

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: Youth Counselor

JOB DESCRIPTION

Our youth counselors and ranch crew experience a variety of jobs during their summer at Smith Fork Ranch. During our family weeks, our youth program focuses on children 6-12 years of age. During these periods our youth counselors/ranch crew plan and carryout a kids program, utilizing a tree house, two Ute Indian Tipis (often used for camp outs) and the Homestead Hangout, for games, arts and crafts. In addition, there are horse/tire swings and a swimming hole - our uppermost pond with floating dock - for cool dips on hot days, a stream for panning for gold and boat races. We have two small mules for riding, petting and grooming. Best of all, there are boundless acres of fields, ponds, and woodlands to explore, hike and play in!

SFR youth counselors are people-persons who are eager to learn the overall ranch and hospitality experience. They are outgoing, engaging individuals who genuinely care about others, relate to children as well as adults and have a creative, fun-loving nature.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- With the guidance of the General Manager and Office staff plan out a weekly children's/youth program
- Guide children on nature hikes/walks and scavenger hunts sharing knowledge of flora & fauna
- Take children to creek for fishing and playing in the tree house
- Organize yard or field games for children and adults at weekly cookout & rainy day games
- Lead children on mule rides & teach grooming and basic horsemanship
- Supervise children's dinner and activities during adult dinner
- Organize games and arts & crafts projects in Homestead Hangout
- Hike to the swimming hole for swimming or floating in inner tubes

REQUIREMENTS

- Teaching, childcare or mothers' helper experience. (Team building, sports coaching or gymnastics experience a plus)
- Past experience in the hospitality industry – housekeeping, wait staff or kitchen work helpful
- Must be able to lift and carry 40 lbs.
- Must have CPR & First Aid certification or willingness to obtain
- Must wear proper SFR attire



- Maintain high level of safety with guests at all time
- Musical ability, such as singing, playing the guitar, is a plus
- Must have valid driver's license
- Have a genuine concern for the level of enjoyment of our guests
- Contribute to the overall guest ranch experience with participation in Staff/Guest luncheon, Saturday night cookout, campfire, and dances.
- Be part of the SFR team, contributing talents and enthusiasm and pitching in where needed
- Ability to work 5-6 days a week
- Available to work from mid-May through August

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 Youth Counselors report 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

