

Head Wrangler- Barn Department Head 2026 Job Description

Job Title: Head Wrangler: *Barn & Herd Department Head*

Department: Barn

Reports To: Ranch Management

Position Duration: Seasonal from May 4th through October 14th. Additional days in the fall as required for projects. Certain tasks within this role may occur outside of this season and are paid hourly as duties are executed.

Responsibilities:

- Assists Ranch Manager in hiring of wranglers
- Trains wranglers and ensures the crew, barn facilities, pastures, and trails are prepared for guest operations.
- Maintains and updates as needed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for barn and horse management.
- Maintains organization of horse records and files in the office and barn.
- Responsible for ensuring all required record-keeping including but not limited to horse usage, daily ride counts, incident reporting.
- Organizes logistics of rides with guests, including creating ride schedules, assigning horses and saddles, addressing guest comments or complaints.
- Oversees and manages daily duties and ensures completion of tasks.
- Assigns wrangling assignments, evening activities, and weekend chores.
- Oversees conflict resolution and/or performance issues amongst barn employees, seeking assistance for higher management when needed.
- Maintains all barn equipment, tack, and facilities. Keeps inventory records and recommends any necessary purchases and repairs to management. Approves use of staff/crew personal tack, and assigns specific bits to bridles as needed.
- Acts as the primary point of contact for leased horses, winter pasture, and brand inspector.
- Oversees and delegates vetting needs (in-house and external) including treatment of equine injuries, vaccination, worming, schedules for farriers, and veterinarians.
- Manages feeding schedules, hay and grain inventory, horse water access, pasture gate + fence upkeep.
- Oversees buying and selling of horses to maintain target herd numbers.
- Oversees quarantining, training and assimilation of new horses within the herd.

- Serves as on-call emergency contact for horse issues alongside Assistant Wrangler.
- Attends Sunday Night cocktail parties to greet guests, alternating weekly with the Assistant Wrangler.
- *As managerial duties allow*, participates in general wrangler duties including but not limited to:
 - Provide instruction in horsemanship and riding for groups and individuals on the trail.
 - Participate in daily barn activities, including caring for the herd, grooming, and saddling horses, as well as maintaining facilities.
 - Lead half-day and full-day rides, engaging with guests throughout.
 - Drive 8-horse trailers, transporting guests to offsite locations safely.
 - Maintain trails and pasture areas, including clearing fallen trees, fence repairs, and invasive weed removal.
 - AM/PM Wrangling horses to/from pastures
 - Thursday Tractor rides, Friday Team Penning

Requirements:

- Knowledge and experience with horses and riding instruction
- Familiarity with basic vetting needs and coordinating with vetting team
- Experience in leadership within barns, preferred
- Experience overseeing staff, preferred
- Physical strength and flexibility for lifting saddles and hay bales, kneeling, and riding for extended periods.
- Must be 21 or older, possess a valid driver's license, and have a clean driving record.
- Current CPR and First Aid certification, a plus. (WFA training will be provided for those without.)
- Chainsaw experience for trail clearing is a plus.
- Energetic, responsible, good judgment, conversational, trustworthy, patient, and adaptable to varying schedules and duties.

Dress Code:

- Clean and tidy ranch-appropriate attire.
- Required: Jeans and boots, western button-down shirts.
- Encouraged: Vests, wildrags, cowboy hats.
 - *Please ensure cowboy hats are well-fitting and not likely to fall off when riding*
- Slickers recommended for rainy days; chaps and spurs are optional.

Compensation:

- Room & Board, Salary & Gratuities.
- Gratuities (received during the 16-week guest season) are generous, with the opportunity to earn more by participating in extra activities with guests. For reference, gratuities in 2025 averaged ~\$8,000 for the season, but please note that gratuity amounts will fluctuate year to year and are not guaranteed.