



Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch 2016 Programs



Providing *happy trails* to kids who need them...

Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch (Southern Alberta) Ltd.

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Our Mission

Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch (Southern Alberta) Ltd. is a non-denominational, non-profit organization that works directly with youth, families and Agencies who work with physically, mentally, financially and/or emotionally challenged individuals; while providing a fun opportunity to experience the natural outdoor environment.

By teaching an appreciation for nature through outdoor skills training and nature education programs, we work to instill confidence, coping skills, self acceptance and a sense of belonging in these individuals. Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch (Southern Alberta) Ltd. is more than a place—it is a community of acceptance, unconditional love and caring.

Our Vision

Happy Trails for Kids Who Need Them

Core Values

Respect – of self, of others & of the environment
Empowerment – of self & others
Safety – Emotionally, Mentally, Physically
Culture of Trust – As the foundation on which all great things grow

Outcomes for Children

Self-Confidence	Emotional Intelligence
Coping Skills	Character Enhancement
Self-Acceptance	Friendship Building
Belonging	Safe Risk Taking
Tolerance	Skill Development
Diversity	
Family Values	
Creativity	

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Day Group Booking FAQs

DO I NEED TO DO A SITE VISIT?

No we don't require this, however for some Agencies a site visit is required. Therefore we offer the option to all Agencies to visit the site prior to their visit.

DO THE ADULT SUPERVISORS GET TO RIDE THE HORSES?

Generally speaking NO, however some Agencies for liability reasons must always be in contact with their clients. In these rare cases we permit one staff member to go on the ride with their clientele. We require proof of such liability to do so.

WHY DO YOU REQUIRE A LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, ARE THERE ANY WAIVER FORMS?

We have arranged through our insurance provider that we do not require waivers as in the past it was very difficult for Agencies to provide them generally due to lack of parental interest. However our provider requires us to get a list of children's first and last names and ages along with the adults first and last names in place of waiver forms.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD CANCELS AFTER WE HAVE GIVEN THE LIST? CAN WE SUBSTITUTE?

When you arrive at the Ranch you are required to check in to the office with your updated 'day of' list of participants. From the list that you previously provided you can delete and substitute participants, but you may not add additional participants that day. For example if you gave us a list of 20 names the maximum you can have the day of is 20 due to food plans. **Please inform the Ranch of any changes in numbers of Participants as soon as you know, as this may affect programming or staffing on our end.**

DO WE HAVE TO FACILITATE THE ACTIVITIES?

No you do not, however the expectation of the Ranch and its facilitators is that adult supervisors or leaders **assist** the facilitators by not only being active participants, but active leaders. This is not only limited to behaviour management but also includes such things as active involvement in cueing children during introduction to the activity. OLQP staff are **guides** to the activities and it is the expectation that adult supervisors from the Agency are **VERY** involved.

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General FAQs

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PROGRAM?

Nothing to either the Agencies or the Families. All of our programs are completely 100% subsidized.

HOW ARE YOU FUNDED?

We are privately funded at the moment, however we will be starting up some fundraising projects in the near future.

MY CHILD HAS OCD, CAN THEY BRING THEIR OWN SLEEPING BAG?

Absolutely, ANY person that wishes to bring their own sleeping bag are more than welcome.

WHAT ARE THE MEALS LIKE?

We follow the Canadian Food Guide when planning our menus for the summer. The Ranch **DOES NOT** cater to dietary restrictions for allergies or religious reasons and ask that the families provide the specialty items that the children may require ie: Soy Milk, Gluten Free products. We provide a regular meal and a vegetarian meal each day. Nor do we provide items like pabulum, baby food or Homo Milk. These are items that the families must provide during their stay.

WHAT IS THE STAFF TO CAMPER RATIO?

We have a ratio of 2 counselors to 10 campers.

CAN CAMPERS HAVE MORE THAN ONE WEEK?

No, due to the popularity and interest within our programs campers are only permitted one week of camp per year.

WHAT TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS DO THE COUNSELORS HAVE?

