



Mission Statement:

Providing family-oriented Christian homes, on a working ranch for adults who have developmental disabilities.

Marvin Schieldt to Retire



Dr. Jay Forseth

Program Director Marvin Schieldt is retiring June 30, 2026 after serving at Special K Ranch for 13 years. Marvin came to Special K from Beartooth Mountain Christian Ranch, after leading there for 18 years. His previous experience proved invaluable in assisting our residents through ranch life with profound grace.

Marvin successfully oversaw our six vocational programs, each with its own complex challenges. Simply put, no one at the ranch arrived earlier, or left later, daily. His work ethic is exemplary and second to none. He balanced his sincere care for our residents with a gifted skillset of Godly wisdom mixed with an ability to masterfully work with his hands.

We thank God for Marvin, as well as his wife, Alison. He was the right man at the right time for our ranchers, and will be greatly missed. At the same time, he leaves incredibly big shoes to fill. Stay tuned for a future announcement on his replacement when it becomes official.

Marvin will now redirect his talents into a new business venture with Alison, called Big Sky Pulse. He also hopes to drive the Alaska Highway soon, so we plan on passing the hat and blessing him in this adventure.

Please join us to celebrate Marvin's retirement at Special K Ranch's Open House, starting at 11:00 am on Saturday, June 13.

Dr. Jay Forseth
Executive Director





Marvin Schieldt

Not farewell, just see you later.

“Remember”. It’s a very common theme in the Bible. The word is used in the NIV over 230 times. Many of those verses are our Heavenly Father reminding us of how He is **remembering** His promises to His people and how we are to **remember**

what He has done on our behalf (*Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and **remembers** your sins no more.”*).

There are also many verses that remind us to **remember** that He watches over us and there are paths He has set forth in our lives for our good.

*Exodus 33:13 “If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. **Remember** that this nation is your people.”*

Other verses teach us how we are to **remember** each other as we go about life together. *Ephesians 1:16 “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, **remembering** you in my prayers.”*

At SKR, for over 13 years, I will have lived daily life with over 60 people. We have sweated together as we worked and played. We have cheered successes as well as sorrows. Some days were great struggles as we sought to make community life here on the ranch work. But in all of the activities and

challenges, we tried to keep our focus on how much we know and depend on our Heavenly Father’s hand on us and SKR.

*Acts 20:35 “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, **remembering** the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

I have been so blessed being part of SKR and I have much to **remember** about my time as part of this family. The many days of singing and encouragement that have been given me. Constant friendship from residents and staff. The individual strengths of each resident as they try to give their best for one another. The basketball tournaments are a very special memory as are the dances and working our way through hail damage, wind damage, floods and Covid. I think we have had an amazing time together these last 13 years, and so I leave hoping that everyone will also **remember** this about us as well:

*1 Thessalonians 1:3 “We **remember** before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*Hebrews 13:7 **Remember** your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

Oh, and **remember** that I love my job.

Marvin Schieldt
Program Director



Hello,

As I write my spring article in mid-January, I look outside and wonder if winter is taking a hiatus this year. There is lots of wind, but no snow. I am not a fan of winter, but even I know 60 degrees in January is not the norm. By the time this article goes out, all bets are off on the weather!



I am continuing with my interview-style article as the residents really enjoy doing it, and they love seeing the completed newsletter. This time, I am sitting down with Jeremy and Yura.



Kathy Lee

Jeremy is 46 years old and has lived here on the ranch for 25 years. He is from Billings, MT.

Why did you move here?

Because I never lived on a ranch before, my mom and grandma knew this would be a good fit for me.

What is your favorite part of the ranch?

Greenhouse season, because we deliver plants all over the place and get to dig in the dirt!

What is your least favorite part of the ranch?

Fire drills, ick! I am just being honest.

What is your favorite story you like to tell?

Dennis, my old house dad, told me to come look at a car, and I walked over to the dumpster instead. (laughter and hand clapping)

What is something you have learned from living on the ranch?

Learning to do new things and be more independent. No can't do attitude with me! (big smile)

What is your favorite pastime?

TV with the guys or my music!! I love music!!

What is your favorite job in the vocational program?

Belt buckles.

What is something you want everyone to know about SKR?

This is a good place to live; everyone is so nice. If you have never been here, you should come help out!

Yura is 29 years old and has lived here on the ranch for 1 year. He is from Colorado.

Why did you move here?

God led my family here, and I wanted to live on a ranch where it is Christian.

What is your favorite part of the ranch?

Friends and the staff are amazing. My life here is good.

What is your least favorite part of the ranch?

Rules - (laughing out loud)

What is your favorite story you like to tell?

The water guns during the rafting trip and how soaked we got.

What is something you have learned from living on the ranch?

Safety rules for tools and the tractor.

What is your favorite pastime?

Spending time with my housemates and doing activities together.

What is your favorite job in the vocational program?

FARMING (exuberantly shouts!)

What is something you want everyone to know about SKR?

Christian place and family are important; it is a good place to be and helps me live a good life.



These two guys have the best attitudes all of the time. I enjoyed our interview time; it is always fun to hear the residents' perspectives and stories. Have I ever told you that you cannot have a bad day here at Special K? It really is impossible to have one. Like Jeremy said, "Come check us out."

My favorite time on the ranch is right around the corner (greenhouse season) and is the best time to see everything and everyone in action.

Kathy Lee
Residential Director

Romans 11:29

"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."



Honorariums and Memorials NOVEMBER 1, 2025, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026

The people honored and memorialized on these pages are part of the ongoing ministry of Special K Ranch.

A special thank you to those listed for making these gifts.

