



Rivers Edge Camp and Retreat Centre

**L.E.A.D**

***Lifelong Equestrians***

***And Disciples***

**2017**

Encouraging the next generation to reach their communities for Christ through their love of horses.

*"Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation."*

*Psalm 25:5a*

## Who?

Students who are at least 15 years of age who love God, love horses, and have a desire to grow in their relationship with God and to broaden their skills as a rider. Students must have completed CHA Horsemanship Levels 1 & 2 before applying.

## What?

L.E.A.D. is a 3 week program with a year of guided personal growth. It is a “next step” program, experiencing a broader range of equestrian disciplines, teaching a higher level of skill, and delving deeper into what it means to be a disciple of Christ. The goal of L.E.A.D. is to encourage the next generation to be passionate, competent equestrians of exemplary character and conduct who lead for Christ in their communities.

## Where?

Rivers Edge Camp is located just 9 kilometres west of Cremona, AB in the Water Valley area approximately 45 minutes northwest of Calgary close to the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

## When?

The journey begins this summer with three weeks at Rivers Edge Camp from *July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017*. Upon completion of the full year L.E.A.D. program, campers may apply to become Junior Wranglers and eventually work up to being an Assistant Instructor at 18.

## How to apply?

There is an application form at the end of this package. You can print it off, fill it out, scan it and email it in to [equine@riversedgecamp.org](mailto:equine@riversedgecamp.org).

## What's the Cost?

The cost of this program is \$500 per student. Participants will be encouraged to seek the support of their local church through prayer and financial assistance. It is suggested that the local church assists by giving \$100 per student. Participants will be coached in sending out a prayer letter and gathering support as this will underscore the importance of the church, prayer and accountability. (A sample prayer letter is enclosed in the packet.)

Also each participant needs to prayerfully find an adult mentor, 18 years or older, in their local church/community who will meet regularly. Ideally this mentor is involved in an equestrian discipline, but it is not absolutely necessary. (A guideline sheet is enclosed in the packet.)

## What's the Plan for the Three Weeks at Camp?

### **Week One:**

- Experience a variety of equestrian disciplines, possibly including off site trips and guest instructors.
- Riding skill level assessment, safety instruction
- Introduction to Camp Equestrian Activities
- Complete "Plan to Protect" Training
- Character of God study
- Serving experience
- Journaling

### **Week Two:**

- Work on your Personal Salvation Testimony (PST-see below) and share it with your fellow L.E.A.D. campers/leaders.
- "Train to Teach" instruction and lesson planning, teaching practice
- Arena lessons and specialty clinics
- Continue Character of God study
- Serving experience
- Journaling

### **Week Three:**

- Assist a cabin leader for Junior Horsemanship Camp
- Share your PST during cabin devos
- Teach part of a lesson
- Journaling
- July 21 L.E.A.D. Fun Show!

Arrival/Departure Schedule	
Week 1	Sunday July 2 Registration 4:00pm
	Saturday, July 8 Departure 6:00pm
Week 2	Monday, July Check-in 4:00pm
	Friday, July 14 Departure 4:00PM
Week 3	Sunday, July 17 Staff Meeting 1:30pm
	Friday, July 22 Fun Show 1:30, Depart 5:30

## PERSONAL SALVATION TESTIMONY (PST)

Your PST is your story. It's one of the most powerful ways to share the truth because it's your experience. No one can argue with what you've experienced.

As a result of this learning experience, you will:

1. Be able to share the story of how you met Jesus and how he is changing your life,
2. And will be able to explain how He can change the lives of your listeners as well!

### Instructions From The Top

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have." (1 Peter 3:15)*

As mentioned in the preface, your PST is your story. It's one of the most powerful ways to share the truth because it's your experience. No one can argue with what you've experienced. Since you're sharing a part of yourself, it makes people more open to you. It helps people relate to you because someone in your audience, or someone you are sharing with one-on-one may have experienced something similar.

**Your Goal:** To share the story of how you met Jesus and how He is changing your life, and explain how He can change the lives of your listeners as well.

**Short & Simply:** Keep your PST between 3 and 5 minutes

**How To:** Explain the Gospel so clearly that your listener will know how to meet Jesus as you did.

**PST Outline:** Let's look at the basic outline of your testimony.

1. The Hook: To grab people's attention
  - Ask a question or tell a brief story to grab people's attention.
2. How You Met Jesus?
  - Be specific about the actions you took. Describe your encounter with Jesus in such a way that someone listening to you can do it for himself or herself, without having to ask someone else for help.
3. What has happened since?
  - Tell how your decision to follow Jesus has affected your life, and is now affecting the way you live.

