



circle

ranch

Where Friends Meet



DAY AND RESIDENCE CAMPS
For Boys and Girls SK to Grade 10

where friends meet

....CIRCLE R RANCH



Owned and operated by the Russell family, Circle R Ranch is located just west of London, Ontario on 220 acres of rolling, wooded terrain in the Dingman Creek Valley. Our beautiful hardwood forest, fields, and spring fed ponds allow for a wide variety of programs. Circle R originated in 1966 when Milly and John Russell identified a need for a top quality youth camping program in the London area with the unique specialty of western horseback riding. Today Circle R is a renowned and respected summer camp and year-round outdoor education centre for youth, families, schools, and organizations.



CAMP PROGRAMS

Circle R is more than just a riding camp. We offer all the exciting traditional camp activities including swimming, canoeing, environmental and nature programs, kayaking, arts and crafts, the garden, archery, mountain biking, low ropes course, tree climbing, farm animals, MeowTown, leadership, music, team building, general sports, and many other special activities.

We understand that each camper comes to us with unique needs, interests, and a different stage of development. We have taken great care in designing the programs we offer to best meet the needs and interests of each camper. We believe that a quality camping experience provides children with an opportunity to learn essential life skills, make new friends, and develop self-esteem. We are proud to be celebrating our 49th year of providing high quality day and residence camp programs filled with friendship, adventure, and lifelong memories.



LET YOUR
summer fun
BEGIN...

AT *camp!*

A young boy with curly brown hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt and dark blue shorts with a white stripe, is gently petting the nose of a white horse with grey speckles. The horse is wearing a grey halter with a brass-colored buckle and is standing behind a wooden fence. The background is a lush green field with trees in the distance.

A PLACE WHERE
*animals, nature,
& people...*

*create an
exciting &*
MEMORABLE
WORLD.

CIRCLE R AND HORSES

Our major program is western pleasure horseback riding. Riding and working with horses is a fun and enjoyable pastime that also provides many opportunities to appreciate and understand these animals and to inspire a more positive and caring attitude. Significant personal growth and development and responsibility occur through learning more about horses. Developing the skills required to become a better rider improves coordination, balance, strength, and flexibility. Campers are encouraged to develop relationships with their horses. In doing so, campers learn valuable life lessons about communication, problem solving, responsibility, and relationships with others.



GARDEN PROGRAM

Take a deep breath of fresh air, relax, and join us in the garden. Located near the center of camp, the garden is a budding permaculture project where campers get a chance to flex their green thumbs. Digging around, planting seeds, and harvesting offers a hands-on exploratory way to learn where food comes from.

Fostering environmental awareness, campers take a close, deep look at the wonders of nature, recognizing the importance of taking an active role in caring for our precious environment.



MEOWTOWN

Happy tails create happy campers! Campers love coming to MeowTown, home to rescued kittens.

The hands-on MeowTown experience is also the perfect setting to teach children humane education, including the basics of responsible pet care, and empathy and compassion for animals.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with The Animal Love Foundation, a non-profit registered organization since 1991, assisting over 10,000 abandoned animals in finding new loving homes in the London and surrounding areas.

Residence Camp

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
finished grade 2 to 10

WHY RESIDENCE CAMP?

Circle R residence camp provides an incredible opportunity for personal growth and development, making lifelong friendships, and building a strong sense of belonging and self-esteem. Campers gain independence and learn about responsibility by being away from home for an extended period. Residence camp allows campers opportunities to learn and develop new skills, especially horsemanship and riding skills. When children play together, live together, and share the magic of living in the out-of-doors with a group of peers, many lessons in cooperation, communication, trust, respect, and self-confidence naturally occur.



RESIDENCE CAMP PROGRAM

Our 'Camper Choice' sessions allow campers to select and concentrate on the activities they enjoy, building more skills and confidence in these areas. Additionally, overnight trips on our site, evening programs such as all-camp wide games, campfires, skit nights, and many other special events, all help to create an exciting, adventurous, and fulfilling camp experience.

