

SMITH FORK RANCH

Smith Fork Ranch is a family owned guest ranch with a current capacity of 26-28 guests. This intimate, high-end guest ranch is located roughly midway between Aspen and Telluride, Colorado. Straddling three miles of the Smith Fork River Valley, its compound of historic buildings sits at 7100 feet altitude, surrounded by 1.2 million acres of the Gunnison National Forest and 10,000-12,000 ft peaks of the West Elk Range of the Rocky Mountains. The ranch is located about 7 miles East of the town of Crawford (pop 350) and 25 minutes from the north rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park; 2 hours from Aspen; 2 ½ hours from Telluride; 1 ¾ hours from Grand Junction, 4 ½ hours SW of Denver, Colorado.

While the ranch dates back to the early 20th century, its current life as a high-end guest ranch began in 2002, after an extensive three-year restoration by the Hodgson family. In addition to its stunningly beautiful location, primary characteristics are handsomely appointed accommodations in the rustic tradition; a wine cellar of over 250 outstanding wines; gourmet cuisine; and a wide variety of outdoor activities (featuring fly fishing on extensive private waters, horseback riding, sporting clays, long-bow archery, mountain biking and hiking) customized to the desires of the guests.

Position: Head of Outdoor Activities

JOB DESCRIPTION

Outdoor Guides provide excellent instruction and general guiding skills to the high-end, active clientele at Smith Fork Ranch. Our Guides have a genuine interest in sharing his or her love and knowledge of the outdoors with guests. A high proficiency in Fly Fishing, Archery, Hiking, and Shooting as well as other outdoor interests are important. Guides man "The Round-Up", the on-site, full service fly shop that features merchandise that features the best fly rods, reels, flies, leaders, packs, vests and other general ranch clothing for guests use and purchase. Days are long, but fun and can be spent solely on one fishing trip or doing a myriad of things like hiking, weed-whacking, teaching archery, tying flies, and setting up a campfire. When outdoor guides are not taking guests on activities they are reporting to you as the Head of Outdoor Activities and helping to assist the Ranch Foreman and Farmstead Gardener/Groundskeeper for maintenance of the ranch facilities and grounds.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Train and manage a team (3-4) of SFR seasonal outdoor guides for fly fishing, sporting clays, archery, mountain biking & hiking.
- Guide SFR guests in the above stated outdoor activities.
- Nurture and manage relationships with outside contractors, guides, outfitters and US Forest Service.
- Get to know ranch guests, and understand their needs, preferences, desires and abilities relating to the various activities available during their stay at SFR. (most guests are families staying for 5+ days during peak summer season)
- Working closely with the General Manager to schedule and organize guides and equipment for all activities for all guests (adults and children) during their stay.
- Working closely with the Gardener/Groundskeeper in determining additional weekly duties (mowing, landscaping, weed whacking, etc.)

This involves:

- Close, timely communication with SFR's other ranch departments, such as horse riding program and children's program, kitchen, etc.
- Organizing and assigning SFR guides to handle all non-horse related, on-ranch (or in national forest) outdoor activities.
- Care, maintenance and management of all gear, equipment and facilities relating to all outdoor activities mentioned above, with emphasis on safety and quality.



- Monitoring, maintenance and management of trophy trout ponds, and 3+ miles of private water on the Smith Fork of the Gunnison
- Contribute to the overall guest ranch experience with participation in weekly events such as BBQ cookouts, campfire, music night dances and other special events.
- Personally responsible and accountable for successful execution of all outdoor guide duties (please see Outdoor Guides job description)

REQUIREMENTS

- Passion for life/work as all-around OUTDOORSMAN/SPORTSMAN/NATURALIST
- Successful recreation management experience at a guest ranch, resort, lodge, etc where fly-fishing and other outdoor activities are central to the operation.
- Strong knowledge of fly fishing techniques and equipment
- Good knowledge of sporting clays, archery, mountain biking and hiking
- Knowledge and appreciation of horseback riding, river rafting, hot air ballooning, upland bird hunting, waterfowl hunting and big game hunting would also be helpful.
- Must have valid driver's license.
- Must be physically fit and able to lift 75 lbs.
- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Must have current CPR & First Aid certification or willing to obtain
- Ability to operate a variety of ranch equipment (ie. ranch truck, skid steer, atv)
- Ability to work 5-6 days a week
- Available for employment May 1 through November 1

As part of the SFR Supervisory team:

- Contribute to the overall guest experience by participating in some weekly guest events
- Help maintain a high level of morale, dedication and pride in good work among all staff members Genuinely enjoy helping people, enjoy creating and facilitating positive, uplifting experiences for SFR guests and fellow staff members.
- Patient, understanding and generous to co-workers.
- Radiate optimistic warmth and happiness (kind, thoughtful, with a sense that the glass is always at least half full).
- Strong work ethic and "excellence reflex"(a natural tendency to do something as well as can possibly be done).
- Open-minded, with a keen curiosity to learn

Smith Fork Ranch is a close-knit team oriented community. Everyone must be willing to pitch in and help on occasion, where ever needed, including wood cutting, lawn care, housekeeping, washing dishes, vehicles, etc.

The Head of Outdoor Activities reports to the General Manager of Smith Fork Ranch.

Compensation

Competitive salary based on ability and experience. Housing is available, meals during guest season and share of employee tip pool.

To Apply

Fill out our online application or Mail/Email application, cover letter, resume and photo to:

Smith Fork Ranch
 Attn: General Manager
 45362 Needle Rock Road
 Crawford, CO 81415



Phone: 970-921-3454
Email: employment@smithforkranch.com

