EAGLE RANCH

Guide to Houseparenting
Thank you for downloading our Guide to Houseparenting. We hope you'll find it helpful as you explore this opportunity to impact the lives of children and families.

We are a resource to answer any questions as you consider if Houseparenting at Eagle Ranch might be God's calling for you and your spouse. Please feel free to email me questions, or call our office at the contact information below.

In addition to this guide, make sure you check out our website EagleRanch.org/Houseparenting to see a video tour of our campus and additional information.

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Based in Flowery Branch, Georgia, Eagle Ranch provides resources for children, families and communities in more than 40 counties in Northeast Georgia and metro Atlanta. The Ranch’s cornerstone two-year residential program provides a home, education, counseling and Christ-centered spiritual guidance for up to 42 boys and 24 girls, giving them the structure, stability and time needed to work through a crisis situation. Their families remain connected and involved with the goal of the child ultimately returning home.

Eagle Ranch has a variety of outreach efforts designed to educate and support families, therapeutic professionals, children’s programs and nonprofit organizations across the United States and worldwide. In 2022, Eagle Ranch will expand its reach, providing outpatient counseling and hosting retreats through its newest initiative, The Wings Center.

Beautiful Surroundings, A Caring Community

Eagle Ranch is a community of Christ followers who work to create a supportive, caring and healing environment. Our beautiful 315-acre campus includes 10 inviting homes that are arranged in a neighborhood style. We encourage outdoor activities with a therapeutic equine center, junior-olympic size pool, wooded trails, two lakes, playgrounds, a ropes course, tennis courts, basketball courts and sports fields. We also have a chapel, athletic center, girls wellness center and other facilities for our children and staff to enjoy.
What is Houseparenting?

A mission-oriented opportunity for married couples who desire to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children and families.

Houseparents help children develop emotional skills by creating a structure-nurture balance that is reinforced through daily life examples.

When hired, a Houseparent couple is assigned a home where they will live and care for up to 7 children. Our homes are in a neighborhood setting and are regularly updated and maintained. Each home has an open floor plan with plenty of space to gather and enjoy life. A private Houseparent suite is in each home.

What makes Eagle Ranch Houseparenting different than many residential children’s programs? Our partnership with families.

Each child who comes to live with us has family who participates in our program through counseling, parent groups and events. Our goal is for the child to permanently return home. While in our program, children return to their families every other weekend and on holidays. Families are also responsible for taking their children to any medical appointments. This enables Houseparents to develop ongoing relationships that help families stay connected, while growing and learning along with their child.

“We wanted to do something that would be eternally impactful. We felt like God was calling us to do something we absolutely could not do on our own—it was something He had to do through us.”

Cole & Tess Daum
A Positive, Supportive Team and Community

The program provides professional counseling, an on-campus school and spiritual support to each child and their family. Houseparents become part of a treatment team that includes:

**A Licensed Professional Counselor** who conducts individual and family counseling sessions as well as parent groups. They also intervene when children have outbursts or moments of more intense struggles.

**A Program Assistant** who is a daily support to Houseparents. Program Assistants also live on campus (in separate living quarters on our campus) and help lead activities and interactions with children. These recent college graduates become great resources for the children to spend time with and relate to and are highly valued by our houseparents. Each home has a dedicated Program Assistant.

**A Spiritual Life team and Education staff** (in addition to your immediate team) provides each child with a broader circle of support.

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*Our entire staff – from business operations to those who implement our program – is committed to Christ and supporting our community of brothers and sisters in faith.*
Our Houseparents choose Eagle Ranch for a variety of reasons, but many cite the quality of life we provide.

Some of the benefits Houseparents enjoy most include:

- Competitive annual salary with health and dental insurance
- A positive, supportive team and close community environment
- Paid housing, utilities and food. Each home features a private houseparent suite
- Beautiful, well-maintained homes, an on-campus school and excellent recreational facilities including: fitness center, pool, tennis courts, equestrian center, 2 lakes for fishing and canoes, playgrounds, wooded trails and more
- Regular time off and holiday breaks: 2 date nights/week, 2 weekends/month, holiday and summer breaks (children go home with their families during off weekends and breaks)
- Working with children and their families toward family restoration. Houseparents get to build relationships with each child’s family, who remain closely involved
- Reputation for excellence and 37 years of successful work with children and families
Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the right fit for Houseparenting?
Eagle Ranch Houseparents are married couples looking for a meaningful next chapter in life where they can make a significant impact in the lives of children and families. They come from a variety of backgrounds. Many have worked with youth before through ministry, teaching and other jobs, but this is not a prerequisite. Some of our Houseparents have come to us after retiring from other careers. The common thread is a desire to make a difference in a Christ-centered community. Eagle Ranch is a healing community, and relationships are at the heart of everything we do. We encourage a humble, teachable spirit, treating others without judgment, from a posture of respect and kindness.