We gain counselors from all over Canada. All staff are hired based on their empathy levels, experience and passion for the position and mandate of the Ranch. Staff provide a criminal check and are required to have their Standard CPR and First Aid. All staff go through two intense orientations totaling over 300 hours. Within these orientations they attend many seminars on Bullying, Crisis Intervention and Definition of Disorders.

DOES THE RANCH PROVIDE MEDICAL STAFF?

Yes. We have trained Medical Staff on site who manage the illness and injuries, as well as any and all of the medications campers may have.

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Who we help

OLQP is a non-profit organization that provides a free recreational experience to children and youth who are financially, physically, mentally and/or emotionally challenged.

We do this through a number of program that are offered from April through October each year. Day Group and Off Season Camping are two of our programs that run from April to October and are open to children and youth who may or may not meet our financially challenged mandate.

Weeklong Summer Camp, Weekend Family Camp and our Annual Christmas Party are three programs where the children and youth **MUST** meet the financially challenged mandate to attend. Agencies are expected to screen families by using the criteria provided in the Income Qualification Guideline that is below. If at any time the Ranch office may ask the agencies for confirmation of income qualification for the families that are being referred by their agencies. Failure of the agency to properly qualify families may result in that agency losing referring status.

Income Qualification Guidelines

We are asking the agencies who refer to be diligent in ensuring families do fall into this category so that OLQP can help as many children living in poverty as possible. **Our other programs, day groups & off season camping, don't fall un-**

# of Persons in Household	Adult to Child Ratios	Maximum NET Household Income
2	1 Adult to 1 Child	\$43,000
3	1 Adult to 2 Children OR 2 Adults to 1 Child	\$51,000
4	1 Adult to 3 Children OR 2 Adults to 2 Children	\$55,000
5	1 Adult to 4 Children OR 2 Adults to 3 Children	\$58,500
6 and up	Maximum Income for Families larger than 5	\$61,000

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Age limit

Weeklong Summer Camp: 7 to 16 years old

Day Group Participants: 0—18 years old

Weekend Family camp: no age limit but children must be in attendance

Transportation

For any of the summer programs, OLQP will **not** provide any transportation of children to and from the camp. This responsibility rests with the family or in the agency if they are providing this service. The Annual Christmas Party is the only exception to this and OLQP does provide transportation for this event.

Who is not able to attend

Even if you happen to have a family that is living in poverty, there are some situations where OLQP can not accommodate the children. In the case of severe disorders OLQP will decline the child's registration application regardless of whether or not they meet all of the other criteria.

When you are referring families ask yourself these important questions:

1. Can this child function with a 2:10 staff to camper ratio.
2. What are they like in a group setting?
3. How many times a week does the child within the family have a crisis?
4. Do they have violent outbursts?

It is very important for the Agency and families to understand that although we have great success with our children, part of that success is determined on answering the above questions honestly. **DO NOT** refer children with the following diagnosis or currently being assessed for:

- ODD/RAD
- Autism/Aspergers
- Severe allergies requiring epipens
- Severe Depression (a suicide attempt within the last year)
- Severe Anxiety (camp can be a detriment to them with all the new things)
- Severe FASD (some have very limited communication and social skills in this category)
- A child who has not yet been able to control the frequency of their crisis', using violence/lashing out or running away as their coping mechanisms
- A child whose medication has been recently changed and has yet to regulate within their system.

If you have concerns please call the Ranch and together we can figure out if we would be able to adequately support the child's success.

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How to find us

We are located in a valley within a residential area in the Hamlet of Bragg Creek. From Calgary City Centre, Bragg Creek is approximately 45 minutes due west.



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Facilities and amenities OLQP offers

Canoes: 11 two person canoes + 1 large twelve person Viking Canoe generously donated by **Brazel Construction Ltd.**

Fishing : OLQP's lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout and offers catch and release fishing Huckleberry Fin Style. The Ranch supplies bamboo poles, line, weights and non-barbed hooks.

Hiking Trails: OLQP includes 3 rolling, tree covered foothills for hiking and exploring. Keep your eyes open for wildlife!

Horses: OLQP cares for 50 head of horses year-round and offers horse programming for children ages 7-16. Our horses are very calm and gentle and are carefully trained to ensure a safe and enjoyable ride for all

Initiatives/Low Ropes Course: The elements of the course are low to the ground and have varying degrees of difficulty for all abilities. Although the elements do not exceed 2 feet from the ground, due to our high safety standards, all participants are to wear a helmet which the Ranch provides.