Campers are placed in groups of eight according to age and grade and have their own counsellors who live and work directly with them. The overall ratio of campers to staff in residence camp is 2:1. Our relatively small residence camp capacity of 80 campers per sessions supports Circle R's focus on providing a safe and healthy atmosphere, allows us to get to know each camper personally, and creates greater flexibility and more individual input into programming and day to day living.

HORSES AND THE RIDING PROGRAM

Residence campers ride every day and can choose additional horsemanship sessions. Our progressive horsemanship and riding-levels system encourages campers in each riding level to challenge themselves and increase their skills and knowledge. New campers who have little or no riding experience as well as returning campers have appropriate opportunities to build upon their skills and past experiences. Additionally, our 220 acres offers a great setting for exploring trails and having fun with horses!



FACILITIES, MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION

Circle R Ranch facilities include a spacious two-story main lodge, a crafts centre, horse corrals, and a number of smaller buildings. Outdoor program areas are located in the woods and fields throughout the site, including our very own spring-fed pond for boating and swimming.

We serve three well balanced family-style meals each day, including vegetarian alternatives, with a snack before bedtime. A salad bar or breakfast buffet table is offered at every meal, with fresh fruit, milk, juice, and other nutritious items.

Campers live with their group and counsellors in large canvas tents set on wooden floors. Tent areas are nestled comfortably in the woods, and living with friends in a natural setting provides campers with memories that last a lifetime.





LEADERSHIP ADVENTURE PROGRAM (LAP)

Four weeks – finished grade 9

This program is designed for young adults who are keen to continue their camping journey, and are ready to assume more responsibility within the Circle R community. Key highlights of this program are a three-day off-site camping trip, an overnight camping trip with horses on Circle R property, and a major group project. Participants will gain a greater understanding of their own leadership abilities, a stronger base of camp-related skills, and the satisfaction of having created lifelong friendships and memories.

LEADERS IN TRAINING (LIT)

Four weeks – finished grade 10

LITs gain valuable leadership experience in preparation for a variety of employment opportunities, including working at Circle R Ranch. LITs participate in more advanced leadership training such as communication and problem solving, behaviour management techniques, and understanding age group characteristics. LITs apply these skills directly by becoming involved in a supervised placement at camp. LITs also participate in Bronze Medallion swim instruction.





LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS PROGRAM (LEP)

Two weeks – finished grade 9 or 10

The LEP program provides leadership training and opportunities for young adults during a two week session. Participants experience training sessions, adventure components, and the opportunity to gain experience working with younger campers. Like our other leadership programs, the LEPs develop advanced riding skills and participate in an off-site trip.

Our condensed LEP leadership program is an exceptional resume-building experience and has proven to develop strong leaders for future generations.



Day Camp

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

finished SK to grade 8



WHY DAY CAMP?

Circle R Ranch day camp is a wonderful introductory camp experience! Day campers return home each evening after a full day of opportunities to play, explore, spend time outdoors, and make new friends. Most importantly, day campers become part of a caring community that encourages and supports them while they practice “growing up!”

*Our Day Camp includes
Nutritious Hot Lunches
and Transportation!*

DAY CAMP PROGRAM

Day Camp introduces campers to a wide variety of activities as they participate in all the elements of a great camp experience. All of Circle R's camp programs are available to day campers, according to their age and abilities. Day campers are placed in groups of eight to ten with one counsellor, except for Tykes campers who have two counsellors with each group. Including program staff, the overall ratio of campers to staff in Day Camp is 3:1 and the relatively small capacity of campers per session allows more personal interaction and greater flexibility in day-to-day programming.

HORSES AND THE RIDING PROGRAM

There is plenty of horse time for everyone! Day campers learn about horses and riding in a safe, relaxed, fun-filled environment. Campers enjoy a trail ride through our scenic property every day, and throughout the week they will engage in several practical horsemanship sessions.

The riding program at Circle R is designed to assist campers in developing their skills and confidence as they become more comfortable riding and communicating with horses. During their week at Circle R, Day Campers increase their riding skills and horse knowledge, have fun, and enjoy the many benefits of spending time with horses!



FACILITIES, MEALS AND TRANSPORTATION

At day camp each group has their own space to call home. Our facilities include a spacious two-story main lodge, a crafts centre, horse corrals, and a number of smaller buildings. Outdoor program areas are located in the woods and fields throughout the site, including our very own spring-fed pond for boating and swimming.

