

NEWS FROM JOY RANCH

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605-886-4622

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www.joyranchofsd.org

FROM THE HEART OF JOY RANCH:

Dear Current and Future Friends of Joy Ranch,

We have had another BANNER year at Joy Ranch—with mission programs, participants, visitors, and events filling our ranch with memories, laughter, growth, and connection!

Year after year, we continue to grow by leaps and bounds, and we have YOU to thank for that. Your support, encouragement, generosity, volunteer hours, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.

Joy Ranch exists to enhance lives, walk alongside people through whatever challenges they may face, and create a one-of-a-kind South Dakota prairie experience—whether you are navigating a challenge or simply looking for a place to reconnect, recharge, and make memories.

We are here for you, wholeheartedly.

We at Joy Ranch, along with thousands of others who believe in what we are doing, have heeded the call to make a difference. And if you haven't been to Joy Ranch yet, we hope you hear that call, too.

Come join us—as a participant, volunteer, donor, visitor, or simply a friend of Joy Ranch. There is a place for you here. We hope to see ALL of you here soon.

We'll be here, ready to welcome you with open arms.

With gratitude,



Joy Nelson
President

THE JOY RANCH DIFFERENCE

A camper arrived nervous and unsure about participating. By the end of the week, they were laughing with new friends, trying activities they had never attempted before, and asking when they could come back.

That's why we do what we do.

Because sometimes one experience can change the way someone sees themselves—and what they believe they can do.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER:

Call 605-886-4622 or send email to mallory@joyranchofsd.org

JOY RANCH IS LOCATED ON 126 ACRES OUTSIDE OF WATERTOWN

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:



Smith Equipment Crew Brings the Muscle!

On August 20, an incredible crew from Smith Equipment spent the day volunteering at Joy Ranch—and they certainly didn't come to sit around! In just a few hours, their team tackled painting fences, giving our Gaga Ball pit a fresh look, painting a flatbed trailer, deep cleaning our main dining room, and taking on some seriously intense window washing!

What this crew accomplished in a few short hours would have taken our small Joy Ranch staff weeks to complete. We are incredibly grateful for their time, energy, and willingness to jump in wherever they were needed.

Thank you, Smith Equipment, for rolling up your sleeves and helping us make Joy Ranch even better! We are so grateful for your support!

Call us if YOUR business would like to volunteer at Joy Ranch!



HITCHIN' POST UPDATE:



The Hitchin' Post is the newest gathering place at Joy Ranch of South Dakota—a warm, welcoming space designed to bring people together and create lasting memories.

Made possible through the generosity of our community, the Hitchin' Post reflects the Western spirit of Joy Ranch while providing a versatile space for camps, fundraisers, meals, special events, and community gatherings. The building features two regulation-size pickleball courts and two movable basketball hoops, making it a great space for pickleball tournaments, basketball practices, and tournaments.

More than just a building, the Hitchin' Post represents what Joy Ranch is all about: bringing people together and creating a place where everyone is welcome.



WANT TO BE PART OF THE JOY RANCH STORY?

- Donate
- Sponsor a camper
- Volunteer
- Host an event
- Pray for Joy Ranch
- Book a retreat
- Bring your organization to the ranch
- Attend a fundraiser
- Share Joy Ranch with a friend

MORE THAN A CAMP: IT'S A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS!

There is something powerful about camp. It's the laughter around a table, the excitement of trying something new, the friendships that form, and the feeling of being somewhere you can simply be yourself.

At Joy Ranch, our camps are about so much more than a few days away from home. They are opportunities to experience, connect, grow, and discover what is possible.

Over the past year, we've welcomed campers of all ages and abilities through Sanford Spina bifida Spirit Camp, LATC Sensory Camp, Firefighters for Healing Camp Red, Sanford Bring it on for children with cancer or are in remission, Joy Ranch Young Timber for young men, Joy Ranch Horse Camps and Grandparents Camp. While each camp is unique, they all share the same goal: creating meaningful experiences where people can have fun, build confidence, and make lasting memories and: A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

Our 126-acre ranch offers endless opportunities to explore—from horses and the lake to outdoor adventures, games, campfires, and simply spending time together. For some campers, trying something new, meeting a friend, or saying "I can do this" can be a tremendous accomplishment. That's what makes camp so meaningful.

At Joy Ranch, we celebrate those moments. We watch campers discover new strengths, step outside their comfort zones, and realize they are capable of more than they imagined. And perhaps the greatest compliment is hearing, "When can we come back?"

Because camp isn't just about what happens while you're here. It's about the confidence, friendships, memories, and sense of belonging you take with you when you leave. That is the heart of Joy Ranch.

HELP US KEEP THE JOY GOING!

Because of the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, and foundations, amazing things happen at Joy Ranch. Your support helps us create meaningful, life-changing experiences for those we serve.

Want to help? You can donate online at www.joyranchofsd.org/ways-i-can-help or send your contribution through the mail. Every gift makes a difference!





THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING AT THE RANCH!

From community events and fundraisers to retreats and special dining experiences, we have plenty of reasons to visit the Ranch this fall. Save the dates and join us!

SEPTEMBER 8 | 5-7 PM JOY RANCH OPEN HOUSE

Come see what's new at Joy Ranch! Tour our Hitchin Post, explore the Ranch, and learn more about the programs, events, and experiences we have to offer. We'd love to welcome you and show you around!

SEPTEMBER 10 PLANT BINGO

Get ready for a fun evening of bingo, plants, food, and fellowship! Bring your friends, enjoy some friendly competition, and help support the mission of Joy Ranch.

SEPTEMBER 29 CHEF NIGHT — FEATURING KYLE LALIM

We're kicking off another season of Chef Nights with Chef Kyle Lalim! Enjoy an unforgettable evening of incredible food, great company, and the beautiful atmosphere of Joy Ranch—all while supporting our mission.

OCTOBER 12-15 QUILT RETREAT

Pack your quilting projects and enjoy several days of creativity, relaxation, delicious meals, and fellowship in the peaceful setting of Joy Ranch. Gather your quilting friends and make a weekend of it!

OCTOBER 27 CHEF NIGHT — FEATURING JEFF GAMBER

Join us for another delicious Chef Night featuring Chef Jeff Gamber! Enjoy an evening of exceptional food and fellowship while supporting the mission of Joy Ranch.

NOVEMBER CHEF NIGHT — FEATURING JIM ZECK

We'll continue our Chef Night series in November with Chef Jim Zeck! Come enjoy another memorable evening of wonderful food, good company, and the welcoming atmosphere of Joy Ranch.

SAVE THE DATES!

Whether you're joining us for a fundraiser, retreat, open house, or Chef Night, we can't wait to welcome you to Joy Ranch!

BRING THE FAMILY TOGETHER AT JOY RANCH

Looking for a family reunion destination where everyone—from the youngest cousins to the grandparents—can enjoy the weekend? Joy Ranch was made for making memories together! With 126 acres to explore, scenic trails, a beautiful lake, camping, retreat rooms, horses, pickleball, kayaking, canoeing, a pontoon, and plenty of space to gather, there's something for every age and ability.

Spend the morning on the water, challenge the family to a game of pickleball, take a trail ride, enjoy a family meal together, or simply sit around and catch up. There's room to play, relax, reconnect, and make the kind of memories that become family stories for years to come.

And the best part? You don't have to plan every minute. Come to Joy Ranch, settle in, and enjoy being together.

Your family has grown. Your reunion should too.

Now booking family reunions at Joy Ranch!

Bring the whole crew. We'll provide the setting—you make the memories.



Joy Ranch isn't just a nonprofit—it's also a place people can visit, stay and host events.

