

HORSE CAMPS 2024



www.campbackcountry.org





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Backcountry Wilderness Area

The Backcountry Wilderness Area consists of 13 square miles of land that was set aside for conservation during the development of Highlands Ranch. The Backcountry Wilderness Area provides important habitat to many different species. Elk, coyotes, black bears, golden eagles, bobcats, great horned owls, bull snakes, bluebirds and wild turkeys are just a few of the species that call the Backcountry home. The mission of the Backcountry Wilderness Area is to improve wildlife habitat, inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and ignite a lifelong love of the outdoors for all.

Camp Backcountry Overview

We believe that children learn, grow and thrive best when outdoors and immersed in nature. Our week-long, full-day outdoor camps support the needs of children by using a whole-child, experiential learning approach.

Our goal is to nurture their hearts and minds while strengthening their connection to, and understanding of, the natural world. Whether campers are exploring, hiking, building forts, riding horses, creating art, playing in the woods or cooking over the campfire, Camp Backcountry is more than just a place to spend your summer. It's an experience that becomes part of the whole child.



Our Facilities

Located at 5,920 feet in the heart of the Front Range, our 8,200-acre campus serves as the ultimate learning environment. Our Base Camp facilities include outdoor learning spaces, large shade structures, a free play area with natural playscapes, learning garden, discovery trail and all of our barnyard friends. Just down the road from our Base Camp is our state-of-the-art archery range and horse corrals. Our horse corral facilities include four outdoor arenas, two round pens, shade tents with seating areas and spaces for games.



Camp Backcountry
6005 Ron King Trail, Littleton, CO 80120
CampBackcountry.org

Meet our Team

Howdy from the Camp Backcountry team! We are a passionate group dedicated to creating and managing an exceptional camp experience for your children. We firmly believe that kids thrive in the outdoors. Our team is enthusiastic about fostering a safe and enjoyable environment where your children can explore, learn and make lasting memories. We eagerly anticipate a fantastic summer filled with adventure and fun, and we can't wait to share the joy of the great outdoors with your campers.

Our summer Camp Backcountry counselors have been hand selected to give your campers the best summer possible. Our dynamic group of counselors have diverse backgrounds from being college students, previous camp counselors, teachers, and beyond!

Below is our dedicated full-time team, serving as the Camp Directors for Camp Backcountry.



Becca Venable (Meemaw)
Environmental Education Coordinator
Bachelors in Environmental Education

With the Backcountry since 2018

Camp Director for:
Nature, Art, Girls of the Outdoors

becca.venable@hrcaonline.org

303-471-7054




Ellen Dolph (Terk)
Environmental Education Coordinator
Masters in Environmental Education

With the Backcountry since 2021

Camp Director for:
Nature, Art, Girls of the Outdoors

 ellen.dolph@hrcaonline.org

 303-471-7053





Learn more about our staff?

AnnaKate Hein (Peaches)
Environmental Education Supervisor
Masters in Environmental Law & Policy

With the Backcountry since 2015

Camp Director for:
Nature, Art, Girls of the Outdoors

✉ annakate.hein@hrcaonline.org
☎ 303-471-8876



Abby DeGroot (Bumble)
Equine Supervisor
Masters in Outdoor Recreation Economy

With the Backcountry since 2023

Camp Director for: Horse

✉ abby.degroot@hrcaonline.org
☎ 303-471-7046

Hailze Setzer (Comet)
Equine Coordinator
Bachelors in Equine Science

With the Backcountry since 2023

Camp Director for: Horse

✉ hailey.setzer@hrcaonline.org
☎ 303-471-7038



Sami Dhainin (Goldie)
Admin Coordinator
Bachelors in Outdoor Recreation

With the Backcountry since 2020

Admin for: Nature, Art, Girls of the Outdoors, & Horse

✉ sami.dhainin@hrcaonline.org
☎ 303-471-7078

Drop Off & Pick Up



Drop-off and Pick-up Times

Our Horse Corrals:

Drop-off: 9:00–9:30 a.m. Pick-up: 3:30–4:00 p.m.