## A Sample Support Letter

Hi (include the pastor's name),

I have applied to Rivers Edge Camp & Conference Centre to participate in the Leaders in Training program. It is a student leadership training program that enables students to establish their faith relationship with Jesus Christ; grow their character in Christ-likeness; gain clarity about their part in God's kingdom work, all in the context of Christian camping ministry. It involves having an adult mentor from my church family who will regularly meet with me to encourage and challenge me to keep growing in my relationship with Christ. I will be attending three weeks at River's Edge Camp this summer, *July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017*, then a fall retreat and a spring retreat next year. Along with these events I will be involved in a year-long project focused on Christian leadership. After this I may apply to volunteer as a junior wrangler and spend the entire Summer serving, learning, and growing alongside the camp staff.

The program costs \$500 per participant. I am prepared to raise most of that amount, but am asking if the church would support me \$100 along with regularly praying for me. I value the support of my church family as I enter into this adventure which I believe will significantly affect my life's direction and effectiveness as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Thanks for considering my request. Feel free to contact me or Joy Jenson, equine program coordinator at the camp (403-637-2766, [equine@riversedgecamp.org](mailto:equine@riversedgecamp.org)) if you have further questions.

(Conclude the letter as you wish)

## Guidelines for Mentoring a L.E.A.D.

The L.E.A.D. program is a student leadership training program provided by Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre. The training program's goal is to encourage the next generation to be passionate, competent equestrians of exemplary character and conduct who lead for Christ in their communities.

An integral part of ensuring that this happens in the student's life, is the role of a godly adult mentor which is why you are being approached.

### What are the expectations of a mentor?

1. To encourage your student as he/she strives to be involved in your local equestrian community. This may mean occasionally attending a practice or competition, joining a trail ride, or going along to a club meeting to provide encouragement and support as your student steps out of personal comfort zones to build relationships with the goal of sharing the Gospel.
2. To meet regularly (monthly) from **June 2017 through August 2018** preferably in person, although occasionally it may be done by phone/Skype if schedules do not allow in person.
3. To invite the student to share on three areas since the last meeting, referring to his/her journal.
  - a). Where have you seen growth in your relationship with Christ?
  - b). What have you found difficult? What temptations have you experienced and how have you handled them?
  - c). How are you getting involved in your equestrian community? How have you witnessed God working through you in this?
3. Close each meeting with prayer
4. Pray regularly for your student.
5. Share an update regularly with Joy Jenson, equine program coordinator at Rivers Edge Camp, of the progress of the student.



# L.E.A.D APPLICATION FORM

## Descriptions

### Purpose

The goal of L.E.A.D. is to encourage the next generation to be passionate, competent equestrians of exemplary character and conduct who lead for Christ in their communities.

### What Can I Expect?

**L.E.A.D** Three weeks of hard work, amazing adventures, new skills, and personal challenges kick off a year long journey to discover how you can use something you love to do to reach your community for Christ. You'll study the character of God, try multiple equestrian disciplines, discuss building relationships with both horses and humans, and record how God is changing you in a personal journal. Throughout your three weeks at camp you will have opportunities to serve others, including being a junior cabin leader during Junior Horsemanship Camp. There will be a Fun Show on the last day to show off some of the new skills you've learned, and you'll be sent home with a mission: join an equestrian group in your community and start using horses to build relationships with the goal of sharing God's love. It isn't an easy path; you'll be sore, tired, sweaty and perpetually smelling like a horse. But all those things can bring God glory and change your life in ways you can't imagine.

## Personal Information

Please print on line above requested information

Full Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
Address	Gender	
City	Province	Postal Code
Social Insurance Number	Citizenship	Driver's License # (if available)
E-mail	Cell Phone #	Alternate Phone #
Best way to contact	<input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone (call) <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone (text) <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone	
Birth Date (eg. Jan 1, 1990)	Age as of June 30, 2015	

## Parent /Guardian Information

Please print on line above requested information

Parents/Guardians Name	Parents/Guardians E-mail
Parents/Guardians Cell Phone #	Parents/Guardians Alternate Phone #
Emergency Contacts Name	Emergency Contacts E-mail
Emergency Contacts Cell Phone #	Emergency Contacts Alternate Phone #

## Experience

Please feel free to use separate sheets for more information

### Education Experience

(including name of last school attended, dates, grade/degree completed)

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### Work Experience

(including positions held, dates, and duration)

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### Leadership/Teaching Experience

(formal leadership training, school, children's club, sports, arts, etc.)

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### Ministry Experience

(short term mission, camps, Sunday school, youth groups, church)

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## Tell us about yourself

### Equine Accreditation

(CHA, AEF)

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How many time have you ridden a horse? (circle)

1 to 5

5 to 10

Ride on a Regular basis

What kind of riding was it? (circle)

Western

English

Jumping

Dressage

Eventing

Racing

What other horse experience do you have?

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Have you ever taken lessons or been to any other riding camps?

How comfortable are you around horses?  
please explain

Have you ever fallen or come off of a horse? (circle)

Yes

No

If Yes, how did it change your feelings about horses? Was it long before you got back on a horse?

What do you think will be your greatest challenge while you are a L.E.A.D student?

What are areas you need to grow relating to horses?  
(please be honest with yourself)

Tell us what you love most about horses?

Tell us two things that you would like to learn about horses when you are a L.E.A.D student?

