

Wildwood Hills Ranch

Summer Staff Support Raising Packet



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HILLS RANCH OF IOWA

www.wildwoodhillsranch.org

Dear Summer Staff,

Welcome to the team – I am thrilled you have chosen to be the hands and feet of Christ this summer in such a unique way! We cannot wait to see all of the ways God uses each one of you to move students, empower communities, and take steps in your own faith.

I want to encourage each of you in the great task you've taken on this summer. Not only have you signed up for a summer serving in making a kingdom impact, but you've also stepped out in faith financially. Raising funds can be intimidating if you are not sure how to go about it. Which is why we have created this packet. We have offered helpful advice, sample support letters, as well as a useful timeline. Our hope is that this packet can offer you peace in the process of raising additional summer funds, and get you off to a great start.

In addition to this packet, I am here as a resource for you. As a former Summer Staff member, I have experienced a summer with Wildwood Hills Ranch and would love to answer any questions and offer any advice. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Blessings,

Genelle Engelhoven

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Program Coordinator



Summer Staff Support Raising

Wildwood Hills Ranch provides an incredible life-changing experience! Within this opportunity we also recognize the investment and sacrifice involved in being on summer staff. Being a part of this ministry is a blessing and participating in the support raising process allows you to invite others to partner with you in this ministry!

Overview

Every summer staff has the opportunity to raise financial support in addition to their summer stipend, housing, and meals.

To be eligible for this opportunity, the summer staff member must be committed to all 7 sessions of programming, plus the staff training weeks required for their position.

- Maximum amount to raise: \$2,200
- Deadline: raised funds must be donated by July 31st
- Surplus donations: all excess donations will be allocated to the summer staff scholarship fund to assist future ministry impact
- All donations are tax deductible

Action Steps

1. Opt-in to the support raising process and have your name added to the donation option list on our website.
2. Make personal asks to your contact list and community: we encourage letters, phone calls, social media, and face to face conversations.
3. Track your progress in coordination with Wildwood Hills Ranch Finance Director.
4. Send regular updates and stories to your support team.
5. Send personalized thank yous to each individual donor on your support team.
6. Send an end of summer overview and thank you to your support team.

Financial Facts

Deadline: Donations are due before July 31st, 2020: \$2,200.00

Donation by Check:

- All Checks Payable to: Wildwood Hills Ranch
- All Payments Sent to: Wildwood Hills Ranch, 2552 Union Lane, St. Charles, IA 50240
 - The donor must include your name on the memo line

Online Donations: <https://www.wildwoodhillsranch.org/donate/>

- “Click to Support a Summer Staffer”
 - The donor must include your name on the comment line

Financial Updates:

- Please contact our Finance Director: Christene Ellifritt at cellifritt@wildwoodhillsranch.org or 641-396-2414, ext. 204
- Chris will be able to tell you your current amount raised

Support Amounts Paid to Summer Staff:

- 95% of donated money will be received by the summer staff member. 5% of each donation, plus any donations in excess of an individual’s maximum, will be used to cover expenses associated with the Summer Staff Scholarship Program or used for future funds. This means that each summer staff participating will be able to take home a maximum of \$2,100.
- You will receive donated money through checks once a month or in a total amount at the end of the summer. You will be able to discuss timing with our Finance Director during staff training.

Donation Tax Receipts:

- Donors will receive a tax-deduction receipt at the end of the year directly from Wildwood
- Tax ID Number is: 42-1517411

Surplus Amount Raised:

- If you raise over the \$2,200.00 maximum, the money will continue to go towards the community you will be working with. Because the money is donated with the understanding that it will be used in the summer staff scholarship fund, we cannot return it. Please monitor your balance often so you know when you are approaching your goal. On the other hand, you will quickly fall in love with the community you serve in and see the value of where this money is being used. If you have a great support system that is able to provide above and beyond, it will be a huge blessing.

Making the Ask

Face to Face Conversations or Phone Calls:

- Set up face to face conversations with those in your contact list.
- Share the passion and heart behind your decision to serve this summer. How your personal investment in Wildwood this summer will make a Kingdom impact. Share about what Wildwood's mission is.
- Make the ask: clearly outline your goals for the summer both personally and financially. Ask them to prayerfully consider supporting you.
- Give them the information on how they could donate: check and online.
- Thank them for their time!

Letters:

- Use the template letter in this packet as a starting point. Edit it to add in your own personal story.
- Send this letter to as many people as you can in your contact list. Don't hesitate to reach out!
- Clearly outline ways for them to support you financially: check or online.
- Follow up: feel free to give them a call two weeks after you have sent your letter.

Social Media:

- Create a page for your summer experience and invite friends to join it. This can be a platform that you post updates, stories, and more throughout your summer experience.
- Make specific posts about how others can join you in making a Kingdom impact: pray and give.
- Direct your contacts to the donation page on the Wildwood Hills Ranch website: www.wildwoodhillsranch.org/donate
- Utilize the Wildwood Hills Ranch social media pages and website for ideas on pictures or things to share to communicate the mission of Wildwood and your summer experience.

People Might Ask You

Why are you needing to raise support?

