

Gather By the River

A Bridal Veil Lodging Guide to Unforgettable
Graduation Parties at Slippery Rock River Ranch



37°34'54.7"N 108°10'08.4"W

AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION

Graduations deserve more than a backyard cookout. If your grad has a crew of family and friends who are eager to celebrate somewhere unforgettable, Slippery Rock River Ranch near Dolores, Colorado offers a weekend that feels like a genuine milestone: a private riverside property, real outdoor adventure, and enough room for everyone to gather together. This guide booklet can help you plan a unique weekend for your graduate.

THE RANCH

Slippery Rock River Ranch is designed for the large gatherings with family and friends. This 36+ acre property sits along the Dolores River in the Four Corners region. It includes a "Confluence" main lodge anchors the property with a chef's kitchen, dining area, and game room, surrounded by rustic-modern bunkhouses, a barn apartment, and riverside glamping tents.



Maximum of 12 guests on-property



5 bedrooms · 7 bath



Easy access from Telluride, Durango and Cortez.



Direct river access and private pond



No RV parking on the ranch, however Priest Gulch RV park is .6mi up the road.



Hot tub, outdoor shower, motion studio, & fire pit

Contact Bridal Veil Lodging directly at **admin@bridalveillodging.com** or **(970) 973-7054** to confirm capacity, policies, and request concierge support before locking in a date. Our team is here to help!



Scan the code to preview the ranch and river access.



A WEEKEND AT THE RANCH

A weekend of celebration at Slippery Rock is designed around shared experiences at your own pace, with the river at its center. Here's one way to structure a graduation weekend so there's a mix of adventure and downtime.

Friday - Arrival

- Afternoon check-in, settle into cabins
- Casual welcome dinner cooked together in the lodge kitchen or intimate family dinner at The Prospector in Rico
- Evening: hot tub under the stars

Saturday - Adventure Day

- **Morning:** Guided horseback ride at a Dolores or Cortez outfitter (see page 5) — a classic Western experience and a great group photo op
- **Midday:** Lunch back at the ranch, or a packed picnic at the river
- **Afternoon:** Choose-your-own-adventure — split the group between a guided fly fishing session on the ranch's private Dolores River frontage and a group hike on one of the nearby trails (see page 6)
- **Evening:** Field games on the ranch's open meadow — cornhole and horseshoe tournaments, or classics like capture the flag and a three-legged race for a mixed-age group. Finish with a celebratory dinner (catered or home-cooked) and wind down the night with a gas fire on the deck.

Sunday - Wind Down & Depart

- Relaxed morning: coffee on the deck, one more hot tub soak, and a short walk on the property
- Brunch together
- Afternoon check-out

FAMILY DINNER

Cooking at the ranch is half the appeal. The Confluence lodge has a chef's kitchen with a gas range, convection oven, two refrigerators and two dishwashers, built for feeding a crowd. The Confluence main lodge includes a chef's kitchen with a gas range, convection oven, two refrigerators and two dishwashers — built for feeding a crowd.

If you'd rather not cook:

- **Backcountry Catering** (Chef Jeff Rossi) — serves Telluride and all of Southwest Colorado, known for local elk, bison, and organic produce.
- **Lotus Root Catering** (Chef Honga Im) — If you'd like a Telluride-based team to make the trip, Chef Honga Im (as seen in the New York Times, In Style, 5280, Ski Magazine) offers a wide range of menu offerings to suit you and your family's palates and special dietary needs.

For an intimate celebratory dinner, we highly recommend Rico's cozy and exceptional culinary gem, The Prospector.

Chef Eammon is former Executive Sous Chef at Hotel Bel Air in Los Angeles, California, where he worked with world renowned chefs such as Wolfgang Puck. The Prospector offers contemporary modern American cuisine with heavy emphasis on local organic meats and produce with a distinctively regional flair.



FAMILY FRIENDLY THINGS TO DO

Telluride makes an easy home base for family friendly activities. Reach out to Bridal Veil Lodging's concierge team for tailored recommendations and support on planning your holiday.



Toast the Grad

A grad-specific touch: the open field by the river is a natural spot for a short "toast to the grad" moment, speeches, or a cap-and-gown photo session with the mountains as a backdrop — a nice way to mark the occasion without needing a formal ceremony setup.



Horseback riding

Riding outfitters near Dolores/Cortez: Circle K Ranch (Dolores) offers guided rides right along the Dolores River and up toward Bear Creek, including private rides for groups; Wild West Excursions and Canyon Trails Ranch (both near Cortez) are other good options. Worth booking a few weeks ahead for a group, especially in peak summer.



Fly Fishing

With +1,000 feet of private river frontage, the ranch's own stretch of the Dolores is a great option for anyone who wants to fish without leaving the property; for a guided trip, Duranglers (based in Durango, with trips specifically on the Dolores) is the area's premier outfitter and offers group-friendly guided wade or float trips. Anyone 16 or older will need a valid Colorado Parks & Wildlife fishing license, available online, to fish the river.

Please note that guests will need a valid state fishing license from Colorado Parks & Wildlife to fish on public and private riverfront property if you are 16 years of age or older. Licences may be purchased [online](#).

NEARBY TRAILS

For families or reunion groups with hikers, trail runners, or mountain bikers in the mix, the ranch sits in one of the best-connected pockets of the San Juan National Forest for non-motorized trail access. A few options, in order of how close they are to the property:

Right Down the Road

Bear Creek Trailhead — about half a mile from the ranch, this trail crosses the Dolores River on a footbridge before climbing switchbacks. It's a long trail (15+ miles round trip if you go the full distance), but there's no obligation to do the whole thing — the first mile offers a solid, scenic there-and-back for families, while more ambitious hikers can push further toward the alpine meadows higher up. Best hiked May through October.

Priest Gulch Trailhead — directly across the road from the ranch, this trail follows Priest Creek up through meadows and conifer forest. Like Bear Creek, it's a big trail if you do it end to end (7.5 miles one-way), but a shorter out-and-back from the trailhead is a very doable half-day hike, and there's a shorter loop option (around 5 miles) via the Priest Gulch Cutoff Trail if you want a defined turnaround point.

Boggy Draw — About 15–20 minutes from the ranch, on the mesa above the town of Dolores, Boggy Draw is the area's biggest and best-known trail system — over 30 miles of well-groomed, mostly smooth singletrack across four connected loops. It's shaded, family-friendly, and considered a great "practice ground" for mountain bikers.

Cross Mountain Trail #637 — a widely praised intermediate trail running north from Rico toward the base of Lizard Head Peak. It winds through wildflower meadows and thick evergreen forest before climbing more steeply for a final push above treeline, opening onto sweeping views of the Lizard Head Wilderness along the ridge.

The small mountain town of Rico, about 20–25 minutes north of the ranch, is a hidden gem for trail access and is home to the Rico Trails Alliance (RTA), the local nonprofit that builds and maintains the area's non-motorized trail network.

Use The Code
GRADUATION 2027
For a 5% Discount
Upon Booking Slippery Rock River Ranch

GET IN CONTACT



Sam Morton

Guest & Owner Communications
Bridal Veil Lodging

(970) 973-7054
concierge@bridalveillodging.com