Extended Day Option:

Before Care: 7:30–9:00 a.m.

Note: After Care option no longer an option for Camp Backcountry.

To register for Before and After Care, visit CampBackcountry.org or call 303-471-7020.

Early and Late Drop-Offs

Campers may not be signed in or dropped off at camp before 9:00 a.m. unless they are registered for Before Care.

Late Pick-up Policy

Although we enjoy spending the day with your kids, please be respectful of our staff's time and pick-up your children on time every day. Be sure to take the traffic, weather, and road conditions into account when timing your arrival. No exceptions will be made to the below policy.

Camp ends at 4:00 p.m. each day. Pickup begins at 3:30. If campers are not picked up by 4:00 p.m., the following late fees will be assessed to be paid before check-in the following morning (credit card only). Campers will not be admitted into camp until the late fee is paid. More than one instance of being more than 15 minutes late in a week will result in a meeting with camp directors and possible suspension or expulsion from camp.

4:05–4:15 p.m. \$10 per camper

4:15–4:30 p.m. \$25 per camper

4:30–4:45 p.m. \$40 per camper

By 4:10 p.m., parents/guardians of remaining campers will be called. If unreachable, voicemail and text will be attempted. Emergency contacts will be called by 4:30 if no response. If still no contact by 4:45, staff will contact Douglas County Sheriff's Office and Douglas County Human Services to take over as mandated by State Childcare Licensing best practices.



What to Expect at Drop-off

Drop-off begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 9:30 a.m. Please do not arrive much before 9:00 a.m., as we will not sign in any campers until 9:00 a.m. If you need to leave your child before 9:00 a.m., you must sign up for Before Care, no exceptions.

We appreciate your patience on busy days. Please give yourself extra time at drop-off, especially on the first day of camp. When you arrive at the Horse Corrals, park in the parking lot and walk your camper to the check-in table. Staff members will be at the check-in table to make sure your child is prepared for their time at Camp Backcountry, answer any questions you have, and check in any medications, epi-pens, or inhalers children need to have with them at camp.

Please note, you will not be able to leave your child at camp without completed paperwork, including your child's paperwork for epi-pens and inhalers. If you arrive at camp without completed paperwork, you will be required to fill out the paperwork on site before leaving.

What to Expect at Pick-up

Pick-up begins at 3:30 p.m. and runs until 4:00 p.m. All campers must be picked up by 4:00 p.m. sharp. When you arrive, park and then come to the check-out table. Staff members will be at the check-out table to answer any questions you have, talk about your campers' day, and check your child out.

Each day during pick-up you will be asked to show your photo ID. If you would like for anyone other than a parent or legal guardian to pick-up your child, you must add them to your authorized pick-up list on CampInTouch.

Horse Camp Activities

Group Huddles

Each day during huddles, staff, LITs, and campers meet as a small group to discuss the day ahead, participate in a name game or team-building activities, share ideas and experiences, and greet one another. Huddle time creates a sense of belonging and helps the group focus on positive relationships and expectations. The goal for huddle time is to foster the group's sense of inclusion, teamwork, and community.

Backcountry Beads

Each camper will receive a name tag necklace that they will decorate on their first day at camp, and then throughout their week(s) at Camp Backcountry, campers will earn beads to add to their necklace that represent the different activities they did and experiences they had. Campers will have the opportunity to earn beads for everything they do including going out on the trail, mucking, picking up litter, or by being kind. By the end of their time at Camp Backcountry, campers will be able to tell the story of their camp experience using the beads they've earned.

Giveback Time

One of our camper's most valued activities is learning how to care for our horses. Throughout the week, camper's will learn about the daily care that goes into having and raising horses.

Groundwork

Campers will learn how to interact with their horse in ways other than just riding - including leading, grooming, and tacking up their horse. From riding to groundwork, your camper will spend 4.5 hours with their horse each day. The love of horses goes beyond the time spent in the saddle, and starts on the ground.

