



Dear Rawhide family,

We are so excited to welcome you to Rawhide Ranch this summer. In fact, as I write this note to you the entire team is working to prepare the cabin areas, the horses, the program, the food and dining areas and a long list of other things that must be done before summer camp begins. It truly is our favorite time of the year and we all look forward to seeing you on Main Street soon. There are just a few things you need to know to be up to speed with coming to camp this summer.

First, expect to see some new things at the ranch when you get here. Buffalo Bills, the Mining Camp and Fort Rawhide have all had some major additions and changes. I hope you like what we have done.

Then, as we work to make our systems and programs more efficient, effective, fun and safe for **all** our campers, we have added a short stop in the registration process to make sure that you and your camper(s) are aware of our zero tolerance policies. There are 4 and they are:

1. Drugs, including marijuana, cigarettes, alcohol and all illegal substances are not allowed at Rawhide Ranch in any form.
2. Campers are not allowed to have cell phones (or communication devices of any kind) at camp. Electronic devices such as iPads or tablets, MP3 players or video games are also not to be brought to camp. Please do not ask for exceptions. The answer will be no, hopefully a gracious no, but still a no. There are VERY good reasons for this policy.
3. Weapons of any kind are not allowed in camp. Guns, knives, axes, spears or blades of any kind, matches/lighters or any other item that would be unsafe are not welcome at Rawhide.
4. Violence of any kind, especially physical violence, will not be tolerated.

Any violation of these policies will most likely result in the camper being sent home immediately without refund. Please have this talk with your camper **before camp** to make sure they understand these policies and inspect their gear before loading. I have lost count of how many parents who have responded: "My child would never do that!"

Finally, for reasons of the health and safety of your camper(s) this year we are requiring each camper to bring their own riding helmet to camp. They need to be ASTM/SEI rated for equine safety and less than 5 years old with the camper's first and last name written in bold letters on the helmet. We will have helmets available here in the Country Store for purchase (\$25 -\$45) at very reasonable prices or you are welcome to buy them on your own before you come. They are available online at Amazon and in most western/tack stores. I'm sure a Google search will help you find a store near you if that is what you prefer. Campers who do not have proper safety gear will not be able to ride while at camp. If you need help fitting your camper's helmet we will have staff available to assist when you arrive.

We genuinely want your camper to have a blast when they are with us this summer. But we know that if they are not safe, or do not feel safe, then they will not have much fun at all. If everyone is on board with these few safety items then camp will continue to be an amazing and exciting summer experience for everyone.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us at 760-758-0083.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. The staff and I are thrilled that you are coming to Rawhide this summer. Even Maggie and Daisy, our two friendly Golden Retrievers, seem to sense our anticipation for the best summer ever!

I'll see you in just a few short weeks!

Koop
Director, Rawhide Ranch