Good food creates happy and healthy campers and staff. At Circle R we are proud of our wholesome, nutritious hot lunches served family style each day, including vegetarian alternatives, morning and afternoon snacks, and cold drinks throughout the day.

Bus transportation is provided with stops located throughout the London area, and day camp program begins and ends on the bus! Our staff travels on the busses every day, singing, playing games, and getting to know the campers on the ride to and from camp.



A photograph of a woman, a child, and a young woman posing with a horse in a paddock. The woman on the left is wearing a black tank top, blue jeans, and yellow rubber boots. The child in the middle is wearing a light blue shirt, black pants, and a white helmet. The young woman on the right is wearing a blue shirt and dark shorts. The horse is brown and white. The background shows a wooden fence, a house, and trees.

TOGETHER
WE *learn*

*explore
& discover*

Summer Family Camp

AUGUST 24-26, 2014

Family Camp is an exciting opportunity for the whole family to experience summer camp! It is a great way to reconnect with your family, interact with the natural world, introduce younger children to summer camp and have fun together!

Our Family Camp program is designed with all members of the family in mind. Each day is filled with activities and opportunities for family members to play independently and together.

Activities are all optional, giving families the opportunity to choose whether to participate in program, or simply relaxing and spend some quality time together. Create family memories that last a lifetime!

Tykes & Junior Day Camp

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
finished SK to grade 4



OFFERED ALL SUMMER!

This program is an exciting week of exploration and play, filled with plenty of opportunities for being creative and trying new things. A dedicated team of staff members will work with these campers to ensure that campers feel safe and secure at all times. Age-appropriate activities may include the farm animal program, MeowTown, boating or canoeing on the pond, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, environmental activities, and many other fun-filled and creative choices. When Tyke campers ride their ponies, they are supported individually by a staff or volunteer throughout their ride. Junior campers will learn and practice riding skills, basic horsemanship, and horse care during their daily riding sessions.

An intro to...

Residence Camp

EXCLUSIVE TO FIRST-TIME RESIDENCE CAMPERS

finished grade 2 or 3

Our five day, four night camp experience!

TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazers camp is for boys and girls who are ready for their first taste of 'overnight' summer camp. Residence camp provides incredible opportunities for individual growth and group development. Living with others helps campers develop co-operative attitudes, gain self confidence and independence, and fosters friendships that last a lifetime. Staying overnight means more time to have FUN at camp, experiencing activities exclusive to residence camp. Through the wide range of engaging activities, we provide the caring, supportive environment necessary to help each camper succeed in the camp environment, creating a safe 'home away from home'. Our objective is to ensure that campers have a positive camp experience, preparing them for a lifelong love of nature, horses, animals, outdoor activity, and community.

OUR STAFF

Our staff members are the most essential factor in ensuring a positive experience at camp. Each year, camping professionals, teachers, university, college, and high-school students join our summer staff team. Staff members are selected for their demonstrated ability to be good role models, solve problems, and facilitate teamwork. Our staff choose to work at camp because they are dedicated to providing children with opportunities to learn and grow. Above all else, they love working with children, and enjoy animals and the natural world.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Circle R Ranch is fully committed to the safety of all campers and staff. All staff are certified in Standard First Aid and CPR. Waterfront staff and lifeguards possess current NLS and/or Bronze Cross certifications. ASTM approved riding helmets are provided for all staff and campers. Circle R proudly meets the standards of all local health and fire departments, the Ministry of Environment, as well as the high standards of the OCA.



ACCREDITATION

The Ontario Camps Association (OCA) has developed an extensive accreditation process for all areas of camp operations, including health and safety standards and guidelines for all camp programs. Circle R Ranch has been an accredited member of the OCA since 1966.



IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE
everyone can feel



AT
home.



Where Friends Meet

Circle R Ranch is located 8 kilometres west of London, Ontario

3017 Carriage Road, RR1, Delaware ON N0L 1E0

T: 519-471-3799 • TF: 877-844-8738 • F: 519-471-6282

info@circrerranch.ca • www.circrerranch.ca

