



PARENT PACKET

Rock Springs Ranch has been a tradition for kids across Kansas since 1946.

MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

And while they are hiking, swimming, horseback riding, or simply sitting by a fire under a starry night sky, they are also learning the kinds of lessons that last a lifetime. They “unplug” and explore what it means to stretch socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively.

Uniquely located in the Flint Hills and grounded in 4-H values, Rock Springs prepares current and future generations with leadership development, conservation education and sportsmanship skills.

OUR MISSION

In Kansas 4-H, we believe leaders aren’t born, they’re grown! At summer camp they develop the imagination and the drive necessary to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Here we work to truly “Make the Best Better.”

Our programs are designed to teach understanding, responsibility and cooperation among campers and staff to help kids develop strong values and life skills.

- Self-awareness and positive values
- Social skills and a sense of belonging
- Knowledge of and appreciation for the natural world

AGE GROUP UNITS

While at camp, campers are divided into cabins based upon their age. Depending on the camper's age their cabin will be in one of three age groups. Although most activities are done by cabin groups, there are some opportunities for age group activities and all-camp interaction. While units are typically organized by age, unit placements can vary by grade, session, or year depending on enrollment.

MINICAPERS

Ages 6-8 (Traditionally rising 1-3 graders)

EXPLORERS

Ages 8-10 (Traditionally rising 3-5 graders)

TRAILBLAZERS

Ages 11-13 (Traditionally rising 6-8 graders)

ADVENTURERS

Ages 14-18 (Traditionally rising 9-12 graders)

Cabin Groups:

Cabins are organized by gender and age. A typical cabin group has 6 to 12 campers and two counselors, with younger cabins being smaller in size.

Cabin groups function as a family while they are at camp - they share a living space, eat meals together and do almost all activities together as a group. They have the same counselors all week so there are lots of opportunities for team-building throughout the session.



Cabin Mate Requests:

Friends who are similar in age (within 2 years) and attend camp together may request to be in a cabin group. Requests should only include first and last names rather than referring to a group of campers. Cabin mate requests must mutually request each other. Friend groups up to 3 are permitted. Groups of 4 or more will be asked to split into multiple cabins. We make every effort to honor cabin mate requests, but they are not guaranteed.

ROCK SPRINGS CAMPER SCHEDULE

7:45 am	Flag Raising
8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Morning Activities
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Afternoon Activities
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Evening Activities
8:00 - 10:00 pm	Bedtime <i>varies by age</i>

ACTIVITIES

Rock Springs Ranch focuses on three programmatic Centers of Excellence:



Our programs and activities are created to spark learning and personal growth while at the same time encouraging a fun and relaxed learning environment. Activities offered are based upon camper age and program progression. Camp will host All-Camp events throughout the summer, which could be anything from a counselor hunt, to a talent show, or even capture the flag.

Below are some of the activities offered per age group:

Explorers

Intro to Horses, Archery, Climbing Wall, BBs, Creatures of the Night, Giant Swing, Pool, Arts & Crafts and more!

Trailblazers

Canoes, .22 Rifles, Stream Study, 3D Archery, Horses, Zipline, Pool, Arts & Crafts and more!

Adventurers

Prairie Life, Horses, Trap, Canoes, Aerial Archery, High Ropes Course, Zipline, Pool, Arts & Crafts and more!

In some cases, campers may bring personal sports equipment, such as an archery bow or riding helmet. Check with us before bringing these to camp. Camp staff will inspect items for safety prior to use.

Swim Check:

Each session will start with a tour of camp that will include a stop at the pool for a swim check to evaluate each camper's swimming ability.

The check includes:

- A continuous swim of the width of the pool (approximately 60 ft.).
- Swimmer must stay facing forward on the surface of the water with recognizable stroke.

Based on the evaluation from the lifeguards a necklace will be issued to each camper to be worn when at the pool. Should the camper not be able to complete the check AND is not tall enough to stand comfortably in the deepest section of our shallow end (approximately 4 ft.) they will be issued a red band and be required to wear a life jacket at all times while at the pool. Lifeguards are trained to err on the side of caution and will have the final say on evaluation. The swim check will not be able to be retaken unless there are unique circumstances.



CHECK-IN/-OUT

Campers can be dropped off at camp or ride camp provided transportation. ALL families must submit the transportation form by May 15, whether their camper plans to ride the bus or be dropped off at camp. Should the camp need to communicate bus delays or changes in transportation, guardians will be contacted by either phone or email.

For pick-up at camp and at the bus stop, please add anyone with permission to pick up your camper on the form. Be prepared to show identification at pick-up! If you need to change or add any additional authorized parties to the list please log into your CamplnTouch account to update the form.

Camper Drop-off + Pick-up at Camp

When you arrive, you will be greeted by staff and directed to camper drop-off or pick-up. If your camper has medication or health concerns for the week you will be directed toward the Nurse Station to drop off ALL medications and complete any forms.

If you need to arrive late for check-in please call our office at (785) 257-3221 or email campregistrar@rockspringsranch.org. When you arrive to camp please stop by the front office in the Johnson Administration Building.

Mini Camp Sessions:

- **Check-in at Camp: Sun**
(2:30 pm - 4:00 pm)
- **Check-Out at Camp: Tues**
(10:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Half Week Sessions:

- **Check-in at Camp: Sun or Wed**
(2:30 pm - 4:00 pm)
- **Check-Out at Camp: Wed or Sat**
(10:30 am - 12:00 pm)

Weeklong Sessions:

- **Check-in at Camp: Sunday**
(2:30 pm - 4:00 pm)
- **Check-Out at Camp: Friday**
(4:00 pm - 6:00 pm)

BUS TRANSPORTATION

RSR has added ten transportation 'hubs' for camper drop-off & pick-up this summer. Bus transportation is provided at \$25 per child round trip. Bus riders are provided meals upon arrival to camp and prior to departure from camp. For the most up-to-date information on ALL ten bus hub locations please visit the Transportation Page on our website.