Do we need experience or training?
No prior experience in Houseparenting or residential care of children is necessary. We provide full training and surround Houseparents with a support team.

What kind of children will be in our care?
Eagle Ranch accepts children with mild to moderate behavioral problems. Each child has a parent or guardian connection who has made a commitment to be involved with the program. Our goal is for family restoration, so we are not a permanent care facility.

Where will we live?
Houseparents live in one of our 10 on-campus homes and are matched with the best available home that is the best fit for their needs, skills and preferences. We have six boys’ homes that are located on one side of our campus, and four girls’ homes that are located on the other side of campus. A dedicated, private Houseparent suite is in each home and is not shared by any other staff. These are 2-3 bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment-like areas that also include a laundry area separate from the children in your care.

Can I have my own children and still be a Houseparent?
You can have up to 2 of your own children living with you in the home while serving at Eagle Ranch. We want to ensure you have the capacity to care for up to 7 children assigned to your home, while still having time with your spouse and family.

Can I have another job while I serve as a Houseparent?
We consider Houseparenting full-time mission work. While we do provide time off and free-time in your schedule, we want couples to use this to recharge and spend time together, and with family and friends.
Frequently Asked Questions

What will my schedule look like?
During the school year, you will help children prepare for school and assist getting them to our on-campus school. During the school day, you will have occasional meetings and duties, but will have free-time as well. After school, you will help children with homework, prepare a family style dinner, oversee the children’s chores, and spend quality time together.

Two evenings each month, parent groups will be hosted in your home. These groups are led by a professional counselor and enable parents of the children in your home to gather and share their experiences. On weekends that children are on campus, you will be responsible for meals, activities and taking children with you to the church of your choice in the community. During the summer, a structured activity program is in place.

Twice a week, we provide a night off for Houseparents. Additionally, children go home every other weekend, on holidays and summer breaks, enabling houseparents to invite friends and family over, travel, or enjoy other activities of their choice. In total, Houseparents have 7-8 weeks off during the year – these are in conjunction with a schedule that is prepared and provided to staff so they can plan accordingly.

What help do we receive?
Eagle Ranch builds care teams that include Houseparents, Licensed Professional Counselors, teachers and Program Assistants. Each home is assigned a Program Assistant, who is a recent college graduate interested in pursuing a career working with children and/or families. These assistants live on campus in separate quarters but are key support for caring for children. Our Director of Homelife provides ongoing leadership and support.

We also have a variety of conveniences to support our Houseparents. For example, our on-campus grocery facility provides all the food you will need for your home and is fully stocked each week. Additionally, we are blessed to have volunteers who provide 1-2 dinners each month to homes. You will have a house budget that enables you to plan activities and special things for your home.

What does Houseparenting pay?
We offer a very competitive salary and benefits compared to other Houseparent positions. Our Houseparent couples enjoy having ongoing living expenses covered, and most are able to build their savings while serving here. Many also consider our generous amount of time off as an additional benefit. We are happy to discuss specifics about our salary and benefits with candidates that are being interviewed. We hope, however, that your decision to serve at Eagle Ranch will be driven primarily by a calling and desire to serve.
Is God Calling You for More?

If you would like to learn more about joining our community and making a difference in the lives of children, visit EagleRanch.org/Houseparents

Ready to Apply?

Couples should email their professional resumes with a cover letter (please include the age and gender of any dependent children) to John Cunnings, Director of Homelife, at info@eagleranch.org and we will contact you.

What Happens When I Apply?

Eagle Ranch will review your application and see if we have an opening in one of our boys or girls homes that is a good fit. If so, we will contact you to begin the interview process. As you would expect with any position that involves the care of children, we conduct background checks on applicants who reach the final interview stages.