

The Riverside Club for Adventure and Imagination

Imagination and adventure should be the seeds of education. When cultivated, imagination inspires the young to see what is good, true and beautiful and the spirit of adventure gives the courage to venture out and find it.

Mission

Riverside's mission is to provide inspirational experiences, programs, and camps based on the concept that an ideal learning environment encourages children to cultivate their creative gift, learn craftsmanship, explore epic stories, and adventure in the outdoors.

Our Community

Riverside serves families in the western suburbs of Illinois by providing supplemental education programs inspired by a Catholic of the human person and purpose of education. During the school year, most of our students come from home school families, but during the summer, school children also attend our programs/camps.

About Us

Riverside provides a landscape of imagination, where the young discover their creative voice through imaginative work. It is a landscape of adventure crafted especially for boys, but also providing co-ed programs, and cultural events for the whole family.

It is a place for boys to rediscover the art of boyhood through adventurous and imaginative learning experiences. It is a place where boys and girls work together in creative collaboration to play music and enact theatrical and film performances. It is a center for cultural renewal, where families gather for beautiful and inspiring events that remind us all that we are on a common journey through this life.

Pillars of Service

- To inspire the young, especially boys, through adventurous and imaginative learning
- To refocus young adults toward discovering their gift and calling
- To gather families to create culture

Employees

Full Time

Founder, Creative Director, & Third-Year Tutor:
Peter Searby
First-Year Tutor: Liam Mitchell
Second-Year Tutor: Wesley Brown
Third-Year Tutor: Peter Searby

Part Time

Communications Manager & Admin. Assistant:
Monta Hernon
Bookkeeper: Paula Krueger
Event Planner: Emily York
Summer Camp Counselors: 6-8

*Riverside utilizes a number of parent volunteers

Board of Directors

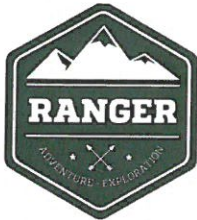
President: Peter Searby
Treasurer: Chris Grice
Secretary: Monta Hernon

Advisory Board

Jorge Ramirez, Managing Director
Labor and Government Strategies,
GSM Grosvenor
Brian Snodgrass, Retired Owner
Selective Plating
Marc Porter, Attorney/Partner,
Figliulo & Silverman P.C.
Peter Frost

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Programs



Adventurous projects for boys which develop their knowledge of the natural world, teach outdoor skills, foster a spirit of self-reliance, and build young men of character.



A brotherhood of adventurers and imagineers seeking to live out boyhood to its fullest and to learn through creative fellowship, outdoor exploration, epic storytelling, and craftsmanship.



Skilled artisans mentor the boys, generously sharing expertise and skills, teaching them the art of crafting breathtaking masterpieces using their own hands.



Acting on stage helps form the imaginations, sentiments and consciences of the young through a more intimate relationship with characters, stories, and great ideas.



Engaging and inspiring music sessions that fully immerse boys and girls in the timeless melodies of the Great American Songbook.

Events

Summer Camps 2025

- The Magic of Creative Arts: This is an enchanted tour (Children 8-14) of the performing and visual arts
- Adventure Days: A series of outdoor activities including Archery, Boating, and a Riverside Olympics
- Theater Camp: A week-long camp that teaches acting skills. It will culminate in the performance of a variety show.



RiverFest 2025

American English and other bands will light up the stage at Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church. This is our primary source of scholarship money for the upcoming year.

*All will take place at various locations in the western suburbs of Chicago.

The Riverside Club for Adventure and Imagination

Over a decade ago, Riverside launched its inspirational experiences, programs, and camps and our efforts have borne fruit in our community. But it always has been our dream to have a home of our own. And now, with 49W226 Jericho Road, we can build a true landscape of adventure and imagination in Big Rock.

Property Plans: Sept. 2025-May 2026

The Riverside Tutorial

Logistics: Tutorial runs each week from Tuesday-Friday, but each boy only attends one day per week.

