



# crossing borders, erasing (boundaries)

## Service Team Information

*If you have a big heart for kids and want to cross borders and erase boundaries, join us at the Ranch!*

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch originated in the early 1950s to help six young boys cope with the realities of abuse and neglect. The new program, initiated by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Red River Valley, grew to become a national program serving children from 36 states. In 2000, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) joined forces with LCMS under Lutheran Services in America (LSA) to help promote the mission of reaching out to “at-risk children and their families in the name of Christ.”

Each year, DBGR offers hope and healing to hundreds of children and families through its residential treatment programs; its associated elementary and secondary education programs and through Dakota Family Services, the Ranch’s outreach mental health clinics. The ministry of the Ranch is open to children and their families whatever their faith connection. Since 1952, best estimates note that more than 31,000 children and families have received help from DBGR.

To sustain and grow the ministry of the DBGR, we invite **SERVICE TEAMS** who are willing to serve in whatever capacity is necessary at our various locations in Minot, Fargo and Bismarck, N.D. Service Team activities may include landscaping, buildings and grounds maintenance, assisting with our Horse Program, and various projects at our thrift stores and warehouses, depending on where the event is based. Most service team schedules at our residential facility campuses can include time to participate in chapel services or Bible study with our residents and staff.

We will do our best to design a service project that will be meaningful and fulfilling for your group. The earlier you communicate with us the better able we are to reserve your preferred dates, and also reserve a hotel for your stay.

The back of this pamphlet includes a Service Team Contact Information Form for you to complete for your church or organization. Completing this form DOES NOT obligate you to a service project, but will simply allow us to work toward scheduling an event for you.

Questions? Please give me a call at 701.364.0264; or email [c.isom@dakotaranch.org](mailto:c.isom@dakotaranch.org).

All Things are Possible with Christ!

*Carla*

Carla Trittin Isom  
Marketing Public Relations Director  
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch  
7151 15 St. S.  
Fargo, ND 58104

**Mission** We help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ.  
**Vision** That all children and families achieve greater success in life.



# Introduction

## Service Team Program Overview

The service team program is designed to give teams from churches and organizations an experience that addresses the needs of the ministry and accomplishes the specific vision and mission of the Ranch. We encourage all service team members to come with a heart to serve the children and families. Service teams can serve at several different DBGR locations and facilities in Fargo, Bismarck and Minot, N.D. Teams will usually work at only one site, but may have opportunities to visit others. Teams can help with projects, such as:

- landscaping
- buildings and grounds maintenance, office support
- assisting with our therapeutic riding program
- various activities at our thrift stores

They can also participate in chapel services or Bible study with our residents and staff. Our desire at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help the service team participants to hear and sense God's exciting work in their lives.

Service team participants need to demonstrate a vital Christian faith, a servant's heart, a team mindset, and be personally flexible.

## DBGR Statement Of Responsibility

During your stay with DBGR, we encourage you to pursue your personal relationship with Jesus Christ as your primary goal. Second, we invite you to step into the life of our ministry and the life-impacting relationship we have on children and families. Third, we ask that you listen to the needs of children from at-risk situations and consider what long-term role God might have for you working with these children. Fourth, we encourage you to act as a servant to the other participants on your team and the DBGR staff, so your brief stay might serve as long-term encouragement to the work. Finally, we ask that you be respectful to all individuals you encounter and interact with.

While focusing on accomplishing this list of personal priorities, and in deference to the programs and services we provide, we ask that you refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking or using tobacco products on campus. During your stay, we ask that you not pursue romantic relationships with individuals on your team or from the ministry. We have set this policy to protect our residents believing that you will appreciate your experience more if you focus on the above mentioned priorities.

## Service Projects\*

- Landscaping
- Painting
- Wildlife Area Projects (Minot)
  - o Planting trees
  - o Creating/planning flower beds
- Assisting with Therapeutic Riding Program (Minot)
  - o Hippotherapy (3-6 volunteers an hour)
  - o Weeding outdoor riding arena
- Thrift Store Projects (Fargo, Bismarck and Minot, N.D.)
  - o Sorting donations/merchandise
  - o Painting at the Minot Store

*\*Service projects change annually, per needs of each campus. Those listed above are examples of projects servant teams have completed.*

## Accommodations

Hotel accommodations are available close to all three DBGR sites with a special non-profit rate which varies, but accommodates a four person occupancy. DBGR will assist with reservations to ensure special rate. Camping facilities are available near all three DBGR sites and more information can be requested through either DBGR or area visitor bureaus.

## Suggested Daily Schedule Summer\*

Your church or organization determines the length of your service team event. Events can range from a few days to one week. Here is a general description of a typical schedule during those weeks. *Please be flexible since the schedule could change for your group depending on the specific needs of the ministry.*

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Morning Devotions
9:15 a.m.	Work Project
10:45 a.m.	Morning Break/Snack
Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Work Project
2:30 p.m.	Afternoon Break/Snack
4:30 p.m.	Sending Devotion
5:00 p.m.	Dinner

*\*Schedule may be adjusted for special recreational activities.*

# What You Should Bring to North Dakota

## Packing List

- o Sense of humor
- o Flexibility
- o DBGR Contact information
- o Bible, journal, pen
- o Ministry material (if applicable)
- o Towels, washcloths (camping only)
- o Sleeping Bag and Pillow (camping only)
- o Flashlight and batteries (camping only)
- o Ear Plugs (in case some of your team mates snore!)
- o Bug repellent (mosquitoes are one of ND's state birds!)
- o Sunscreen
- o Work gloves
- o Toiletries
- o Camera, film, batteries
- o Hand sanitizer
- o Plastic bags for dirty clothes
- o Extra money for souvenirs, drinks or other small items
- o First Aid Kit with antibiotic ointment, bandages, anti-diarrhea medication, Tylenol, sunburn treatment, any needed prescription medicine, feminine hygiene products.

## Clothing

- o Travel clothes
- o Work clothes
- o **T-shirts and light blouses; no low-neck tops.**
- o Light-weight pants
- o **Modest shorts: shorts must be NO MORE than 2" above the knee, in accordance with DBGR dresscode.**
- o Cotton socks
- o Underwear
- o Work boots or shoes (close-toed shoes are required for all work projects)
- o Tennis shoes or Flip-Flops (recreation activities)
- o Hat or visor
- o Sunglasses
- o Swim suit and towel (for after-hours recreation opportunities)
- o Lightweight coat/jacket







Dakota  
Boys  
and  
Girls  
Ranch™

www.dakotaranch.org

# **CROSSing borders, erasing (boundaries)**

## **Service Team Contact Information Form**

Service Team Name (i.e. Church or Organization associated with):

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### **Service Team Choice of Location:**

☐ Fargo, ND

☐ Bismarck, ND

☐ Minot, ND

Requested Service Team Date of Arrival: (M/D/Y) \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Service Team Date of Exit: (M/D/Y) \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Team Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Team Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Leader Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Leader Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Church/Organization Information**

Name of Church/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Would your church/organization like to schedule a Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch guest speaker prior to or following their field visit? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mail to:**

**Service Team Information**

**7151 15 ST S**

**Fargo, ND 58104**

### **Email to:**

**c.isom@dakotaranch.org**

### **Fax to:**

**603-590-5540**

### **Info? Call:**

**701.364.0264**