

Range Camp Frequently Asked Questions



CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC SECTION

Society for Range Management

To Foster Advancement in the Science and Art of Grazing Land Management



WHAT IS RANGE CAMP?

Range Camp is a week long program that has been organized by members of the California-Pacific chapter of the Society for Range Management (“CalPac SRM”) for over 30 years. Our goal is to introduce high school students to the professional world of plant, animal, and landscape management. To do this, we invite experts in scientific disciplines related to wildlife, forestry, rangeland, and plants, as well as experienced professionals who are involved in managing resources of these kinds on a daily basis.

WHERE IS RANGE CAMP HELD?

Range Camp is held in Half Moon Bay, California on the University of California Cooperative Extension’s Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center. For additional information regarding Elkus Ranch please visit http://ucanr.edu/sites/elkus_ranch/.

APPLICATION / SPONSORSHIP

What are the age requirements for Range Camp?

You must be in high school and have at least completed your freshman year. Graduated Seniors can attend camp but they will not be eligible to attend the High School Youth Forum if they are one of the three Top Campers. (See below for additional information regarding Top Camper)

Where do I send my application to?

Applications can be mailed to the following address:

Range Camp
Attn: Cece Dahlstrom
4586 Utah Street
San Diego, CA 92116

Applications can be emailed to range.camp@gmail.com but please remember that you will need to mail in the 4H Liability and Medical Release Forms with wet (original) signatures.



Do I have to be sponsored to attend camp?

NO. Campers or their parents/family can pay the camp fee. Approximately 80% of our campers receive sponsorship in order to attend camp but it is not a requirement.

How do I get a sponsorship?

California Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) is the main organization that helps sponsor campers. We recommend that applicants contact their local RCD to see if they would be able to assist in sponsoring a camper. If you need assistance finding your local RCD please go to http://www.carcd.org/rcd_directory0.aspx. There are also other organizations, like local Cattlemen's/women's Associations, that may also help sponsor an applicant. If you do not have luck contacting your local RCD please contact range.camp@gmail.com and we can help get you in contact with someone from your area.

I attended Range Camp last year. Can I apply to come back a second year?

Typically, we normally do not allow campers to attend camp for more than one year, but we do encourage those that want to be involved to apply as a camp counselor once they graduate high school.

DAILY CAMP LIFE

Is range camp a ranch camp? (ie ride horses, work with cattle, etc)

NO. Range camp consists of lectures and activities on a range of natural resources, wildlife, watershed science, range science, and other related fields. As part of camp we will tour a working cattle ranch as well as a local red wood forest.

What is a normal day at camp like?

Breakfast is served at 7am each morning. Each day consists of four to six talks from a variety of range, natural resources, and wildlife professionals. There will be a tour at a working ranch and a field trip to a local red wood forest preserve. Campers are required to help with general camp clean up and chores each day. Campers will be expected to take a plant identification test and an exam at the end of the week which will help determine who the three Top Campers are. (See below for additional information regarding Top Camper)

When does camp start?

The dates for the 2017 Range Camp are June 18th through 23rd. Registration begins at 1pm and the first activity will start around 2pm. If you do not think that you can get to camp before the first activity that is ok, we just ask that you coordinate with Camp Staff in advance. Camp will end on Friday around 10:30am.



How do I get to camp?

BY CAR, PLANE, OR RAIL. We fully understand that not all campers can be dropped off or drive themselves to camp. If you anticipate flying or taking the train please coordinate with Camp Staff. Camp Staff will arrange to pick up and drop off airport and train station campers. Once accepted to Range Camp you will receive a letter and additional forms regarding camp. They will provide additional information regarding transportation to and from camp.

How many campers do you normally have?

On average, about 25 campers from across California and Hawaii attend camp each year.

Where do we sleep at camp?

The girls have two large canvas tents located adjacent to the Ranch House. The boys have two large yurts located adjacent to the Conference Center. All campers will be provided a foam matt to sleep on, but they should bring sleeping bags and pillows to camp. Nights can get chilly so it is suggested that campers pack warm pajamas.

What do you eat at camp?

Range Camp is privileged to work with an extremely talented chef. Chef Marty owns and operates Aurora Catering in the Bay Area. Meals will range from breakfast pancakes, to chicken, to pasta, to fish tacos. Snacks will also be offered throughout the day. Chef Marty is more than willing to work with food allergies and food restrictions (i.e. vegetarian or gluten free). We ask that you let us know prior to the start of camp if you have any food allergies or restrictions so that we can plan accordingly.

Please note that since campers sleep outside, in tents/yurts, we stress that they should not bring food/candy with them to camp. Food and candy can attract unwanted pests into the tents.

What should I bring to camp?

Once you are accepted to attend Range Camp you will receive an Acceptance Letter. The letter will include a packing list.

Can I use my cell phone at camp?

Cell phone service is extremely limited at Elkus Ranch. Most evenings the camp counselors will take any campers that want to use their cell phones to a location on the ranch that is known to have better service. Campers are allowed to keep their phones with them but they are asked not to have them out during camp activities, unless they are taking pictures. Range camp reserves the right to take away any cell phones that are becoming a distraction to the campers.



TOP CAMPER / HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FORUM

How is Top Camper determined?

The Top Camper prize is determined through three factors. 1. Plant Identification Test Score, 2. Exam Score, 3. Staff Evaluations of Campers. The Exam counts towards 50% of the Top Camper determination. The Plant Identification text counts 30% and the Staff Evaluations counts 20%. Staff are asked to evaluate campers on a 1-10 scale based on Camper enthusiasm and Cooperation.

What happens if you are one of the three Top Campers?

The three Top Campers will be announced on the last day of camp and will receive a prize. Additionally, the three Top Campers will be invited to attend the next Society for Range Management's High School Youth Forum (HSYF). Unfortunately, if the Top Camper has already graduated High School they will not be eligible for the HSYF, as all HSYF delegates must be actively enrolled in High School at the time of the meeting. The HSYF is held in February annually concurrently with SRM's annual meeting. The top two Top Campers will be funded through Range Camp to attend the HSYF. Unfortunately Range Camp does not have the funding available to pay for the third Top Camper. If they cannot find funding Range Camp staff will be available to assist with securing sponsorship.

What is the High School Youth Forum?

High school age delegates from across the United States are selected for participation in the Forum by the regional Sections of SRM based on their interest, achievements and activities in range and natural resource management at the Section level. The California-Pacific Section uses Range Camp to determine the Top Camper and who is subsequently invited to attend. Each delegate should be prepared to submit a research paper and prepare a 6 to 8 minute formal presentation on a range related topic. Range Camp staff will help guide delegates through the paper writing and presentation process. For additional information please visit SRM's HSYF's website: <http://rangelands.org/students/high-school-youth-forum-papers/>

OTHER

As an adult, how do I get involved in Range Camp?

Please contact range.camp@gmail.com. Please note, that all volunteers are required to be LiveScan Fingerprint verified, be First Aid/CPR certified, and become adult 4H volunteers.



For additional questions please contact range.camp@gmail.com.
We look forward to receiving your application!

