



Dear Pastor, Youth Director or Adult Sponsor,

Thank you for choosing Ebert Ranch Camp!

Our Summer Theme

This summer, Cross Trails Ministry campers will be exploring the theme of “God: Open 24/7”. We will be going through the seasons of the church year and discovering the opportunities that God gives to us each and every day to put our faith in to action! It is going to be a great summer!

Everything is ONLINE!

Your campers and adults who have submitted registration forms will soon be receiving a postcard. It will direct them to our webpage to get all of the information and forms needed for your camp week. Here is what each camper’s parent or guardian, or participating adult should do:

1. Go to www.CrossTrails.org
2. Click on Summer Camp
3. Click on Summer 2017 Handbooks and Forms
4. Make sure email from crosstrails.org does not go to their spam or promotions filter so they can receive updates as needed

Here is what your participants will find:

- Ebert Ranch Camper Information Handbook – This can be read online or printed. It contains a lot of information about the camp week, including how parents can contact their camper and what to bring. **It is especially important that parents read the portion of the handbook regarding pictures, DVD’s and contacting their camper. These have changed from previous years in some wonderful new ways.**
- Health History Form – **Required** - We need a parent or guardian to fill this out. From Adults we need an Adult Health History Form to give us information we may need if there is an emergency.
- Cross Trails Release Form – **Required** - Each camper and adult participant needs to fill one of these out.
- DVD and Group Photo Form – This is optional, however it can speed check in if parents or adult participants fill it out and bring it on the first day.
- Campership Form – No one should miss out on camp because of the cost. Camperships are available. Payment plans are also available. Call if you have questions. Don’t let anyone miss out because of cost!

ALL FORMS ARE DUE MAY 1 to the Cross Trails Ministry Office.

Leader Resources are also available ONLINE!

There are some resources that we have specifically for group leaders. To access them:

1. Go to www.CrossTrails.org
 2. Click on Summer Camp
 3. Click on Pastor and Youth Leader Information
- Congregational Time Resources: Congregational Time at camp is 45 minutes in the evening on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday when you may join your congregational group for some social or teaching time. This booklet provides daily ideas for you to look over and use with your group. Congregational time is optional, but encouraged as many groups find it helps them to make the connection between camp and home. Bunkhouse Leaders typically take this time off, but you may request staff help if you would like it.

- Summer Camper Sending Service Resources: We provide you with resources for a sending service to use before campers leave for camp. Why not let your campers know that your congregation supports them?

Balance Due On May 1

A group invoice will soon be sent to the person listed as the primary contact person for your group reservation. Your campers will not receive individual notices. Payment is due, in full, by May 1st.

Ranch Poses and Cabin-Mate Requests – Let us know your preference ASAP

At Ebert, boys and girls are housed in separate bunkhouses, and the youth are divided into “Poses” for their activities. Poses are made up of similarly aged campers of one gender. They generally join a Posse of the other gender for activities. These co-ed groups are called “Herds”. As long as cabin-mate requests are for a similarly aged camper, we use them to help put Poses together. We also try to mix congregations, when possible, so campers meet new friends. Once campers arrive, Posse assignments are difficult to change without disrupting other campers. So, if you have a **specific request for campers that you want together, or separated**, please contact us prior to your arrival.

For Confirmation Camp Only – Email Stephen Krupicka

If you are planning to teach your own group, you will have one and a half hours to teach most days. Our staff will be available to help as much as you'd like. Please email Stephen Krupicka, our Ebert Ranch Camp Director at stephen@crosstrails.org, and let him know if you need any teaching resources. If you would like our staff to teach your confirmation group, it is very important that we know that as soon as possible. All of this information will help us to adjust staff assignments appropriately.

Your Home for the Week – Lela Haus

All adults attending Ebert Ranch Camp will be housed in Lela Haus. It is an air-conditioned cabin with four bedrooms. Each bedroom has its own bathroom and will hold up to eight people in bunk beds. Most weeks there will be two to three people per room. Lela Haus also has a full kitchen and a living room. If you have an RV, Ebert has seven sites with full hook-ups. Email info@crosstrails.org if you would like to stay there.

Please be aware that some cell services do not work well at Ebert Ranch. There is no phone in Lela Haus. Should your family or congregation need to contact you, have them call (830) 864-4669. Messages will be relayed at meal times unless it is an emergency. If there is an emergency after 11 pm, have them call (830) 864-4009, the Director's house.

What to Bring

If you are an adult who will be attending, you should bring all of the items on the What to Bring List included in the handbook. Adults can also bring most of the items on the What Not to Bring List, but we ask you to keep them in your cabin and not use them in front of campers. This is especially true of cell phones. If you choose to bring a computer, wireless internet access is available. Please do not bring pets, weapons of any kind, illegal drugs, or anything valuable.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is a fun part of the week at Ebert Ranch. If you want to ride, we will try our best to place you in a riding group. We will try to let you ride with your campers, but sometimes it is not possible.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at 830-257-6340 or info@crosstrails.org.

It is going to be an amazing summer! Thank you again for choosing Ebert Ranch Camp!



Your Partner in Ministry,

Deanna Christensen

Executive Director