



Ranch Family Retreat 2025

**PARADISE
RANCH**
Life-Transforming Horsemanship 

Family Horsemanship Experiences

Grace Adventures - Paradise Ranch
8175 Juniper Beach Rd. Mears, MI 49436
231.873.3662

Important Weekend Information

Thank you for registering for the Ranch Family Retreat! We are looking forward to an awesome weekend with you!

- Check-in starts at 6:00 PM at Paradise Ranch. Please arrive by 7:00 PM.
- You will receive your housing assignment at check-in and one of our staff will direct you to your housing location.
- If you require a late check-in, please call our office in advance during business hours, if possible, so we can offer assistance with check-in when you arrive.
- Following check-in, you will be given a weekend outline, orientation, and other helpful information by our staff.
- Please do not arrive before 6:00 PM on Friday, as we may be serving other groups at that time.
- The weekend will wrap up on Sunday at around 12:00 PM.
- If you or any of your attendees have any special needs or have dietary restrictions, please be sure to indicate that on your health forms at registration.

Payments

- There is a \$25 non-refundable deposit due per spot when you register.
- 45 days before the event, your deposit payment method will be automatically charged for 60% of your total family balance for the event.
- 14 days before the event, your deposit payment method will be charged your remaining balance.
- If you need to cancel your registration at any time, please refer to our Cancellation Policy on the Ranch Family Retreat webpage at graceadventures.org/ranch-family-retreat.

Housing

- Everyone will be housed in the bunkhouses at Paradise Ranch during the weekend. The Bunkhouses are rustic and do not have heat or AC. They have limited power, so portable heaters or blankets will need to be left at home. Extra blankets are available in the bunkhouses.
- Housing is assigned by Grace Adventures staff based on family size and gender.
- You may be sharing housing with other families of the same gender. Please be aware and respectful of all others attending the weekend.
- Attendees must bring their own bedding, including pillow, sheets, and/or sleeping bag.
- All housing and buildings are smoke-free.

Helpful Information

Set Expectations

Please set behavior and conduct expectations with your family before you arrive. You and your family will have a much more successful weekend when clear guidelines are set and communicated in advance of the retreat.

Build Relationships

Building relationships with your family is an essential component of the Ranch Family Retreat. Being intentional about spending time together and having fun during activities will help make your retreat successful and impactful for the members of your family.

We encourage you to also build new friendships and relationships with the other attendees. Our prayer is that God uses this time to strengthen your family.

Ask Questions

We would love to answer any questions you have before or during the weekend. Please contact us or ask a staff member regarding how we can assist you and make your experience exceptional.

Schedule

To assist you in planning for the weekend, here is a tentative schedule for the retreat. Please note that some details may change.

Friday

- 6:00** Arrival and check-in
- 6:15** Riding lessons as families arrive
- 8:00** Campfire
- 9:00** Games/snack/family brand & goal-setting
- 9:30** Wagon ride in the dark

Saturday

- 8:00** Parent coffee and devotional/ Kid chores
- 8:30** Breakfast
- 9:30** Morning ranch activities
- 12:00** Lunch
- 12:45** Afternoon ranch activities
- 3:00** Parable of the Horse
- 4:30** Family discussion time
- 5:30** Dinner
- 6:30** Arena free time
- 8:30** Campfire worship
- 9:30** S'mores and board games