On each day, there are three classes divided by age:

First Years: 8-9 year-old boys

Second Years: 10-11 year-old boys

Third Years: 12-13 year-old boys

Each of the classes will have a max of 12 boys for a total max of 36 boys per day. Currently we have a confirmed roster of 110 boys total.

Traffic: The boys are dropped off 8:30-9:00 a.m. and picked up 2:45-3:15. Most carpool so we will have a total of 12-15 cars going in and out of the property on Tutorial days. Parking will not be an issue as this is a drop-off program.



Activities:

Creative Arts: Story expression through writing, art, theatre, radio, film, world building

Naturalist Studies: Birding, flora/fauna and animal ID, planting/agriculture

Outdoor Adventure: Fishing, Boating, Archery, Survival Skills, Homesteading/Pioneering



Theatre Rehearsals

Logistics: Riverside will have a Fall/Winter theatre production and a Spring production. Rehearsals will take place at our property in Big Rock, but performances will be off site at a theatre.

Our casts tend to be between 45-50 children. Rehearsals would be Mondays from 1:30-4:30 for two months during the fall and two months across Feb.-March.

Traffic: This is a drop off program so parking is not a concern. About 15-20 cars would be going in and out of the property on rehearsal days.

Property Usage:

Full cast rehearsals, break out sessions, song and dance practice.

The patio can be utilized during good weather, but any time of the year, we plan to use the larger rooms of the house to teach and practice our production.

The Riverside Club for Adventure and Imagination

Workshops

League of Twelve: This is a two-to-three day workshop for young adults, 16-22. The focus is on finding gift/calling, exploring connection between creativity/imagination/entrepreneurship, and deepening Catholic faith.

We hope to offer three workshops throughout the year. The max number of attendees would be 30 for each.



Casting Fire: This is a day-long workshop for teachers, parents, youth leaders, etc. The activities and focus are centered on topics in Riverside Director Peter Searby's book *Casting Fire: A Guide to the Adventure and Imagination of Boyhood*.

We hope to run four workshops throughout the year. The max number of attendees would be 30 per workshop.

Events

Welcome Back Picnic

This will take place on the property in late August/early September. All of our Tutorial families are invited. Guest count could be 400-500, but usually is much smaller due to end-of-summer plans by many families.



Bilbo Baggins Birthday Party

Annually our families gather for food and entertainment to celebrate the books of our patron J.R.R. Tolkien. This is a required event for Tutorial boys, and usually families come too. Guest count could be 400-500.

Annual Fundraiser

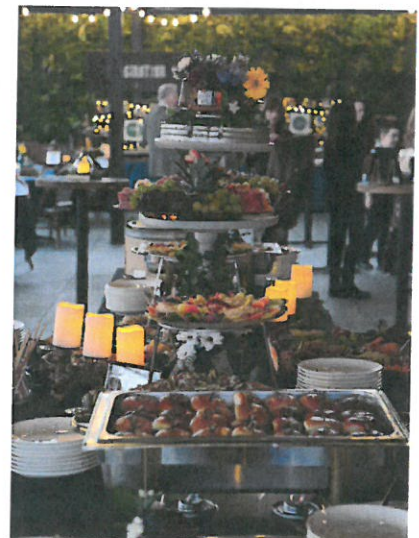
This is a gala-type event with dinner/drinks for about 150 guests.

Event Parking, Etc.

We are investigating the possibility of using the front part of the lawn for parking. This could involve Seed Mix 10 and asphalt 100-feet in from the gate to comply with code.

In certain cases, however, we could have guests park off-site and provide shuttles to the property.

We will rent portable toilets for the larger events to accommodate guests.



The Riverside Club for Adventure and Imagination

Property Improvements and Safety: Short Term

Deck

Stain and Seal

Fix loose boards and secure balcony.

