



Rivers Edge Camp and Retreat Centre

L.E.A.D
Lifelong Equestrians
And Disciples
2018

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."***

Psalms 25:5a

Who?

Students who are at least 15 years of age who love God, love horses, have a desire to grow in their relationship with God, and want to broaden their skills as a rider. Students must have completed CHA Horsemanship Rider 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 8th – 27th, 2018*. Upon completion of the full year L.E.A.D. program, campers may apply to become Junior Wranglers the following Summer.

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@riversedgencamp.org. Space is limited, and submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

What's the Cost?

The cost of this program is \$510 per participant. 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
- L.E.A.D. Wrap up Campfire!

Arrival/Departure Schedule	
Week 1	Sunday July 8 Registration 4:00pm
	Friday, July 13 Departure 4:00pm
Week 2	Sunday, July 15 Check-in 4:00pm
	Friday, July 20 Departure 4:00PM
Week 3	Sunday, July 22 Staff Meeting 1:30pm
	Friday, July 27 9:00PM Final Pick Up

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 & Retreat 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 Rivers Edge Camp this summer, *July 8th-27th, 2018*. Along with this 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 \$510 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@riversedgencamp.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 2018 through August 2019** 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.