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Darlen Huschka

ZIGGY ZIEGLER
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If you have made a tribute gift and have not been listed, please contact us.

*Leaving Your Legacy:
A Way to Help Others*

A will is the simplest form of a planned gift and it affords everyone the opportunity to help others and have a living legacy.

Consider naming Special K Ranch in your will for a percentage, a specific amount, or as the sole benefactor. The blessings you have received will continue to bless and help others.

When updating your will, check with your attorney for the proper legal forms and wording.

A huge Thank You to the companies who provide the ranch with goods and service donations.



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Steven Aadland

On August 21, we will host the 40th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner of Special K Ranch. Amazing! Words cannot capture how excited we are to celebrate this milestone with you, our generous donors. After all, you have been the cornerstone of our success since the ranch was founded.

In addition to hyping our 40th Anniversary Celebration, I would like to report on the impact of last year's fundraiser. As you may recall, we raised funds for the Propane Distribution System, with its massive



18,000-gallon propane tank dubbed the "Beluga Whale" by our residents. We are thrilled that the system is now installed and fully operational. It is supplying fuel to the Greenhouse Complex, Recreation Center, Champions Building, and the Scott Building, which are our largest consumers of propane. Thanks to all for making this project happen, which is saving the ranch roughly \$25,000 per year in propane costs.



Regarding our 40th, I wanted to hear what the event was like in the "old days," so I decided to catch up with Dallas "The Sheriff" Eide, since he has attended every single SKR fundraising dinner. I asked Dallas, "Where were the first dinners held?" He thought for a few moments and replied, "They were at that one hotel . . . oh, I remember! They were at the Northern! There were people, but it wasn't huge like it is now; that sure changed. And back then there weren't any awards for Rancher of the Year or Most Improved Rancher."

Then I asked, "How has the ranch changed over the years?" "Oh, it's been so amazing," he answered. "Everything has grown so much since it was started, and it's been good changes. There are more people, more things to do, and we have more things to help us do what we need to do," he said.

Indeed, much has changed since Dallas came to the ranch during its first year, but our mission will always remain the same. Please join us to celebrate with Dallas and the entire Special K Ranch Family at 5:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. See you there!

Steven Aadland
Development Director



**Open House
Plant &
Produce Sale
June 13, 2026
11 am - 2 pm**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR

**40TH ANNIVERSARY
FUNDRAISING
DINNER**

**AUGUST 21, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
BILLINGS HOTEL AND
CONVENTION CENTER**

RANCHERS — OF THE — MONTH

These ranchers displayed exceptional behaviors and work ethics recognized by peers and staff and deserve special recognition.



OCTOBER

Jeremy

He is the most caring, loving and hard working man you will ever meet.



NOVEMBER

Ariel

She is such a good hearted woman with the best work ethic.



JANUARY

Kaycee and Dallas

Kaycee and Dallas tied this month and we all can see why. They are both amazing people. CONGRATS to both of you.



FEBRUARY

Zachary

He is always there to help whenever you need it.

Ways to Help and Save on Taxes

MONTANA INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR ENDOWED PHILANTHROPY

Important Update! The Montana Legislature has increased the maximum credit to **\$15,000 (\$30,000 for couples filing jointly)** for Montana taxpayers. Planned gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, qualify for this credit, which is worth 40% of the charitable gift amount. For businesses making an outright gift to a qualifying endowment, the maximum credit has increased to \$15,000. This popular and tax-wise way to give to the SKR Foundation Endowment supports our residents permanently.

HAVE AN IRA?

Individuals who are 70½ or older can transfer up to \$111,000 from an IRA, directly to a qualifying charity, without recognizing the assets transferred as income. This tax-wise way of giving counts toward meeting the required minimum distribution (RMD) from IRAs. Distributions must be made from the IRA custodian directly to the ranch.

SKR FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

The endowment is the best long-term way to support our residents. This pool of invested funds distributes five percent of its fair market value, annually, to the ranch for general operating and other expenses.

APPRECIATED STOCK

Giving appreciated securities yields powerful tax benefits. Generally, the full fair market value can be deducted, and capital gains taxes can be avoided.

BEQUEST

Including the ranch in your will is a great way to help our residents and leave a legacy. Consider naming Special K Ranch for a percentage, a specific amount, or as the sole benefactor of your estate. Bequests can vastly improve estate tax situations.

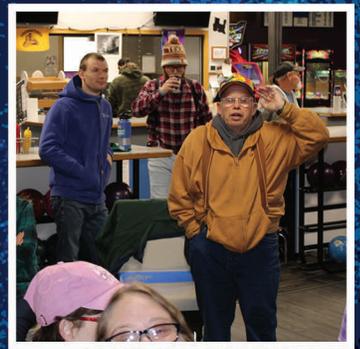
GIFTS IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF

Pay tribute to a loved one by supporting the ranch in this special way. A listing of the tribute gift is included in our newsletters.

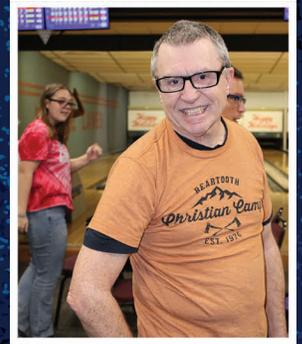
HOW WILL MY GIFT BE USED?

Gifts can be designated for the Operating Fund, SKR Foundation Endowment, or special projects. If you have questions or would like to support a specific project, please contact Development Director Steven Aadland at (406) 550-2224 or steve@specialkranch.org.





PIN PALS



NEVER ENOUGH SKIING

