

# Mo-Ranch Summer Camps

## “Partnering With Parents”

Parent Handbook  
Table of Contents

❖ LDP Packing List	pg. 2
❖ Introduction and Goals	pg. 3
❖ Opening and Closing Days	pg. 4
❖ Alternative Transportation	pg. 4
❖ Behavior Guidelines and Policy	pg. 4
❖ Health and Safety, Medications	pg. 5-6
❖ Communication with camp and LDPs	pg. 6
❖ Care Packages and “Bunk1” Information	pg.7
❖ Camp Photos, Laundry, Gift Shop	pg. 8
❖ Weekends at Camp	pg. 8
❖ Sample Schedule, Description of activities	pg. 9-10



# Mo-Ranch Summer Camps Packing List

*Remember to label all personal items!*

*All medications will need to be turned in during registration. Please do not pack them.  
Campers will be doing a swim check upon arrival so please pack swim gear on top.*

## Clothing:

- 8 T-shirts. No tank tops or spaghetti straps, please!
- 8 pairs of shorts, at least 2 pairs should be long (at least fingertip length)
- 8 sets of socks and underwear
- 1 pair sandals with heel strap/water shoes/old tennis shoes for water activities
- 1 pair sturdy tennis shoes/day hikers to be worn at all times except in the water
- 1 pair of hiking boots (optional)
- light jacket or sweatshirt
- pajamas
- rain jacket
- swimsuit: Modest one-piece for girls

**Toiletries:** (remember to bring something to carry them in!)

- soap
- shampoo & conditioner
- toothbrush & toothpaste
- brush/comb
- non-aerosol deodorant
- sunscreen
- insect repellent
- shower shoes (flip flops)

**Linens:** (will be provided, but items from home are more comfortable!)

- twin sheets
- pillow & pillow case
- sleeping bag  
(use as a blanket and for the camp out)
- beach & bath towel

## Miscellaneous:

- dirty clothes bag
- backpack (nothing fancy, just like school)
- 2 sturdy water bottles (**VERY IMPORTANT!!**)
- ball cap/cap with brim
- flashlight with new batteries
- ground cloth for campout  
(shower curtain liners work well)
- fun stuff for theme nights
- Bible (All campers are encouraged to have their own Bible. If you do not have one or choose not to bring yours, Bibles will be available at Mo-Ranch.)

## Optional Items:

- camera
- sunglasses
- bandana
- books
- stamped stationary/ postcards
- favorite stuffed animal

LDPs may bring a cell phone, IPod, or other MP3 player **at their own risk.**

Do not bring any of the following items to camp, they will be confiscated: *TVs, CD player, electronic games, jewelry, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco, fireworks, firearms, knives (including pocket knives), inappropriate reading material, snack foods, candy, drinks, or pets.*

**All personal items brought to camp by LDPs, staff or parents are the responsibility of the owner. Mo-Ranch will attempt to locate items left behind, but cannot guarantee retrieval or replacement of lost personal belongings. Please notify us immediately of lost items.**

## **Introduction**

### **Mo-Ranch Mission Statement**

*The Mission of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is to foster growth in God through Jesus Christ by sharing its unique living, learning, Christian environment.*

Mo-Ranch Summer Camps provides an opportunity for children to experience the Christian life through exciting and adventurous activities, guided study of Christ's teachings, and positive community living experiences. Established in 1977, this co-ed, residential camp is located within one of the Hill Country's most beautiful conference centers, the Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly. Mo-Ranch Summer Camps provides a place where campers can feel safe and comfortable with their peers while discovering, challenging and growing in their Christian faith. The love of Christ is not only heard and read but also experienced throughout all of our activities: whether it is at the high ropes challenge course, while canoeing down the river, or mountain biking across the hillsides. Through developing independence and self-confidence, building strong relationships, experiencing new activities, and positive role modeling from the staff, we demonstrate the heart of the gospel message. Mo-Ranch Summer Camps is a place for campers to have fun, make new friends, challenge themselves, and feel good about their faith. Mo-Ranch Summer Camps is ready for you!

### **Goals of the Leadership Development Program**

- Grow mentally, physically and spiritually
- Recognize and learn from one's strengths and weaknesses
- Become more positive, confident, responsible and self-determined
- Be a servant for the Lord and others
- Have fun!