Replace Dock and Gazebo

Additionally, build smaller piers for fishing.

Make a Forest Path

Remove weeds and debris from woods.

Create a Sand Beach



Develop Fire and Safety Plan

Swim Testing

Create badge system to verify swim level of Tutorial boys.

Lifeguard Training



Build a Tree House and Decks

A simple tree house provides a landscape for imagination. We also would like to build small decks under some of the trees for outdoor classes.

Clear and Revitalize Garden Area

We would like to grow vegetables and herbs on the back area of the property.

Tree Health

We would bring out an arborist to check on the trees and recommend care.

Property Improvements and Safety: Longer Term

Parking

Near-term the front part of the lawn could be made usable for parking with Seed Mix 10 and asphalt 100-feet in from the gate. Longer term, we could create 40 diagonal parking spaces on each side of the drive. Handicapped spots could go north of where the driveway widens. However, most programs are drop-off so we should not need this step right away.

Event Barn

Well into the future, we may want to construct an event barn. I have attached blueprints, recognizing this would require its own permit process.

Animal Husbandry

We'd start with building a chicken coop.

Clear Camping Area

We would have a designated spot for tent camping.

Archery, Golf, and Baseball

We'd create a range, a putting green, and a pitching green.

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Property Plans: Summer 2026

Ranger Camp I

This is a five-day, day camp likely in early June for boys eight-to-eleven years old. The max number of boys would be 60. The camp would be about outdoor adventure: survival skills, fishing, boating, archery, etc.

Father-Son Camp

This is tent camping (two nights and three days) for boys and their fathers. The max number attendees would be 80. The camp would incorporate activities like boating, archery, and fishing.



Maker Days

A three-day workshop on craftsmanship for boys, ages 10-13

Gardening Club

This would be for the Riverside and Big Rock Communities and would meet on select Saturdays/Sundays.

Art Classes

This would be for the Riverside and Big Rock Communities and would meet on select Saturdays/Sundays.

Concerts on the Patio

Small Ravinia-style shows for the Riverside and Big Rock Communities. (Note: we would still have RiverFest, our music festival, but this would be offsite.

Summer Theatre Rehearsals

Riverside will have a summer production. Rehearsals will be at the property, but performances will be offsite.

Ranger Camp II

This is an overnight camp (three nights and four days) likely in mid-June for boys twelve-to-fourteen years old. The max number of boys would be 50. The camp would be about outdoor adventure, but also about craftsmanship and landscape design.

Journeymen Camp

This is an overnight camp (two nights and three days) in August for young men. There would be outdoor activities plus workshops on gift and calling and possibly skills like landscape design.