Riding in the Arena

Arena riding provides for a fun and safe experience for campers of all riding abilities. Depending on skill level, campers will learn to walk and trot, steer, stop, and ride through an obstacle course. It is important that campers learn the basics in an arena setting before heading out on the trail. *Please note that during extreme weather conditions (ie heat), time in the saddle may be slightly reduced for the safety of the campers and our horses.

In the event a ride is not half completed, a 50% discount for a group lesson will be offered. Limit one discount per child per week

Trail Ride

Depending on weather and trail conditions, all camp groups will get an opportunity to try out their skills on the trail. Trail rides also provide opportunities to explore more of the Backcountry and see wildlife such as elk, deer, and eagles.

If we are unable to go out on the trail for any reason (i.e. weather), we will offer a buy one get one free trail ride coupon to the camper's family. Limit one BOGO per child, per week

Group Games

Each camp group will spend a portion of the day playing outdoor games (rainbow tag, capture the flag, or drip-drip-drop, etc.) Games might be just with one camp group or may combine two or more camp groups.

Arts & Crafts

Each camp session campers will have the opportunity to fun take-home horse themed arts and crafts projects.

Unstructured Play

We provide time for unstructured play each day. Unstructured outdoor play is shown to improve kids' motor skills, creates greater self-awareness, improves communication skills, and builds greater appreciation for nature.

Sample Schedule



MONDAY

7:30 - 9 a.m.	Before Care Option
9 - 9:30 a.m.	Drop-off and Free Play or Games
9:30 - 10 a.m.	Opening Circle with Get-to-know-you Icebreakers
10 - 10:30 a.m.	Fill Water, Apply Sunscreen, Use Bathroom, and Eat
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Horse Safety and Animal Care; Get to Know Your Horse
12 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 - 2:45 p.m.	Grooming, Tacking, and Riding in the Arena
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	Group Games
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Closing Circle
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Pick-up

TUESDAY

7:30 - 9 a.m.	Before Care Option
9 - 9:30 a.m.	Drop-off and Free Play or Games
9:30 - 9:40 a.m.	Opening Circle
9:40 - 10 a.m.	Fill Water, Apply Sunscreen, Use Bathroom, and Eat Snack
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Grooming, Tacking, and Riding in the Arena
12 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunging Demo
1:30 - 2:45 p.m.	Painting Horseshoes or Other Craft
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	Group Games
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Closing Circle
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Pick-up

WEDNESDAY

7:30 - 9 a.m.	Before Care Option
9 - 9:30 a.m.	Drop-off and Free Play or Games
9:30 - 9:40 a.m.	Opening Circle
9:40 - 10 a.m.	Fill Water, Apply Sunscreen, Use Bathroom, and Eat Snack
10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Groundwork
12 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 - 2:45 p.m.	Grooming, Tacking, and Learning to Ride through Obstacles
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	Lasso Practice
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Closing Circle
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Pick-up

THURSDAY

7:30 - 9 a.m.	Before Care Option
9 - 9:30 a.m.	Drop-off and Free Play or Games
9:30 - 9:40 a.m.	Opening Circle
9:40 - 10 a.m.	Fill Water, Apply Sunscreen, Use Bathroom, and Eat Snack
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Trail Ride and Wildlife Encounters Lesson
12 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Horse Care
1:30 - 2:45	Give Back Time
2:45 - 3:15	Group Games
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Closing Circle
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Pick-up

FRIDAY

7:30 - 9 a.m.	Before Care Option
9 - 9:30 a.m.	Drop-off and Free Play or Games
9:30 - 9:40 a.m.	Opening Circle
9:40 - 10 a.m.	Fill Water, Apply Sunscreen, Use Bathroom, and Eat Snack
10 - 11 a.m.	Grooming and Tacking
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Games on Horseback or Trotting Lesson
12 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 - 2:45 p.m.	Large Group Game
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	Activity and Goodbye to the Horses
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Closing Circle
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Pick-up

*Please note that this is a Sample Schedule; and time frames/activities may change due to weekly themes, extreme weather such as thunderstorms or high heat, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Camp Policies & Expectations



Camper Ages

Camp Backcountry accepts campers ages 7 – 13 who are entering 2nd to 8th grade for our full day Nature, Horse, Art and Girls in the Outdoors Camps. The LIT Program is for teens ages 14 – 17 who are entering 9th to 12th grade. To provide the best experience for all our campers, exceptions will not be made to the age restrictions. If you have a child who is entering the appropriate grade listed on the camp session, but who's birthday is too late to register for that session, please contact CampBackcountry@hrcaonline.org for assistance.