Wildwood Hills Ranch is a nonprofit youth development organization that provides 100% scholarship to the students who participate in programming. In addition, the organization runs on primarily individual donors to cover all operational expenses, staffing, and programming. Wildwood Hills Ranch provides a weekly stipend to each summer staff member that covers basic needs. The money I raise in addition to this stipend allows me to save for college classes, monthly bills, and more. The money I raise provides me with comparable income to a for-profit job.

What happens if you don't raise enough support or raise over the maximum amount?

The maximum amount I am striving to raise is \$2,200. If I do not raise this full amount I will not be able to save for future expenses, education costs, etc. Every part of this amount is helpful to me for the present and the future! If I raise more than the maximum amount, the surplus dollars will be added to the Summer Scholarship Fund for future summer staff members to participate in the mission of Wildwood Hills Ranch.

Can people continue to donate through the summer?

Yes! If donors wish to give during the summer they are more than welcome to. All donations need to be submitted before July 31st.

How can a donor stay up-to-date on what you and Wildwood Hills Ranch are doing?

You can send updates via email, social media, letters, etc. Donors are also welcome to join the Wildwood Hills Ranch newsletter and follow us on social media.

How to Make It Work

Be Prayerful

Pray daily for God to lead the way and make your ministry possible this summer. Ask Him to break down the walls that are built up against your mission. Remember that the summer is not about you or Wildwood; it is about Christ and the impact He wants to make in Iowa's most vulnerable youth.

Be Proactive

God will do His part, now you have to do your part. Make a list of contacts you can mail out letters to. Make a list of those whom you think will donate online. Check off the names on the list. Make sure to follow through. Use both the letter method and the online method. Invest in a method beyond these two options. People are busy and often forgetful, so do not be afraid to follow up and ask if they've had any time to consider supporting you.

Be Prepared

Be confident and know what you're talking about. Familiarize yourself with Wildwood Hills Ranch's mission and know the community well. Make sure you are well equipped to answer questions that may come up. Be sure to read through the "People Might Ask" section for all the answers you will need.

Be Present

Put aside time to work on your support raising efforts. Set aside a morning or afternoon for making phone calls. If you make yourself present and available for a day or two, you will be grateful in the end. The sooner you get your support raised, the more relieved you will be.

Be Passionate

You are here because God has called you to serve. That in and of itself is truly an exciting thing. I hope you are as excited as we are about the calling God has placed on you this summer. Friends and family will sense your passion and confidence in this call and will be eager to join you in your mission this summer.

Be Personal

If someone chooses to support you, show him or her your thanks! Send them a personal thank you card and ask them if they want to stay updated with Wildwood Hills Ranch. If they do, we can add them to our monthly email newsletter. It would also be a good idea to fill them in at the end of the summer with a letter about what you did and how they made it possible.

Template Letter

Wildwood Hills Ranch

Summer 2020

Insert Picture Here

Dear Friends and Family,

Currently I am going to _____ (University or working at ____). While going to college I've been seeking God to see what He has for me. My passion for ministry and my desire to focus on sharing God's love and truth with others, especially with those who are hurting, continues to grow. This summer I have an incredible opportunity to work with Iowa's most vulnerable youth at Wildwood Hills Ranch. Our mission statement at The Ranch is below:

Wildwood Hill's Ranch exists to transform lives and strengthen communities by providing healing, hope, and God's unconditional love to children and youth at-risk.

I know it will open up my eyes to the hurt and pain that our kids and youth are experiencing, and I know that they need hope in this world full of brokenness. I'm so grateful to get to be a part of this ministry and join them in making a difference in these kids' lives by showing them God's genuine love. We get to share Biblical values with them, teach them leadership skills, and as they get into our youth program, we also get to teach them trade skills and set them up for higher education after high school.

Would you join me first of all in prayer? It is my desire to join Wildwood in sharing the gospel with kids' who need God's unfailing love. This summer I'll also need God's strength, guidance, patience and wisdom as I get to share truth and spiritual principles with the kids I'll be working with. I know that there is a spiritual battle going on, and we are fighting for heart transformation.

Would you also consider supporting me financially? In order to join this ministry fully this summer, I am working on raising \$2,200. I'll be working there for 8 weeks as The Ranch serves just under 1,000 kids this summer. It's a lot of lives to touch, and I believe God has called me to join this incredible team so that I can show these kids' what it looks like to be a kid again and have hope for a better future.

Your gift is tax deductible and you will receive a tax-deduction receipt at the end of the year directly from Wildwood. I would really appreciate any amount that you could donate to help me take this leap of faith. If you would like to contribute you can do so by including my name on the memo line when giving online or via check:

Online Donations: <https://www.wildwoodhillsranch.org/donate/> and "Click to Support a Summer Staffer"

All Checks Payable to: Wildwood Hills Ranch

Send to: Wildwood Hills Ranch, 2552 Union Lane, St. Charles, IA 50240

Also, I have a social media page (Blog, FB page, Insta page, etc.) That you can follow to get updates on how I'm doing in achieving my goals and how God has been using me during my adventure at Wildwood Hills Ranch. Thank you for taking this into serious consideration, and please know that I will also be praying that the Lord blesses you and your family.

Yours in Christ,