Why do you want to attend L.E.A.D?

#### 1+ Principle

The following information will assist us in knowing your interest level and skill in common Rivers Edge tasks/activities. During your time at Rivers Edge you may be asked to perform tasks outside of those listed as your preferred skills. At Rivers Edge we ask our Staff to be flexible and to work within the 1+ principle.

**The 1+ Principle:** Teamwork is a vital part of any camping program. Although all staff have a primary role at Rivers Edge Camp, when help is needed they will be required to assist in multiple areas of the camp. This means we all agree to remain flexible and provide assistance in more than one area of the camping ministry.

I understand the 1+ principle and am excited to work at Rivers Edge wherever I am most needed!

## Skills/Interests

Knowledge of your skills helps us utilize your talents at camp

**Please mark the following camp program components as noted:**

	Have accreditation in area	Interested and capable of teaching	Interested but need training	Capable but not interested	Please don't put me there!!
Admin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BMX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Café/Store	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drama/Skits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food Services/Hospitality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Aid/CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Ropes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horses/Equine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housekeeping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paracord Bracelets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photography/Video	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riflery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sling Shots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming/Lifeguarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survival/Outdoor Living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tie Dye T Shirts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video Editing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wall Climbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wide-Games	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What instruments do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about your skills: \_\_\_\_\_

## Confidential Self Evaluation and Personality

**Please check the box that best applies to you.**

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work habits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respect for authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judgement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concern for others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal integrity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Team spirit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spiritual maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please check only those that apply to you. Please include negative characteristics - none of us are perfect! The point of this is to help us get an accurate picture of you.**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abrasive                | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciplined          | <input type="checkbox"/> Helpful, Generous         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurousome          | <input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive           | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amiable                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily offended      | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrious, Hard-working |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Analytical              | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging          | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiator                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angry, Bitter           | <input type="checkbox"/> Enthusiastic         | <input type="checkbox"/> Joyful                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrogant, Vain          | <input type="checkbox"/> Expressive           | <input type="checkbox"/> Kind, Courteous           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assertive               | <input type="checkbox"/> Extrovert            | <input type="checkbox"/> Lazy, Slothful            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blunt                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Focused              | <input type="checkbox"/> Manipulative, Controlling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confident, Self-assured | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgiving            | <input type="checkbox"/> Motivated                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative                | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly             | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical                | <input type="checkbox"/> Fun, Playful         | <input type="checkbox"/> Open minded               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated, Loyal        | <input type="checkbox"/> Gentle               | <input type="checkbox"/> Optimistic                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dependable              | <input type="checkbox"/> Gossip               | <input type="checkbox"/> Organized                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diligent                | <input type="checkbox"/> Gracious, Hospitable |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discerning              | <input type="checkbox"/> Gregarious           |  |

**Spiritual Experience**

Describe your relationship with Christ at this point in your journey.

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Briefly state what being a Christian means to you.

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What steps are you currently taking to grow in your spiritual walk?

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Anything else you feel we should know about you?

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## Church Background

Please print on line above requested information

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Name of Church you attend

City

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How often do you attend (include types of events you attend)?

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Pastor/Youth Leader

Pastor's Phone (with area code)

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Pastor's E-mail

Pastor's Alternate Phone (with area code)

## References

### **1. Pastor/Mentor/Friend/Youth Leader**

This person needs to be able to speak to your spiritual maturity. (Please include name and phone #)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **2. Employee/Teacher**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Employee/Teacher**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Declaration

- I hereby allow Rivers Edge Camping Association to keep my information on a mailing list used solely for the use of communicating information with myself and other staff members.
- I also allow Rivers Edge Camping Association to use any photos of me taken during my time at camp for advertisement purposes.
- I hereby declare that the information provided in this document is true to the best of my knowledge, and any false statement automatically voids this application and is reason for dismissal as a L.E.A.D applicant.

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Date

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Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18)

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Thank you for applying at Rivers Edge Camp. **Please send completed application to:**

Rivers Edge Camp  
Box 39  
Cremona, AB T0M 0R0  
Phone: (403) 637-2766  
Fax: (403) 637-2765  
E-mail: [info@riversedgecamp.org](mailto:info@riversedgecamp.org)

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**Rivers Edge Camp and Retreat Centre**  
P.O. Box 39, Cremona, AB, Canada T0M 0R0  
403-637-2766 (office) 403-637-2765 (fax)  
www.riversedgecamp.org

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK FOR RIVERS EDGE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTRE

\_\_\_\_\_ is a volunteer with Rivers Edge Camp and Retreat Centre and requires a criminal record check with a vulnerable sector search as she/he will be directly involved with vulnerable individuals.

If you have any questions or require further information, please call the undersigned.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Lentz

Executive Administrative Assistant

Rivers Edge Camp and Retreat Centre  
Box 39  
Cremona, AB T0M 0R0  
Phone: 403-637-2766  
Fax: 403-637-2765  
Email: [info@riversedgecamp.org](mailto:info@riversedgecamp.org)