Camper Behavior and Positive Guidance Strategies

Camp Backcountry has developed guidelines and expectations to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all campers. The Camp Director and Education Coordinators work closely with staff to implement teaching strategies that support positive behavior, through use of positive guidance strategies. Staff are trained on setting boundaries, but never use punishments, rewards, or timeouts. Our staff are trained on the basics of child development, to ensure expectations set are age appropriate.

If initial staff efforts to redirect challenging behaviors have failed, we will follow a 3-step process:

- 1) Conference with the parents to ensure we are all working towards the same goals for the child and come up with a support plan.
- 2) The child will be put on a behavior modification plan.
- 3) Suspension from camp.

The Camp Director reserves the right to suspend a camper for the remainder of a camp session or for the duration of the summer if the camper behaves in a way that is considered to be detrimental to the quality and

best interest of the camp or other campers.

If your child has any known social, emotional, or behavioral challenges, we encourage you to include this information on the online paperwork on CampInTouch. No child will ever be singled out or treated differently due to information disclosed. This information helps our staff provide the best possible camp experience for your child.

Special Needs

Our staff will work to the best of their ability to assist participants with special needs and we will make every possible effort to accommodate each camper on a case-by-case basis. Due to the outdoor and exploratory nature of Camp Backcountry, campers must be able to move around on uneven terrain. If you have questions about your child's ability to participate at Camp Backcountry, please contact the Camp Director at 720-205-5533 campbackcountry@hrcaonline.org

Prohibited Items

- Knives and Weapons
- Fire Starting Materials
- Spending Money – We will have Camp Backcountry apparel and gear for sale throughout the week. Purchases can only be made by an adult with a credit card.
- Sporting Equipment – Campers wishing to use their own horseback riding helmet may do so, with approval. Bike helmets are not allowed while riding.
- Chewing Gum – We want to keep your camper safe as they run and play. Additionally, gum is made of plastic and when left on the ground is litter.

- Use of Electronic Devices – We ask that electronic devices are either left at home or turned off/to silent and left in the campers backpack. This includes cell phones, smart watches with calling capabilities, iPods, iPads, and tablets. If a camper needs to contact home for any reason, staff will facilitate this. If you need to talk to your child, please call the Camp Backcountry cell phone at 720-671-5958 and we will connect you with your child.

Personal Items

Everything you send to camp with your child MUST be labeled with their name. If you prefer to label with something other than a sharpie or tape, we find that Label Daddy stickers and Name Bubble stickers work well to label anything you can imagine. All personal items including water bottle, lunch, sunscreen, hat, and extra layers must fit inside your camper's backpack. Your camper will keep their backpack with them throughout the day.

Lunch

Pack a large, healthy lunch each day, avoiding lunchables, sugary snacks, soda, and energy drinks. In addition to a full lunch, please pack two additional snacks. We keep our campers active, and they tend to get quite hungry throughout the camp day! We encourage the use of reusable containers in your child's lunch. We practice a "pack it in, pack it out" mentality as we don't have any trash cans on property.

Lost and Found

We hold all lost and found items for one week after each camp season. At this time, all lost and found items that have not been claimed will either be donated to our gear shed or to a local thrift store. To help avoid your child's possessions from ending up in lost and found, please write your camper's name on everything that they bring to camp. It also helps if you allow your camper to help you pack their bag so they know what they have with them at camp each day.

