



Mercy Spring Ranch  
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## **Session Details**

Mercy Spring Ranch sessions are open to children ages 6 through 18 who have experienced various forms of trauma. This may include abuse, neglect, a death in the family, foster care, etc. We are a Christian mentorship program that pairs one child with one leader to take part in various ranch activities, with an emphasis on horses, gardening, woodworking, and metalworking. Our program is free of charge.

Our sessions run in two-month blocks: April/May, June/July, and August/September. The month of October is used to help children prepare for our end of the season showcase. Registration for sessions takes place on the first Saturday of the month prior to the month new sessions begin. For instance, if you are trying to sign up for the April/May block of sessions the registration call-in for that block of sessions will be the first Saturday in March, beginning at 8am. For the June/July session block, the first Saturday in May at the same time. For the August/September session block, the first Saturday in July at the same time. The number to call is (209) 691-6054. Sessions are offered on a first come, first-served basis. (All calls are time stamped and any calls made before 8am will be moved to the bottom of the list to make it fair.) Once you call in and leave a message, it takes a few weeks to work our way down the list making call-backs and getting children scheduled.

Sessions are held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with slots at 10am and 5pm each day. Children come to their sessions every other week. For instance, if a child has sessions on Wednesday at 10 am in August/September, they will come every other Wednesday at 10am for those two months. Sessions are 90 minutes long, with the first 30 minutes spent doing a ranch chore and the remaining hour spent on the ranch activity.

A few things to keep in mind before calling to schedule sessions:

- **We are unable to work with children that have developmental or physical disabilities, as we are not a therapy program and are not set up or trained for therapy.**
- **Release of liability forms must be completed and signed for EVERY person coming to the ranch. These forms are available [here](#).**
- **During a child's session, a parent or legal guardian must always remain on the property.**

MSR's focus is to bring families together. Because of this principle we require parents to accompany their children to each session. A parent's presence is quite often central to a child's healing process. The impact of a parent cheering their child to victory is very apparent to us. Offering fathers, mothers, and guardians a chance to rest in the shade and enjoy the beauty God has provided is often as important as the time their child spends in a session.

- **MSR requires all visits to the ranch to be scheduled. No "drop-in" visits are allowed.**

Visits to the ranch are by appointment only and everyone coming to the ranch **MUST** check in with staff every time, no exceptions! We aim to make the ranch as safe for children and families as possible. To this end, we require all volunteers on the premises during sessions to be fingerprinted and submit to a background check.