Lake: Our 14-acre lake offers opportunity to swim, fish, boat, sun tan on the dock or wash off from the Mud Pit! Life jackets are available in all sizes.

OK Corral : Horse arena and wrangler supply area. Meet up here for Trail Rides and Lead-arounds.

Playground: Wheelchair accessible playground with swings and a variety of monkey bars and slides.

Sports field: Large manicured sports field with two soccer nets and a baseball diamond

Teepees: Weeklong summer campers & staff all sleep in large teepees. Each teepee sleeps 12 has an open fire pit and includes raised wooden platforms.

Gab's Place: formerly known as the Trading Post this is a 'store' full of new or gently used clothing. The catch...everything is FREE! Campers are encouraged to take as much as they want and/or need.

Walton Hall/ DJ Equipment/ Kitchen: Our dining hall offers seating for 800 and standing room for 1200.

Wagon Rides: All our wagon rides are tractor drawn and wheelchair accessible.

Washrooms/showers: 5 washrooms with showers located around the camp. Bathrooms are private and individually stalled including a toilet, sink and shower. Washrooms located in Walton Hall and the OK Corral are wheelchair accessible.

Waterhole: A designated swimming area with a sandy beach! Water depth is 10ft at its deepest point but progresses gradually to allow for wading. Lifejackets of all sizes are available for swimmers.

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Day Group Program

This the perfect chance for your school, church or community group to come out to the Ranch and 'play with purpose'. Depending on your group your day can be tailored to suit their needs. The Ranch will develop an itinerary and program for you that best suits your children which may include horse or water activities, low ropes course, hiking, or a wagon ride.

Through your booking request forms, you will let us know where you wish the day's focus to be. The Ranch will then develop an itinerary and program for you that will best serve your children. Please note that each program itinerary that we create will have a horse component unless your children's ages are under 6 years, or you have indicated on the booking form that you do not wish for horse interaction.

All day groups received a hot dog lunch consisting of 2 all beef hot dogs, chips, a treat and all the beverages you wish. All the day group program is offered free of charge however agencies must provide interactive supervision and transportation to and from the ranch.

OPEN TO FINANCIALLY, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY AND/OR EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN

SEASON:

APRIL 1 TO OCTOBER 31, 2016

HOURS:

10 TO 4 PM—TUESDAY TO SATURDAY

SUMMER HOURS: JULY/AUG

10 TO 4 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY:



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Off Season Camping

This program incorporates the Day Trip Programming as well as overnight camping that for many of our children is a new and exciting experience.

Sleeping in teepees warmed with a fire, campfires where you can direct sing-alongs and reflect on the wonderful day you just had. Camping is a wonderful experience that will live in the memories of our children for years to come, building character and a love for the outdoors.

Most children do not have the proper sleeping gear to enjoy a night or week of camping, however let this not be a deterrent from participating in this wonderful experience. OLQP Ranch also provides all the necessary gear for a comfortable stay with sleeping bags, liners and 4 inch sleeping pads as well as a cookhouse with drinkable water, BBQ & utensils and a wood burning stove. We also have modern washrooms and shower facilities close to each group of teepees.

OLQP Ranch provides facilitated programming, one hot dog lunch during your stay, lodging, sleeping gear and a cookhouse all for **FREE**. You (the agency) provide supervision, all other supplies for the other meals for your stay and transportation to and from the Ranch.



Food Allergies

We have seen a marked increase in food allergies. Our kitchen is unable to prepare multiple meals so we have two options at meal times. The regular prepared meal that follows the Canada Food Guide and a non-meat vegetarian meal. We can not accommodate lactose intolerant, gluten free or vegan dietary restrictions. We are also NOT a peanut free facility.

SEASON:

**MAY 1-JUNE 15, SEPT 1– SEPT 30,
2016**

LIMITATIONS:

**NO LIMITS ON NUMBER OF DAYS,
however no arrivals Sundays**

SUMMER HOURS: JULY/AUG

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How to register your Agency

Within this email package is your Agency Application Form. Print the Form and fill it out, make sure to give a realistic estimate of the number of children within your program.