Communication with Camp Backcountry

The camp team will keep you informed with any session information updates and reminders via email, push notifications through the Campanion app, or text message. If you need to talk to a staff member working with your child, or talk to your child, please call the Camp Backcountry cell phone at 720-671-5958 and we will relay information or connect you with your child. If you have any questions prior to your child's camp session, please contact us at campbackcountry@hrcaonline.org or 720-205-5533.

Visitors at Camp

All visitors are required to check in with the Camp Backcountry office upon arrival. We have an open door policy for parents/legal guardians, but we kindly ask that visits are limited to dropoff and pick-up windows. All children present at camp must be registered for the camp, with complete registration paperwork completed on CampInTouch.

Video Viewing

Videos and movies will only be shown when we are required to move indoors for an extended period of time due to severe weather. We aim to have all videos and movies be related to the weekly theme. All videos and movies shown will be G or PG rated and have been previewed and deemed appropriate before viewing.

Health & Safety



Camp Staff

Our number one concern at Camp Backcountry is the health and safety of your child. Our staff is a combination of outdoor educators, school teachers, and college students, who are qualified childcare professionals. All staff undergo multiple background checks, are certified in First Aid and CPR, and complete a week-long training in the areas of child development, group management, positive guidance strategies and outdoor group safety. Our camp staff are responsible for the health, safety, and discipline of campers when camp groups are working with outside contractors who visit Camp Backcountry. Camp Backcountry always maintains required staff to camper ratios, not including contractors from the special activity.

Sickness

We ask that you do not send your child to camp if they show or have any of the following symptoms within the past 24 hours: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, chicken pox, conjunctivitis, or any illness making it difficult to breathe. If your child becomes sick during camp hours with any of the above symptoms, you will be required to make arrangements to have them picked up immediately.

Medication

We can only accept medications that are in their original packaging, not expired, labeled with your child's full name, and paired with the appropriate medication form signed by a doctor and uploaded to CampInTouch. This includes all over the counter medications, prescription medications, and homeopathic remedies. If your child carries an EPI-Pen or an inhaler, you must have the Allergy/Asthma Action Plan form completed by a doctor and uploaded to CampInTouch.

On the first day of camp all medications will be checked by staff at the check-in table for proper documentation and safe keeping. Medications will be locked up overnight and will be returned to the parent/legal guardian on the last day of the camp session.

Camp Backcountry is in compliance with the Nurse Practice Act and employs a nurse consultant that meets with our staff. The nurse meets all qualifications as directed by the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Hospital/Medical Emergency

You are required to provide your hospital of choice on the medical information section of CampInTouch. Your child will only be transported to a hospital via ambulance in the case of a severe or life threatening injury. In the case of a less severe injury, the Camp Director or another staff member will contact you and you will be required to make arrangements to transport your child home or to the doctor, to the doctor or hospital, as necessary. Responsibility of any and all healthcare costs resulting from injury while at Camp Backcountry are the sole responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.

Food Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Camp Backcountry staff will help to manage camper's food allergies and common dietary restrictions. To do this, it is pertinent that all allergies or restrictions are properly noted on your camper's medical forms on CampInTouch. To minimize exposure to potential allergens, Camp Backcountry has a policy that campers may not share food.

Child Abuse

Colorado state law requires that childcare providers report any known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. If any camp staff member suspects child abuse or neglect they will report it to 1-844-CO-4-KIDS.

