

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: Wrangler

JOB DESCRIPTION

This is not a job about horses; this is a job about people. First and foremost wranglers at SFR must be people persons who are outgoing, engaging, and who genuinely care about people and their western ranch experience. Secondly wranglers at SFR must be equestrians. Wrangler days are spent tacking, grooming, cleaning stalls, feeding, doctoring, pruning trails, guiding rides, assisting guests, aiding in overall communication between rider and their animal, and setting up and supervising arena activities. Days are long, physically and mentally taxing, and filled with interesting guest and animal experiences.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Gathering, feeding, grooming and saddling horses daily
- Guiding guests "Children, Teens, and Adults" though various mountain terrain on trail rides
- Caring for sick and injured animals
- Teaching basic western horsemanship skills and coaching riders along the trail and in the arena
- Maintaining and cleaning tack
- Maintaining facilities, corrals, tack shed, boot bin, "mounting platform", and barn grounds
- Clearing and maintaining well groomed trails
- Fence maintenance and repair
- Flood irrigating pastures
- Operating a variety of ranch equipment as needed (i.e. manure spreader, skid steer, gator, ranch truck, etc.)
- Contribute to the overall guest ranch experience with participation in weekly events such as staff/guest BBQ, Saturday night cookout, campfires, dances, and other special events
- Assisting with any ranch chore or activity as needed or directed such as woodcutting, lawn care, housekeeping, washing vehicles, etc.
- Giving ranch tours to arriving guests
- Being a part of the SFR team and contributing your talents, enthusiasm, humor, thoughts, and supporting your fellow team members to provide our guests the best vacation possible



REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 19 years of age
- Have at least 2 years experience in western horsemanship skills as well as many years of riding and caring for horses
- Previous experience working with horses AND people, such as: ranch work, lesson barns, horse camps, FFA, etc.
- Must be able to lift 75 pounds
- Must have CPR & First Aid certification our willingness to obtain
- Must have a valid drivers license
- Experience riding in backcountry mountain terrain
- Must present yourself according to SFR standards and wear proper uniform including hat, long sleeve shirt, jeans, and chaps / chinks when riding
- Must present a good western image in dress and behavior
- Must have a genuine concern for SFR guests
- Maintain the highest level of safety while with guests, horses, staff, and self
- Ability to work 5-6 days a week
- Must be available for employment from May 14 – August 31

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 Wranglers report to the Head Wrangler 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