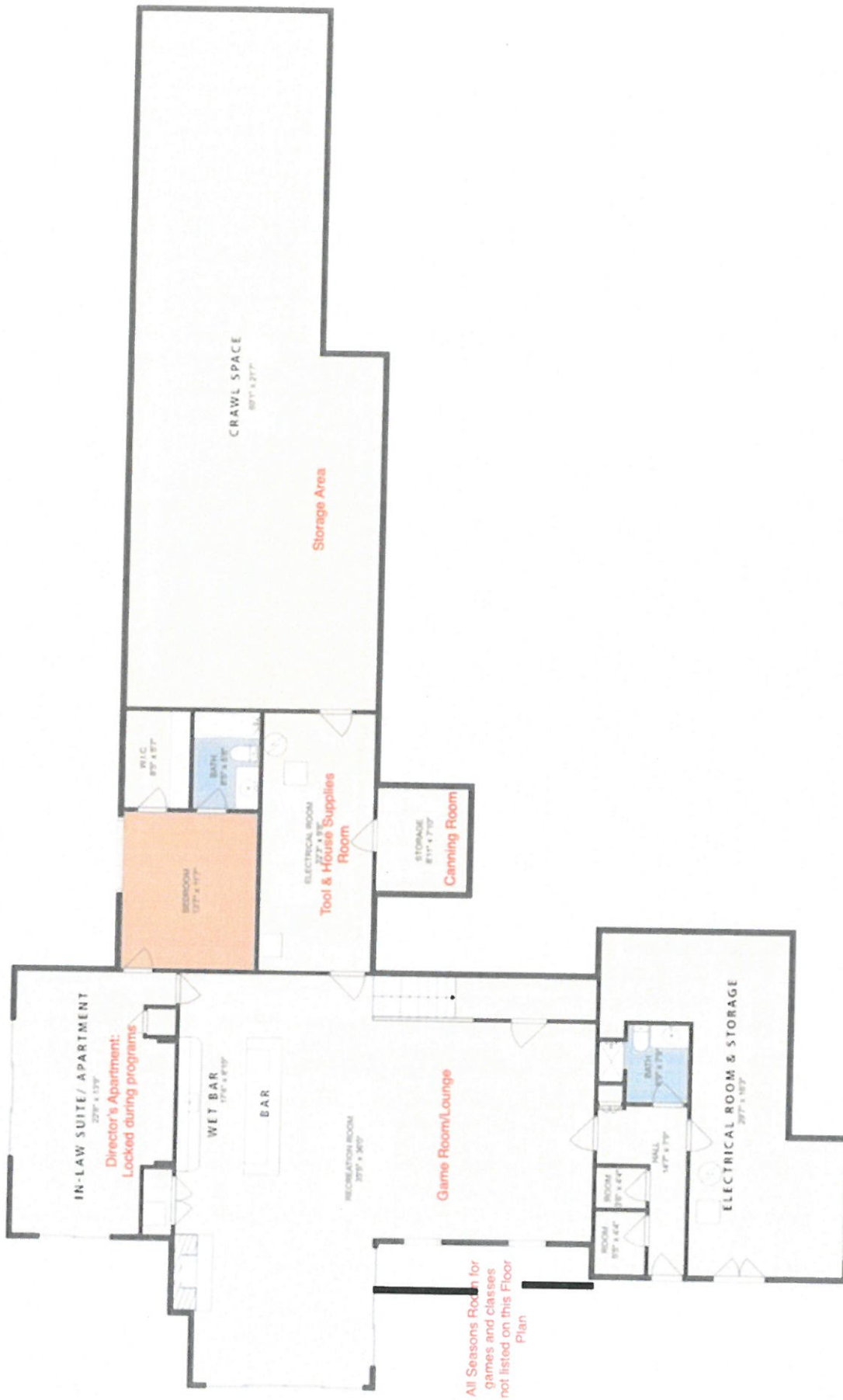
Folk Music Camp

This would be a five-day camp (no overnight) to instruct kids on stringed instruments. Max number of campers would be 30.

Naturalist Camp

This would be a five-day camp (no overnight) with identification, collection, sketching, and writing. The max number of campers would be 50.





TOTAL: 5721 sq. ft
 BELOW GROUND: 1803 sq. ft, FLOOR 2: 3918 sq. ft
 EXCLUDED AREAS: ELECTRICAL ROOM: 589 sq. ft, STORAGE: 70 sq. ft, BASEMENT: 1134 sq. ft
 FLOOR PLAN CREATED BY CUBICASA APP. MEASUREMENTS DEEMED HIGHLY RELIABLE BUT NOT GUARANTEED.



Tent Camping

replace doc and
repair Gazebo

Fishing,
Swimming,
Boating

Patio for
Gatherings

Add Sand for
Beach

Circle Drive for
drop off/Pick Up

Parking along drive

Emergency Turn
Around

Playing Field

Playing Field

Storage Barn

Archery

Playing Field

Fruit Trees for
Harvesting

Event Barn

Vegetable
Gardens

Garden Walk

Remove Buck
Thorn,
Honesuckle,
Barbed Wire,
create forest
paths