Weather

- **Rain** - We do not move indoors due to rain, unless it is accompanied by lightning or thunder. Please send your camper with a raincoat if rain is expected in the forecast. We like to say there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing.
- **Lightning** - If a thunderstorm is approaching, we will immediately move to our emergency shelter. Camp staff communicate with each other and the Camp Director throughout the day to ensure all camp groups make it back to shelter before a storm. If you see green traffic cones blocking our property entrance during pick-up, turn and follow the cones up to the classroom building where you are able to pick-up your camper.
horse camp parents: in the event of a thunderstorm if you do not see the campers at the Horse Corrals, follow signs to Base Camp.
- **Sun/Heat** - Activities that take place in the sun or in the heat that require a lot of movement will be minimized as necessary due to extreme temperatures. All staff are CPR and First Aid certified and are aware of the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. We have shade structures and many groves of trees where campers may seek shelter from the sun throughout the day. For safety purposes, hiking and horseback riding may be cut short on particularly hot days.
- **Fire or Flood** - If there is an emergency or natural disaster such as a fire, flash flood, or tornado, all camp groups will immediately proceed to the nearest secure location. As soon as it is determined safe, if necessary, the campers will be evacuated from the property. If necessary, parents/guardians will be notified to pick up their child from camp via text message or push notification via the Companion app.



Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, emergency personnel will be notified if and when necessary, and parents will be contacted as quickly as possible. In the event that Camp Backcountry must be evacuated, campers will be moved to a safe location designated by Camp Backcountry. If campers are not able to return to Base Camp, parents/guardians will be contacted for immediate pick-up from this location.

Transportation

If transportation is necessary, campers will be transported in the Camp Backcountry 12 passenger van, trucks, or a UTV. All campers are required to wear seatbelts while the vehicle is in motion. Every camper is required to have their own seatbelt. In case of an emergency while transporting campers, local services will be called immediately, followed by the Camp Director.

Attendance

The parent/guardian dropping off must check the camper in to camp each day at the check-in table. Staff will do a secondary attendance check once the child enters their age-based "classroom." Face to name checks will be completed by staff every hour of the day, or any time a group changes locations, to ensure the whereabouts and safety of every camper.



Registration & Paperwork

How to Register

To register for any of our Camp Backcountry sessions, please visit our website at www.CampBackcountry.org, click on the type of camp session you are interested in, then click “Register Now”. You will need to set up an account with Highlands Ranch Community Association if you do not already have an account. Whether you live in Highlands Ranch or not, anyone may set up an account with HRCA and register for Camp Backcountry. To set up an account, call member services at 303-471-7020.

Required Paperwork

CampInTouch is a secure network that we use to collect personal, medical, and emergency contact information electronically for Camp Backcountry. Not only does CampInTouch streamline the paperwork process, but it also ensures we have a way to communicate with you in the event of an illness, injury, or larger scale emergency.

How it works:

- You'll receive an email after you register that links to our website with explicit directions on how to get started, whether you are a returning camper or not. Please note that returning camp families must go into CampInTouch and re-confirm all existing information.
- Contact Sami Dhainin at sami.dhainin@hrcaonline.org if you have any trouble or questions about completing your child's paperwork on CampInTouch.
- Your spot at Camp Backcountry is not secure until all paperwork is completed. All paperwork must be complete in order for your child to attend camp.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made by March 31 will be granted a full refund minus a non-refundable \$50 deposit.

Cancellations made after April 1, and more than two weeks (14 days) of a camp session's start date will be granted a 50% refund.

Cancellations made within two weeks (14 days) of a camp session's start will not be granted a refund.

Transfer requests will be granted up to two weeks (14 days) prior to the start date of your registered session, pending availability. All transfers must be made to another Camp Backcountry session in 2024. Transfers can NOT be made to the following summer.

Parents who wish to cancel their child's camp enrollment must provide written notification via email to campbackcountry@hrcaonline.org. You must include your child's full name, your child's age, and the dates and name of the camp session you wish to cancel.

There will be a 24-hour grace period after enrollment to cancel and receive a full refund, less a \$5 cancellation fee. No exceptions

Contact Information Prior to your child's camp session:

CampInTouch Paperwork & Cancellation Requests:

campbackcountry@hrcaonline.org

720-205-5533

Camp Director:

annakate.hein@hrcaonline.org

303-471-8876

While your child is at camp:

Email: campbackcountry@hrcaonline.org

Camp Cell Phone: 720-671-595

Cancellation & Refund Policy

30° 29' 31.0" N 104° 58' 25.6" W



FIND YOUR WILD AT CAMP BACKCOUNTRY



www.campbackcountry.org