



Circle R Ranch

School Programs

Spring 2009



Circle R Ranch was established in 1966 and offers a variety of environmental and recreational programs that compliment the Ontario educational curriculum. Our mandate is to provide a quality, "hands-on" learning experience in a friendly and safe environment. All programs are led by Circle R Ranch staff, a group of dynamic individuals with many years of experience in outdoor recreation and education.



Western Horseback Riding

Grades: 4-12

This unique program develops self-confidence, co-ordination, balance, strength and flexibility. The size of our herd allows us to provide the students with a horse best suited to their age and riding ability. Circle R will provide all students with a certified riding helmet that meets provincial safety standards. The students will receive a lesson covering horsemanship basics: horse control, proper western riding position and safety on the trail. Led by qualified instructors, students will then experience a leisurely one hour trail ride on a beautiful trail system that covers over 80 hectares. Hard-soled boots or shoes with a heel, and long pants are recommended attire.

Farm Animal Program

Grades: JK/SK 1-3

This fun, "hands-on" program is divided into 3 major components and adult accompaniment is most welcome! Variations of this program can be arranged if requested by the teacher. Large classes will be split into smaller groups and will rotate through the following areas:

Farm Animals:

Students will use their senses to learn about chickens, ducks, goats, sheep, horses, and pigs. They will be actively involved in discussions regarding what animals eat, why farmers raise different animals and specific individual characteristics.

Pony Rides:

Ponies and small horses take each student for a short hand led ride. For safety and supervision this part of the program requires the assistance of adult volunteers to help lead the ponies. Certified helmets are worn by all student participants.

Tractor-Drawn Hayride:

A relaxing, safe and fun hayride through a beautiful 80 hectare site adds an exciting touch to your farm program.



Programs for Primary and Juniors



From Sheep to Mittens

Grades: SK - Grade 3

Students will see and take part in the exciting process of how yarn is made from raw wool. Areas of focus will include: carding, spinning on a hand spindle and spinning wheel, dyeing, knitting and weaving. Students will use a “spinning tool” to spin their own piece of yarn to take home. This is a great compliment to our Farm Animal Program.

Owl Prowl

Grades: JK/SK, 1-3

This active, outdoor activity uses a “hands-on” learning approach to help students understand these birds of prey and their specific habits. The program involves a discussion on predator-prey relationships, habitats, food, reproduction, hunting, and environmental influences. The students then play a simulation game where they assume the role of an owl living in the wilds. They must search for food, water and shelter while avoiding natural and human elements.



Programs for Everyone!



Create your own program at Circle R Ranch

Do you have a lesson or unit that would be enhanced by an interactive, hands-on program? Our beautiful Carolinian forest setting can provide students with a huge array of trees, plants and animals to experience, explore and learn about. Create your own exciting, unique program, designed to meet the needs of your class.

Games Festival

Grades: 1-12

This “festival” format includes games that are active, and many that stress co-operation within the group and de-emphasize competition. These fast-paced games allow participants to be active with a minimal amount of personal risk.



Programs for Intermediates and Seniors

Initiative Tasks

Grades:
4-12



This program is designed to enhance students' social skills and confidence levels while participating in group functions. The mentally and physically challenging tasks (low ropes course) provide a fun and safe forum for the development of group cohesion. Areas of focus include: organization, trust, communication, respect, and cooperation. We also offer a ½ day program which consists of a series of group development exercises followed by the initiative tasks. It should be noted that group leaders are needed to help facilitate this program.

Orienteering and Map Reading

Grades: 4-12



Orienteering develops navigational and map reading skills, provides problem solving challenges, and enhances physical fitness and self-esteem. This program introduces the basics of orienteering, emphasizes map reading skills (scale, distance, direction, elevation, land formations) and concludes with a timed orienteering event.

Archery

Grades: 4-12

Students are taught the basic skills of target archery on an outdoor range. Skills covered include: stance, nocking, draw and release, aiming, parts of the bow and arrow, equipment care and safety.



Survival Game

Survival: A predator-prey based game which examines food chains, hunting, and conservation. Students assume the roles of Herbivores, Omnivores and Carnivores in this physically active game. The effects of disease and natural elements also play an important role in the outcome of the game.

Wolf Pack

Wolf Pack: Hunting traits of wolves are examined in this physically active game. Students learn how the size of the wolf pack affects the availability of food. Students assume the roles of wolves and other animals in the food chain. Concepts of hunting strategies, food requirements, and animal defenses are discussed and experienced within the play of the game!

Cycles

Cycles: This game explores the flow of nutrients in the food chain and of the interdependency between producers, consumers and decomposers. The effect of Man on this cycle and a basic introduction to the four elements of life are also covered in this physically active game.



Overnight Camping

Camp Sites are available for overnight trips. Please contact us directly at (519) 471-3799 for further information, available dates, and prices.

Spring 2009 Program Fees

All programs are 1.5 hours in length. The following fees are per student.



Core Programs

From Sheep to Mittens Owl Prowl	One program	\$7.50
Archery and Canoeing Initiative Tasks	Two programs	\$14.00
Games Festival Orienteering	Three programs	\$20.00
Cycles/Survival/Wolf Pack	Four programs	\$24.00



Farm Animal Program

Fee per student	\$10.00
Combine with one core program	\$17.00
With two core programs	\$23.50
With three core programs	\$29.50

Western Horseback Riding

Fee per student	\$23.00
Combine with one core program	\$30.00
With two core programs	\$36.00
With three core programs	\$41.00

How to Book Programs at Circle R

Please contact us by telephone at (519) 471-3799. Our staff would be pleased to assist you in booking a program best suited to your needs. Please note that some of the programs offered by Circle R are deemed high risk activities and may require at least 30 days advance approval by area superintendents. *Please note that there is a \$100 minimum fee required for all school programs.*

Lunch

Bag lunches are strongly suggested to maximize activity time. Classes may use special areas with picnic tables and open fire pits or BBQ's for cookouts.

Proper Clothing is Important

The out-of-doors is an enjoyable place to learn if you are adequately prepared. Proper dress is extremely important. Participants should be advised that they will be outdoors and should be dressed for the weather. Dressing in layers ensures they will be able to adjust to weather and activity changes. On occasion they will need to bring extra clothing or footwear to be comfortable. Shoes or boots with a heel are recommended for horseback riding.

Cancellation

We are prepared to operate our programs during most weather conditions. However, we understand there may be times when adverse weather may be detrimental to a positive and enjoyable learning experience. We understand there are circumstances that may prevent you from attending on the dates you have chosen and we will do everything possible to reschedule your program to an alternate date.

We are committed to working personally with each school without requiring a deposit for your booking; however, we do ask that, should you decide to cancel your program, please provide us with four (4) weeks advance notice! This will provide us with an opportunity to fill your vacancy. We will contact you four (4) weeks prior to your booking and request a verbal or written confirmation of your booking date.

Payment

Groups can pay the day of their program by Visa, Mastercard, cheque or cash; or request an invoice.



Circle R Ranch is located 8 km west of London, Ontario.
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