

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: Outdoor Activities Guide

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 the Head Guide, Ranch Foreman and Farmstead Gardener/Groundskeeper for maintenance of the ranch facilities and grounds

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hold group fly fishing clinics and one-on-one fishing instruction for all ages
- Guide fly fishing guests on ponds, Smith Fork, and the Gunnison
- Guide SFR Guests in Fly Fishing, Hiking, Archery, and Sporting Clays
- Hold group fly casting instruction
- Keep The Round-Up and other activities centers clean and organized
- Assist guests purchasing flies, tackle and accessories for other activities and properly communicate these purchases to the office
- Guide hiking on and off the ranch (Gunnison National Forest & West Elk Wilderness)
- Care and Maintenance of SFR outdoor equipment with an emphasis on safety and quality
- Provide transportation to/from off ranch activities for SFR Guests
- Fly Shop Management- making sure the store is manned as schedule allows, tidy, well-stocked, and cleaned daily
- Trophy trout feeding and monitoring
- Water flower pots at ponds
- Maintain hiking and fishing trail system
- Stream management and monitoring
- Management of 2 ranch hot tubs as well as area around main hot tub
- Assist with pre-season preparation and maintenance of other activity areas including archery range, & course, disc-golf course, sporting clays deck and traps, tree house, ponds and streams



- Assist throughout the season with landscaping, weed whacking, and mowing under the direction of the Farmstead Gardener/Groundskeeper on a weekly basis
- Provide information on local flora and fauna and geology to guests
- Assist with children's cookout
- Accurately record all hikes and fishing trips in log books (forest service logs)
- Operate a variety of ranch equipment as needed under the direction of ranch foreman(i.e. manure spreader, Gator, ranch truck, etc)
- Contribute to the overall guest ranch experience with participation in weekly events such as Staff/Guest BBQ, Saturday night cookout, campfire, dances, and other special events.
- Maintain a level of dedication and pride in the work at Smith Fork Ranch by helping out in times of need and completing each job to the best of your ability (work such as wood cutting, lawn care, housekeeping, washing vehicles, airport runs, ranch tours, etc.)
- Be a part of the SFR team, contributing talents, thoughts, humor, and enthusiasm.

REQUIRMENTS

- Must be at least 19 years of age
- Fly fishing, hiking and general outdoors experience necessary; archery, shooting, and naturalist knowledge helpful
- Strong knowledge of fly fishing techniques and equipment for trout
- Basic Aquatic Entomology Identification
- Must have CPR & First Aid certifications
- Experience working with people of all ages
- Must adhere to Division of Wildlife fishing regulations and U.S. Forest Service regulations
- Must have valid driver's license
- Must have CPR & First Aid certification
- Must be able to lift 75 pounds.
- Must wear proper SFR uniform
- Must adhere to all SFR safety procedures with guests and equipment at all times
- Musical talent and ability to entertain a plus (guitar, singing, line dancing, etc.)
- Ability to work 5-6 days a week
- Must be available for employment from May 15 – August 31

Compensation

Competitive salary based on ability and experience. Housing, meals 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

