home, we always seem to have items left behind.

On Friday evening, we will send an email with pictures of the remaining lost-and-found items from the week.

If you recognize something that belongs to your camper, please contact the office and arrange to pick it up by the end of the following week, unless other arrangements have been made.

Any items not claimed or picked up by the end of the following week will be donated to a local charity.

ARE THERE ITEMS MY CAMPER SHOULD NOT BRING TO CAMP?

Yes! To help make camp a safe, enjoyable, and distraction-free environment for everyone, we ask that campers leave the following items at home:

- Chewing gum
- Electronic devices of any kind
- Inappropriate reading materials

If any of these items are brought to camp, they will be kept securely in the office and returned to the camper at the end of the week.

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

U-Turn Ranch is an alcohol-, recreational drug-, tobacco-, and vape-free facility. Prescription medications are permitted but must be handed directly to our First Aid Attendant upon arrival.

If any of these expectations may be a concern for your camper, please discuss them with us before registering.

CAN MY CAMPER BRING A CELL PHONE TO CAMP?

We ask that all campers leave their phones and other technology at home.

Camp is a busy place, filled with activities, friendships, and opportunities to try new things! We encourage campers to take advantage of the opportunity to unplug for the week and fully enjoy everything camp has to offer.

We have found that technology can sometimes become a distraction and take away from opportunities to build friendships and connect with others.

We also cannot guarantee that personal electronic devices will remain safe from damage or loss during camp.

If you need to contact your camper or pass along a message, please contact our office and we will be happy to help. If your camper needs to call home, we are also happy to provide access to a phone.

WHY CAN STAFF CARRY CELL PHONES IF CAMPERS CANNOT?

We ask our camp leaders to keep their cell phones with them for communication purposes throughout the day. Phones are an important tool for coordinating activities, communicating with other staff, and helping ensure the smooth operation of camp.

Our overnight staff who live at U-Turn Ranch for the summer are also permitted to have their phones with them in the evenings.

Since campers generally go to bed earlier, this gives our staff a little time to catch up with family and friends after a busy day of caring for and working with campers.

IS THE CELL PHONE POLICY THE SAME FOR TEENS AND LIDs?

Yes! We ask all campers, including teens and Leaders in Development (LIDs), to leave their personal technology at home.

We recognize that teens are surrounded by technology throughout the year. Camp provides a valuable opportunity to unplug, be present, build meaningful friendships, and fully participate in the experience.

Campers who rely on their phones for alarms do not need to worry. Our staff have that covered!

WILL THERE BE PHOTOS OR VIDEOS TAKEN OF MY CAMPER?

We love capturing special moments and memories from camp!

Designated staff take photos and videos of campers as time permits throughout the week. We enjoy sharing some of these moments on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

We invite you to follow U-Turn Ranch on social media. You may just catch a glimpse of your camper enjoying their favourite activities, making new friends, or having fun around the Ranch!

We ask that campers do not take pictures while at camp for camper safety reasons.

IS U-TURN RANCH AFFILIATED WITH A CHURCH?

U-Turn Ranch is not affiliated with any particular church denomination, but we are a Christian camp.

We warmly welcome campers of all faith backgrounds, races, and church experiences. Our desire is to encourage every camper to grow spiritually, mentally, socially, and physically while enjoying a positive and supportive camp environment.

Day campers participate in our daily "Under the Tree" time, while overnight campers enjoy evening campfires. These times include skits, songs, Bible stories, and opportunities to explore and grow in faith.

Many of the campers who attend U-Turn Ranch come from families with little or no church background. That is absolutely okay! Everyone is welcome, and we want every camper to feel comfortable, included, and valued.

Scott, Jodie, and their family are Christians who love Jesus and strive to follow His leading in all they do.

Scott grew up attending a Mennonite-affiliated church and attended Columbia Bible College in British Columbia. Jodie grew up in a non-denominational church and attended Summit Pacific Bible College.

Scott is a credentialed pastor with Be in Christ Church of Canada. The Zehr family attends Faith and Love in Tavistock, where Scott serves as the pastor.

Our faith is an important part of who we are and the heart behind U-Turn Ranch. We feel privileged to create an environment where young people can explore faith, build relationships, and discover more about themselves and the world around them.

DOES MY CHILD NEED TO HAVE A CHURCH OR CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND TO ATTEND U-TURN RANCH?

Absolutely not! While U-Turn Ranch is a Christian camp, we warmly welcome campers and families from all faith backgrounds, including those with no religious or church background at all.

Our Christian faith is an important part of who we are and is reflected in some of our camp activities, including Bible stories, devotions, songs, and evening campfires. These activities are presented in a welcoming and age-appropriate way, giving campers an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and explore who they are as people.

Your child does not need to be a Christian, attend church, or have any previous Bible knowledge to enjoy camp. They will not feel out of place!

We welcome everyone and want each camper to feel accepted, valued, and included. Our hope is that every child leaves U-Turn Ranch having made new friends, experienced personal growth, and created wonderful memories.

At U-Turn Ranch, everyone has a place!

WHO STARTED AND OWNS U-TURN RANCH?

U-Turn Ranch was started and is owned by Scott and Jodie Zehr.

Between them, Scott and Jodie have more than 50 years of experience in camp ministry and programming. Both began as volunteers with Circle Square Ranch and gradually worked their

way into various leadership positions, including Program Director, Office Administrator, and Director.

In 2005, Scott and Jodie decided it was time to branch out and begin something of their own. Although they initially thought their camp days might be behind them, it didn't take long to realize how much they missed the impact camp has on young people and families.

That passion led them to open U-Turn Ranch Summer Camp in 2006, and they haven't looked back!

Scott and Jodie have four girls, two son in laws of their own who are involved in various areas of U-Turn Ranch.

WHERE DID THE NAME U-TURN RANCH COME FROM?

Scott had always dreamed of creating a place where young people could come, experience positive change, and perhaps even turn their lives in a new direction. The idea was simple: "Do a U-Turn!"

When Scott and Jodie purchased the property on Oxford Road 34, they discovered that the driveway was actually a U-turn back into Tavistock, just two minutes away!

Scott and Jodie both grew up on farms, so having horses as part of the camp experience felt like a natural fit.

And so, U-Turn Ranch was born!

The name reflects the heart behind the Ranch: creating a place where young people can grow, discover their potential, build positive relationships, and make choices that help shape their future.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOUR CAMPER!

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about U-Turn Ranch. We hope these answers have helped you feel more comfortable and excited about the camp experience ahead.

Our goal is to provide a place where campers can try new things, build lasting friendships, grow in confidence, explore their faith, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We are always happy to help!

We can't wait to see you at the Ranch!