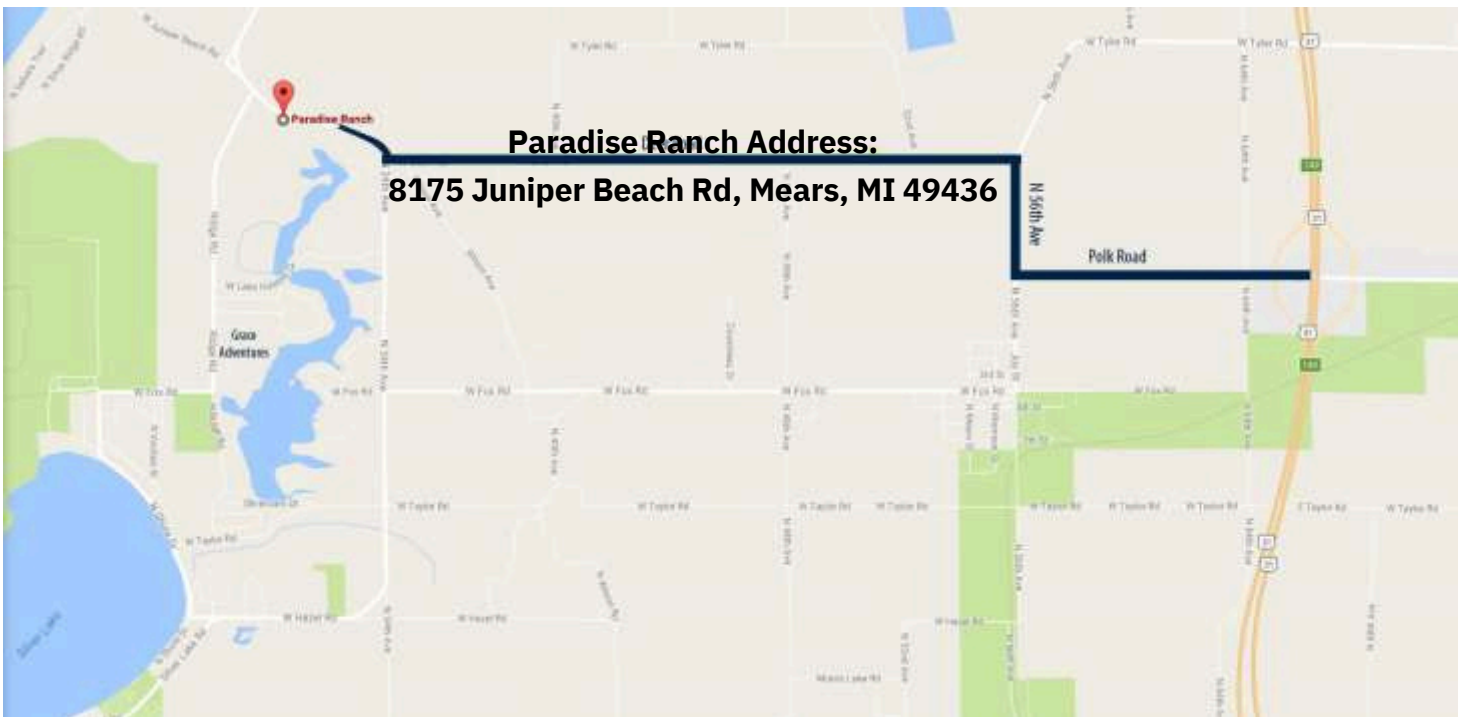
Sunday

- 9:00** Trail ride/wagon ride
- 10:00** Brunch/devotional
- 11:00** Trail ride/wagon ride
- 12:00** Surveys and check-out

Directions

Paradise Ranch is located about 35 miles **north of Muskegon**, 20 miles **south of Ludington**, and 80 miles **northwest of Grand Rapids**. The ranch campus is on Upper Silver Lake, almost 7 miles west of US-31. The closest commercial airports are Grand Rapids and Muskegon.

- Traveling from **Muskegon**, follow **US-31 Northbound** to the **Hart/Mears** (Exit 149). Off the exit, turn **Left** (West) and stay on the road until it stops (approximately 1 ½ miles), then follow the Grace Adventures/Paradise Ranch signs to the ranch.
- Traveling from **Ludington**, follow **US-31 Southbound** to **Hart/Mears** (Exit 149). Off the exit, turn **Right** (West) and stay on the road until it stops (approximately 1 ½ miles), then follow the Grace Adventures/Paradise Ranch signs to the ranch
- Traveling from **Grand Rapids**, follow **I-96 West** to **Muskegon**, then follow the above directions from Muskegon.



What to Bring

- Bedding (sleeping bag/sheets and pillow)
- Toiletries (including towels, comb or brush, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Warm, outdoor, comfortable clothes. Please bring raincoats rather than ponchos.
- Hat, sunglasses, sun protection
- Pajamas, underwear, lounge clothes
- Bible, notebook, pen, highlighter
- **Closed-toe shoes and/or cowboy boots**
- Flashlight
- Spending money for Camp Store

Please Do Not Bring

- Alcohol, tobacco, firearms, or weapons
- Non-prescription or illegal drugs
- Fireworks or prank items
- Personal space heaters
- Pets

Note: Any necessary medication should be kept by a parent in a safe and secure place where children can't access it.

We recommend that you "unplug" during this retreat. Cell phones and other electronics can be a distraction. Anything brought on campus, including electronics, is the owner's responsibility. We are not responsible for items lost, stolen, or broken.

Grace Adventures and Paradise Ranch desire to provide a safe environment for all employees, campers, and guests and to create an environment where they can focus on and learn more about a deepening relationship with Christ.

Grace Adventures and Paradise Ranch have zero tolerance for illegal substances and intoxicants, including marijuana and alcohol, on all our properties, in all our facilities and vehicles, and at all our events. All such substances are strictly prohibited.

Connect With Us



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Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Registration Fee include?

In short, everything! The registration fee is all-inclusive. All housing, meals, and activities are included. The only extra money you may need is for extra snacks and drinks at our Camp Store during the weekend.

Do we need to have horseback riding experience to come?

No previous riding experience is necessary. While it may be helpful to have previous riding experience, the activities can be enjoyed whether you are a brand new or a seasoned rider.

Is Wi-Fi available during the retreat?

Because of the beautiful and remote area that surrounds us, we do not offer Wi-Fi to our guests during their stay. We encourage you to disconnect from the internet and enjoy time with your family.

What if any of us have special dietary needs?

We are happy to accommodate most dietary needs and restrictions that our guests may have. We are pleased to offer gluten-free, dairy-free, peanut/tree nut-free, and vegetarian options. If your allergy/dietary restrictions fall into any of these four categories, please inform us at least one week prior to your experience by indicating those needs on your online health form. If your allergy/dietary needs exceed those listed above, please contact our Food Service Manager, Gail Salazar, at gail@graceadventures.org or 231-873-3662 to make arrangements to bring your own food. A microwave and limited space in the fridge is available to guests with special needs.

What about medications?

Families are responsible for dispensing their own medications as necessary. Paradise Ranch staff do not collect or hand out medications during the retreat. Please have any medications securely hidden or locked in a vehicle when not in use.

How many people usually come to the Ranch Family Retreats?

Every weekend is different and will have a variable number of people, but our capacity for each weekend is 40 people total. Typically weekend participation will be between 30-40 people.

Can I come to the retreat with my grandchildren, nieces, or nephews?

Yes, you can! Whole families, extended families, and multi-generational families are welcome to attend the retreat and build better bonds together through horsemanship.

What should we do in case of emergency?

In the event of an emergency, please call 911 and inform a Grace Adventures staff member. Make sure that you have the proper insurance and medical information for each of your family members.

The nearest hospital is Mercy Health Lakeshore in Shelby, MI. (72 S State St, Shelby, MI 49455)