

We seek applications for an Executive Director responsible for the oversight and management of the ministry and property of Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. Sky Ranch, an outdoor ministry of the ELCA, is a 117-acre seasonal facility located adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park. Sky Ranch has year-round administrative offices in Fort Collins, CO (about 1.5 hours from the camp).

Our **mission** is to Facilitate an Encounter with Christ on the Mountaintops. We fulfill our mission by:

- Being a place set apart
- Providing participants with service-learning opportunities
- Introducing our guest to the beauty of creation
- Emphasizing the value of retreat to physical and spiritual well-being
- Partnering with local, regional, and national congregations

Our **vision of outdoor ministry** is to unleash a spirit-driven community that is a transforming hope in the world. It means that . . .

- The seed of faith is planted in the fertile soil of the Spirit
- Campers leave with a better understanding of their vocation
- Individuals and groups are trained for congregation ministry leadership
- Participants have a better understanding of the Bible and Lutheran Tradition

Welcome statement

Sky Ranch is committed to facilitating an encounter with Christ on the mountaintops for all of our campers, staff, and other guests. We believe everyone is welcome at Christ's table. In the spirit of diversity, inclusion, and hospitality, Sky Ranch embraces and celebrates our guests' differences in age, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and other characteristics that make our community unique. We would like to extend a special welcome into our ministry to our LGBTQ siblings, those with differing abilities, people of color, and those who are a part of other marginalized communities. If you have any questions or concerns regarding yours or a loved one's stay at camp, please contact our camp office at 970-493-5258. We are happy to work with you on a case-by-case basis to provide accommodations you feel may be necessary to create the best possible camp experience.

Responsibilities

Financial Development and Oversight

- Oversight of budget process and spending
- Oversight of accounting functions
- Ensure the financial stewardship, including capital development and fundraising

Promotion and Outreach

- Continuously fostering relationships and connections with stakeholders at local, synod and national levels (e.g., congregation visits/preach, synod events, etc.); including extensive travel (Sky Ranch serves congregations in the Rocky Mountain Synod which includes Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, and a part of Texas)
- Ability to speak well about the programming of Sky Ranch (e.g., articulating and promoting the mission of Sky Ranch to people not familiar with Sky Ranch)
- Oversee all camp communications/outreach



Human Resources and Administration

- Management of and collaboration with full and part-time staff (including the professional development of staff) (6-7 staff members)
- Oversee hiring and supervision of seasonal employees
- Oversee the implementation and ensure compliance of all policies

Development and Maintenance of Ministry Resources

- Management of ministry resources (including property, facilities, and equipment) in alignment with the master plan
- Oversight of ministry opportunities (i.e., programming) in alignment with the mission and vision of Sky Ranch
- Management and navigation of crisis situations (e.g., communication with stakeholders, coordination with local authorities and emergency personnel)

Qualifications

Individual should have a strong faith and can articulate a faith grounded in the centrality of love and grace.

Required

- Bachelor's degree, with commitment to continual professional development
- Demonstrated experience managing staff
- Demonstrated competency and proficiency with administration
- Experience in crisis management
- Effective communicator (written and verbal)
- A passion for outdoor ministry and understanding the role of outdoor ministry in the Church
- Adherence to the mission, vision, and welcome statements of Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp
- Individual must be self-motivated and directed
- Ability to travel throughout the year (including summer months)

Preferred

- Experience with strategic planning
- Demonstrated ability to fundraise and lead/initiate fundraising campaigns

Compensation

Salary and benefits based on experience and education.
(Salary: \$60,000 - \$75,000)

Deadline

Cover letter, detailing relevant experience and qualifications, and resume (including contact information for three references) should be emailed to SkyRanchSearch@gmail.com by **the end of the day on 31 October 2021**. Interviews expected to begin in November with position expected to be filled late winter/early spring.

Contact Information

Lindsay Reiten, chair
SkyRanchSearch@gmail.com
970.591.2194



Sky Ranch Narrative

September 13, 2021

Sky Ranch was established in 1963, just north of Rocky Mountain National Park and in the Roosevelt National Forest. Throughout the years the camp's remote location has been a defining feature and foundation of the camp's ministry, a place for all to encounter Christ on the mountain tops.

The original intent of Sky Ranch Lutheran camp was to provide a summer Christian camping experience for youth. For many years it effectively served as a youth camp. As the years passed, the summer camping program has grown to its current 9-week summer program. Staff has progressed from volunteer and pastor-led programming to paid and trained staff including an Executive Director, full-time program and office staff, and a full complement of paid and trained summer staff.

The mandate of the Gospel is one of rebirth, restoration, and renewal. Because of the unique qualities of the property owned by Sky Ranch, there are several limiting factors that mandate a specific style of development.

- Because of the vision and mission of Sky Ranch, participation is limited to small group ministries.
- Because of the fragile nature of its land and our understanding of Christian stewardship, participation at Sky Ranch is limited to reasonable numbers that will not have an adverse effect on its natural resources.
- Because much of Sky Ranch programs take place in national forests, wilderness area lands and in the Rocky Mountain National Park, all of which require permits, Sky Ranch is limited in its growth to that allowed by regulatory agencies.
- Because of the difficulty of access in the winter, Sky Ranch is limited, for practical purposes, to a seasonal ministry.

These limiting factors - a small group focus, reasonable numbers, modest growth, and limited access – shape the Ministry of Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp.

Sky Ranch began with those who believed that time away - in the mountains - living in community - was essential to helping people to grow in faith. Since that time, Sky Ranch has been instrumental in the faith-formation of thousands of young people. Our goal is to ensure many generations to come will also encounter Christ on the mountain tops.

