

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

Here are frequently asked questions (and answers) about LASSO Horse Camp:

What happens in a typical day?

All LASSO campers will come together in the morning after breakfast to open each day and evening and close each day as a large group – lots of fun will happen here! During the middle part of the day the girls will be divided into smaller groups so they can have more individual time whether they are with the horses learning life and horse skills, riding, or enjoying the rest of what Camp Timbers offers.

How often can campers go horseback riding?

Campers will spend time lots of time with the horses daily, for riding lessons (and horse skill lessons). The only day not planned for riding is the first day, where we will focus on “ground work,” designed to safely introduce the campers to the horses and the horses to the campers.

I've never ridden a horse before. What if I don't like it?

We want everyone to have a positive LASSO experience. If you are hesitant to ride a horse for any reason, you can choose not to – all program elements are your choice. LASSO is designed to help you learn about yourself and others by partnering with horses, and the good news is you can do that on the ground (or in the saddle) depending on your preference.

What's so special about LASSO – isn't it just another horse camp?

The creators of LASSO bring people and horses together all the time (that's their “day job”), seeking to help people learn about themselves and others. LASSO combines three things the creators love - horses, camp, and kids.

“Life Skills” – sounds too much like school, will it be dull & boring?

Dull? Boring? Not if we can help it! We've created a program that is fun, in part because the camper often decides the way they want to learn. Learning about life skills, such as what respect looks like and reading body language helps a person develop a sense of self-awareness, set realistic goals, understand others, and become better problem solvers.

What else is will I be doing when I'm not riding horses?

Camp Timbers has a high and low ropes challenge course, arts and crafts, nature trails, and many sporting activities. Additionally, beautiful spring-fed Piper Lake offers lots of fun on the water, including boating, a new giant waterslide, and fishing.

What are the living arrangements?

Camp Timbers features comfortable, modern cabins with built-in bunks and clean, modern restrooms with private stalls. Campers are housed in units according to age and experience at camp. We attempt to blend new campers with returning campers, so that no one feels like an "outsider".

Am I allowed to choose my roommate?

Yes. On our registration form, just indicate your roommate request in the space provided (in fact, there is even a discounted price for each person). If you're near the same age and the request is mutual, we will place you together as roommates.

What is your staff ratio?

We maintain a 1:4 ratio of childcare staff to campers across camp at all times. There is a counselor and a specialty staff assigned to every unit.

Who are the staff?

All staff are carefully selected, highly trained and certified where available through the YMCA Camp Timbers program, led by Camp Director Steve Meyer. The LASSO program is the creation of Kaleidoscope Learning Circle, owned and operated by Dr. Tracy Weber.

When can parents visit?

Parents and or guardians are permitted to visit anytime, with advanced notice. We encourage adults and siblings to attend the "horse and human" show on Friday.

What do you do about homesickness?

When a camper is homesick, we make every attempt to keep her busy participating in activities and concentrating on the aspects of camp that she considers fun. If the homesickness persists, camp staff will call the camper's parents to make her parents aware of the situation, and ask for suggestions for making the camper more comfortable.

What happens if a camper becomes ill or injured?

All seasonal staff are certified in First Aid and CPR, and a nurse is on call 24 hours per day. There is an on-call physician, local EMS access, and a regional hospital available in nearby West Branch. Camp staff will telephone parents or the designated emergency contact person if a camper experiences a medical condition that prevents her from participating in camp activities for more than 24 hours, or if the camper must see a physician for any reason. Camp Timbers meets all local health department and fire safety inspections, in addition to adhering to the YMCA Model Practices for Camping.

What is your refund policy?

We do not issue tuition refunds if a camper is required to leave camp early due to uncooperative behavior, or if a parent chooses to take the camper home early due to homesickness.

When is the registration deadline?

We do not have a registration deadline. We recommend pre-registering to assure ample time for paperwork and other preparation, but we will accept LASSO campers until July 30, 2006.

Do you give discounts?

Yes – up to \$250 off! We are offering a \$100 discount to each camper that attends with either a sibling or a friend, in addition there is \$100 discount for girls who are former Camp Timbers campers, or are part of another group such as girl scouts or 4-H, and lastly there is an additional \$50 discount for people living in Saginaw County.

What should campers bring?

A packing list detailing what to bring (and what not to bring) is available at both www.myklc.com and www.camptimbers.org. Campers should pack comfortable clothes and if they have their own specialized equipment, such as a riding helmet or riding boots, they are encouraged to bring it.



YMCA Mission Statement: The YMCA of Saginaw is an association of all people united in a common effort to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that enrich the spirit, mind and body for all.

LASSO Mission Statement: LASSO brings horses and humans together to increase awareness, understanding, and empathy reaching toward developing healthy relationships. Designed for young people in their formative years, LASSO provides participants with opportunities to learn and practice essential life skills and tying horse skills and life skills together, connecting people to their passions. LASSO is the creation of Kaleidoscope Learning Circle, llc. (www.myklc.com)