## Opening Day

**LDPs must be checked-in and checked-out by an adult guardian!** They may not check themselves in to or out of camp. Registration takes place on Sunday between **2:00 – 3:30 pm**. Please do not arrive early. There will be signs and staff directing you to the registration area. During registration you will need to visit the following tables:

**Registrar:** Here you will verify that we have received all of your forms and payments.

**Medical Officer:** Our Medical Officer will collect your camper's medications and review your camper's needs with you.

**Assignments:** Counselors will let you know your camper's bunk area and activity group.

## Closing Day

Closing Day Worship will be held at the River Pavilion and will begin at **9:30 am**. Signs will direct you to the Ceremony. We invite all parents, friends and family to attend. You will also receive a camp photo at check-out. (Payment for the photo will be included with in the tuition for camp.)

Immediately after the Worship, camper check-out will take place at Loma Linda. Families must stop at the Medical Officer and Check-Out tables before Counselors will release your LDPs to you. LDPs must be checked-out and departed by **11:30 am**. **Remember your photo I.D.!**

We ask that you drop-off and pick-up your camper on the days and times listed above. If there are any extenuating circumstances or if your plans change at the last minute please notify the Camp Office immediately. If someone other than those listed on the Transportation Release Form will be picking up your camper, Mo-Ranch Summer Camps must have the change, in writing, prior to releasing your camper.

## Alternative Transportation

If your LDP is arriving by bus or airplane, you may arrange transportation to Mo-Ranch through Hill Country Limousine Service at (830) 896-1429. Arrange for your LDP to arrive at Mo-Ranch between 2:00 – 3:30 pm on Opening Days and depart from Mo-Ranch between 11:00 – 11:30 am on Closing Days. Please note; Mo-Ranch is a 45 minute drive from Kerrville and a 2 hour drive from San Antonio. The Mo-Ranch Summer Camps Office must be notified if your camper will be arriving by alternative transportation.

## Behavior

All LDPs will be oriented to our behavior and safety rules on the first day of camp. All LDPs and their parent/ guardian must sign the Covenant of Conduct form prior to registration. Counselors are trained to handle behavior problems with positive reinforcement, redirection and consequences appropriate to the camper's behavior and age level. Corporal punishment is not allowed at Mo-Ranch Summer Camps. Should a LDP exhibit repeated episodes of disruptive, unsafe or violent behavior that is not corrected with positive behavior management, his/her parent or guardian will be asked to pick-up or arrange for the camper to be picked-up from Mo-Ranch immediately. No refunds will be given under these circumstances.

## Health and safety

All information on the Health History and Parent Questionnaire forms will be kept strictly confidential and is requested solely for the purpose of providing your camper with the best care possible. Please be open and honest. We need to know anything that will help us give your LDP the best care in their time of need. We ask that a new Health History form be filled out annually.

## Medications

If your LDP has a pre-existing condition, illness or injury that s/he sustained prior to coming to camp, families will be responsible for supplying Mo-Ranch Summer Camps with any on-going medications or treatments the camper may be receiving. Families will be responsible for any costs associated with additional medications or treatments your camper may need for their pre-existing condition(s) while at Camp.

**All medications, including over-the-counter medications, *must* be turned in to the Nurse on check-in days!** All program participants, including staff and LDPs, are required to turn in medication so that we may limit access and protect our campers.

All medications must be in their original packaging with original prescription label. If prescription dosages or times have changed, there must be a written note from the prescribing physician as to the change. Over-the-counter medications must be in their original packaging with a written note of dosages and times.

It is required that LDPs taking behavior modification medications for conditions such as ADD or ADHD continue taking their medications while at Camp. We also ask that LDPs have been on the current medication and dosage for at least one month prior to the start of their Camp session. While Summer Camp does provide more active, hands-on programming than most school situations, the longer days, challenging activities and intense social interactions of Summer Camp may over-stimulate or stress a child. Giving LDPs the tools they need to cope in the best way possible is the key to a successful camp experience.

## Communication with LDPs and camp

LDPs must earn the privilege to make or receive phone calls at the discretion of the Leadership Director and Camp Director. Generally speaking, LDPs will not be allowed to use their cell phone during the first week of their session except on the weekend. After that, they will begin to be allowed to make calls during free-time, away from campers. Please keep in mind that cell phone coverage is not the best here in the hill country. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Phone: 800-460-4401

Camp Director - Extension 253. Camp Director is often away from the office on camp business or working with your children. Feel free to leave a message and the Director will always get back to you.