There is a 15-minute window for each bus stop. Please arrive on time as buses leave promptly to stay on schedule. If you miss your bus time for drop off please bring your child to camp during the designated camp check-in time.

Bus Rules:

- One person to a seat
- Campers should sit with partners of the same gender (unless siblings)
- Campers should sit youngest in front to oldest in back.
- No standing while bus is in motion.
- Campers face forward and seated while bus is in motion.
- Campers should show respect to driver, counselors, passengers, other motorists and themselves.
- Campers must remain on the bus until they have been signed out by a guardian.
- Emergency exits should remain closed and not tampered with unless an emergency occurs.
- Food and drink are permitted as long as trash is properly disposed of afterwards.
- Fighting, teasing, or any type of bullying will not be tolerated.

Our goal is to make the bus ride as enjoyable for campers as possible, thus games, books, toys and electronic devices will be permitted on the bus. All media content must be child appropriate. Campers understand and agree that once at camp, electronic devices must be given to the counselors for safe keeping. Rock Springs Ranch will not be responsible for any lost or broken items.

CAMPER COMMUNICATION

Campers love to hear from you and receive mail while at camp. There are multiple ways for you to keep up with your camper while they are at Rock Springs Ranch.

Mail:

Camper's Name & Cabin
Rock Springs Ranch
1168 Highway K-157
Junction City, KS 66441

Consider sending mail ahead of time or giving it to staff at check in to ensure it arrives while your child is at camp. With the increase in severe food allergies and dietary restrictions, we ask that mail not contain any food or candy. Food in the cabins also attracts mice and insects.

Campers can also send letters while at camp. Help campers who may be interested by pre-addressing and stamping envelopes prior to camp.

E-Mail:

You can send one-way emails to your camper. Emails are printed daily and distributed to campers at mealtimes. Campers do not have access to computers and will not be able to send responses while at camp.

Email:

camper@rockspringsranch.org

Subject Line:

Camper's First & Last Name, Cabin Assignment

Photos:

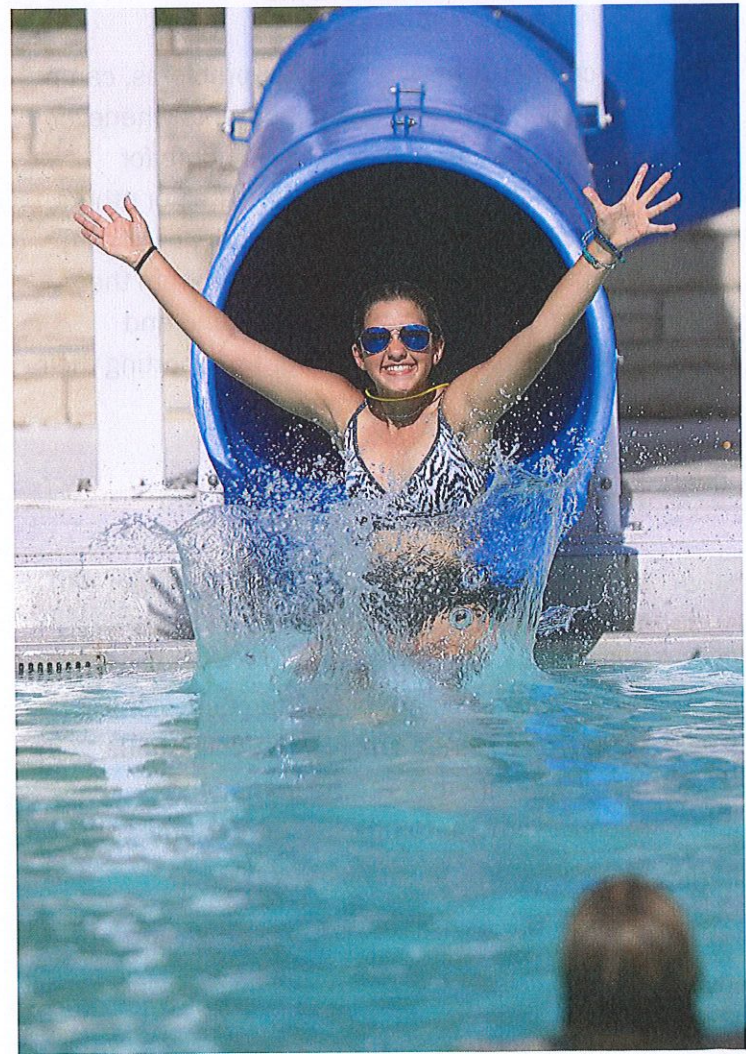
Photos from camp are uploaded each day and parents can access and view these through SmugMug. You can download the app or find the link on our website. The site is password protected and you will receive the password at check-in. Please be patient as it takes time to upload photos, and your camper may not be in photos every day. Some days there may be less opportunity to take photos of your camper based upon their activities and weather-related safety.

Social Media:

For updates throughout the session follow Rock Springs Ranch on social media.

Instagram: @rockspringsranch

Facebook: Rock Springs Ranch





CONTACT INFORMATION

Rock Springs Ranch
1168 Highway K-157
Junction City, KS 66441

Phone: (785) 257-3221
Fax: (785) 257-3304
rockspringsranch4hcamp.org

Camper Emails During Session:

Email:
camper@rockspringsranch.org
Subject Line:
Camper's First & Last Name, Cabin Assignment

Camp Director:

Jared Gleason
jgleason@rockspringsranch.org

Equine Program Manager:

Katelin Calhoun
kcalhoun@rockspringsranch.org