Upon approval of your agency you will then receive two different sets of Booking Request forms. One is used to book Day Trips and Off Season Camping, "Day Trip/Off Season Booking Form" and the other is used for the Summer Programming, "Summer Programming Booking Form". Print the form(s) that you wish to make reservation bookings with and fill out accordingly.

A form titled "AGENCY APPLICATION FORM" with various sections for agency information, contact details, and a checklist of services offered.

Send all completed forms to (403) 949-2042 for approval and processing.

REMEMBER Book as many dates as you wish, the sky is the limit. Please note that if you wish to have more seclusion with your trips April, September and October are the best times. Within 2 weeks you will receive confirmation of your bookings via email.

AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE CONFIRMATION

Daytrips and Offseason Camping Bookings: you are required to give us a list of participants (children and the supervising adults) within two weeks of your trip. This is for Insurance Liability purposes.

A form titled "DAYTRIP/OFF SEASON CAMPING Booking Request Form 2011" with sections for trip details, participant information, and agency approval.

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Weeklong Summer Camp

Our goal to provide a fun, outdoor recreational experience to those children who due to their financial standing, and in some cases their emotional disorders, would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience a children's summer camp.

It is our goal to empower every child that comes into our care so that when they leave at the end of the week they have succeeded in someway. We want them to have that experience to reflect upon so that when they have to face other challenges in the real world they have the confidence to try.

Our second objective is to make sure the children have a fantastic time. Many of our campers come from very rough backgrounds that have caused them to grow fast and hard and we want to supply them with the opportunity to remember what its like to be a kid and spark the power of their imaginations.

Camp is a place where children are relieved from the labels they are given in their communities and are encouraged to learn about who they are and be their best selves.



OPEN TO FINANCIALLY CHALLENGED FAMILIES ONLY

SEASON: JULY 3 TO AUGUST 26, 2016

**WEEKLY SESSIONS:
START ON SUNDAYS END ON FRIDAYS**

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Weekend Family Camp

Back in the 1970s and 80s camping was the number one family vacation. It was affordable and it got everyone away from the stresses of city living and back to developing what is really important—positive family memories. Unfortunately it is no longer that way.

OLQP developed this program 11 years ago to make a difference and promote change within families living in poverty. It was created so as to enable families to reconnect through all of the outdoor activities we have available from horseback riding to jumping off the dock on a hot summers day.

Just like the off season camping program, OLQP provides all the sleeping gear, accommodations, facilitated activities but it also provides all the meals for the weekend. **In order to participate families must have at least one child under the age of 18 in attendance.**

Child care is **NOT** provided so all children must be under the supervision of the parents/guardians at all times even if the parents/guardians wish to participate in the Ranch's activities. Also no bikes, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades are allowed on site.

**OPEN TO FINANCIALLY CHALLENGED
FAMILIES ONLY**

SEASON: JULY 1 TO AUGUST 21, 2016

**WEEKLY SESSIONS:
START ON FRIDAY, ENDS ON SUNDAY**



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Annual Christmas Party

For over 26 years OLQP has provided a unique Christmas experience to many thousands of children at the Ranch. Transportation to and from the event, horseback riding, hay wagon rides, face painting, petting zoo, new hats, gloves and winter coats for each child, warm clothes, lunch and treats, gifts and pictures with Santa.

Although this is all very unique to this party it is not the biggest difference between us and other charity Christmas parties. It is the gifts to the children that make this day truly unique. Upon registration participating Agencies ask their children what they want most from Santa up to a \$50.00 value, provide OLQP Ranch with that information and our loyal volunteers go out on a giant shopping spree and get them just what they wished for.

To watch our families are struggling financially during the holiday season see that they matter, that we are here to help them find that Christmas Spirit through gifts, clothing and the kindness of strangers is so very heart warming.

**OPEN TO
FINANCIALLY CHALLENGED
FAMILIES ONLY**

Currently there is a waiting list for agencies to refer children/families to this program.

Please contact the Ranch office to be added to this list.



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