Office Manager - Extension 250. The Office Manager will be in the office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 4:45 pm. The Office Manager can answer most registration and payment questions for you and is your daytime emergency contact to the Director, Counselors or LDPs.

To contact the Office Manager directly [awilkinson@moranch.org](mailto:awilkinson@moranch.org)

After Hours - In case of emergency after hours you may call 1-800-460-4401 and our Answering Service will contact the staff member on duty immediately.

## Camper Mail

Address your camper's mail:

**Camper's Name**  
**C/O Mo-Ranch Summer Camps**  
**2229 FM 1340**  
**Hunt, TX 78024**

We suggest you mail your first letter several days before your camper leaves for Camp. Please remember, we are way out in the country and our mail is definitely snail-mail.

***We are very sorry, but we do not have the resources to allow LDPs to e-mail their families. You will just have to wait on the snail-mail.***

## Care Packages

There is nothing that brightens a camper's day more than a care package. Please remember to only include appropriate items for Camp, such as stuffed animals, magazines, cards and small toys. Packages will be opened in the presence of a Counselor and inappropriate items will be held until Closing Day. Food, gum and candy are not allowed and cannot be stored. There are a number of camp care package companies that can offer a great variety of items.

## E-mailing your LDPs

For years Bunk 1 has helped camps with all aspects of modern communication between parents and campers. This program will help us a great deal by making collection and distribution of camper email easier and less time consuming. This will allow us more time to do what we do best, work with your campers!!!

### ***Bunk 1 Camper Email Information***

#### **GET STARTED TODAY**

To set up a new account and visit our Online Community:

1. Go to our website at [www.moranch.bunk1.com](http://www.moranch.bunk1.com)
2. Click "Register Now"
3. Enter your Pre-Approved Registration Code: 9MR9736
4. Fill out all the required information
5. Purchase Bunk Note credits (you will need a credit card)
6. Send an email to your camper!

*\*\* For your camper's safety, please do not share the Pre-Approved Registration code above.*

## Bunk 1 Frequently asked questions

### **How do I send a Bunk Note (one way email) to my camper?**

Follow the instructions above, except after registering, simply sign in and click on the Bunk Notes button. Enter your campers name, select the Loma Linda, Type your message, and hit the "SEND" button.

### **Why do I have to pay to send Bunk Notes (one-way email)?**

Each morning, the Bunk Notes system bundles and sorts the messages for us to print out and distribute to campers. It also protects us from computer viruses and allows us to easily manage these emails. Your payment helps us to cover the cost of the system, paper, ink, and labor and, more importantly, frees us to do what we best- be with your kids! Bunk Notes cost \$1 each and are purchased in packs of various sizes.

### **Can other relatives use these services?**

Certainly! Once you have set up your account, you will be able to invite other people to access these services.

### **What do I do if I lost my username and password?**

You can get it online by going to [www.bunk1.com](http://www.bunk1.com) and clicking on the link "Lost Your Password?" (To the left of the page below the sign in button) You will receive an email with your username and password within a few minutes.

## **Photos**

Mo-Ranch Summer Camps has a protected photo album on [www.smugmug.com](http://www.smugmug.com). Families will receive the URL on Opening Day. Please note: the protected photo album will NOT show up in a search on smugmug. New photos will be available for viewing before dinner each day so you can enjoy Camp right along with your camper. If you lose the URL, contact us by e-mail and we will verify your address and send the information back to you by e-mail. You will not be given the URL over the phone.

## **Laundry**

During their three-week session, the LDPs may use the Mo-Ranch laundry room to wash their clothes. Mo-Ranch will provide the quarters and soap. Your LDP will be expected to be responsible for doing his or her own laundry. This is a great learning experience for your son or daughter!

## **Gift Shop**

The Mo-Ranch Gift Shop will be open for families on Opening and Closing Days. The Gift Shop carries a wide variety of books, t-shirts (average cost \$20 w/tax), souvenirs, snacks and basic toiletries. Please take time to visit the store before Registration and after the Closing Ceremonies to purchase all of those things your campers “can’t live without”. During the camp session, LDPs will earn the privilege to visit the gift shop for occasional snacks or other items.

Gift Certificates will be available for purchase on registration/check in day. You can purchase in any amount you feel, however we ask that you limit this to no more than \$50. Any remaining balance on the gift certificate will be donated to our camper scholarship fund. All LDPs will get the chance to visit the store during their stay here at Mo-Ranch.

## **Weekends at Camp**

On weekends, we will try to schedule excursions off of camp property. The LDPs will be transported by a Mo-Ranch bus driven by an approved Mo-Ranch driver. These trips may be tours of other camps in the area or an afternoon in town. We ask that each LDP brings money to cover any activities (bowling, a movie, dinner, a trip to Wal-Mart, etc.) during these trips. We will take at least one trip into town per LDP session.



## Sample Daily Schedule

<b>7:00</b>	Rise and shine
<b>7:45</b>	Breakfast
<b>9:00</b>	Bible Study
<b>10:10</b>	Activity 1
<b>11:20</b>	Activity 2
<b>12:30</b>	Lunch
<b>1:30</b>	Siesta
<b>2:45</b>	Activity 3
<b>3:55</b>	Activity 4
<b>5:05</b>	Activity 5
<b>6:15</b>	Dinner
<b>7:30</b>	Evening Activity
<b>9:00</b>	Vespers
<b>10:00</b>	Lights out

## Activity Descriptions

Mo-Ranch has many wonderful activities to provide challenge and growth for your child. The following is an outline description of all activities. We strive for safety in all activities at Mo-Ranch. All activities are reviewed annually to ensure a high level of safety. Each activity does have an inherent risk of injury. Injuries range from bruises, lacerations, scrapes, broken bones, near drowning, and drowning.

- **High ropes Challenge course-**  
High Elements consists of a series of poles, cables, pulleys and ropes. Ropes course participants will be put through a series of challenges that involve climbing ladders and poles and traversing across cables as high as 25 ft above the ground. Participants will be secured by ropes and harnesses by trained staff.
- **Low ropes challenge course-**  
Low elements are a series of challenging activities that will inspire teamwork and cooperation among group members. Activities are supervised by trained staff.
- **Rock Climbing-**  
Using a variety of climbing techniques, campers will have the opportunity to climb two 30ft routes. Campers will be secured by ropes and harnesses and will be supervised by trained staff.
- **Outdoor Cooking-**  
Campers will learn basic outdoor cooking techniques and create yummy treats under the supervision of trained staff.
- **Swimming-**  
Campers will swim in both natural waterfront and swimming pools. Our waterfront consists of a rope swing, Mo-Slide and roped off swimming areas. Campers must take a swimming evaluation; upon completion swimming levels will be assigned for each ability level. All swimmers will be supervised by certified American Red Cross Lifeguards.

- **Snorkeling-**  
Campers will have the opportunity to snorkel in the waterfront area. A class will be given on how to properly use the snorkeling equipment. Classes will be supervised by trained staff and lifeguards. Campers will be able to choose to snorkel freely in the shallow water area or attempt the underwater obstacle course with the class instructor leading him/her.
- **Canoe/ Kayaking-**  
Campers will have the opportunity to canoe/ kayak with trained staff. All campers will be required to wear personal floatation devices (PFD). Classes will take place on natural waterfront areas. During our two week session, campers may have opportunity to take an extended overnight canoe trip. Classes are supervised by Lifeguards.
- **Arts & Crafts-**  
Campers will make craft projects that can range from painting to cutting. Campers may use leather tools, scissors, paints, beads, irons and tie dye.
- **Outdoor Living Skills-**  
Campers will learn how to start fire using flint and steel, build emergency shelters and learn to operate maps and compasses.
- **Nature-**  
Classes will get chance to see many of our reptiles and mammals in a classroom setting. Reptiles range from lizards to NON-venomous snakes. Campers will have opportunity to pet, touch or hold many of our animals.
- **Archery-**  
Campers will learn to shoot re-curve bows and will also learn basic skills and safety concerns. Campers will be taught by trained personnel.
- **Sports-**  
Our sports program will include basketball, ultimate Frisbee, four square, baseball or softball, soccer, disc golf, touch football, gaga and sand volleyball.
- **Mountain Biking-**  
Mountain biking will be lead by experienced staff who will instruct each camper on proper bike fit and safety. All campers will wear helmets at all times while riding bikes. Trails will include off road trail, hiking trail and the occasional ride on ranch roads.
- **Overnight Campouts-**  
Campers and staff will sleep out under the stars. Campers will help start a campfire and will assist staff in cooking dinner over the fire. During campout campers will go swimming at the Mo-Rapids area. This area has been naturally formed by the erosion on rocks over long periods of time. Campers will be supervised by Lifeguards.