Below are a few ideas to get you thinking about what type of activities you could do during Ranch Day. This is not a complete list! If you have questions, feel free to contact NRHC staff.

**LOS CORRALITOS**
c. 1780
Demonstrate what life was like on a ranch for the first European settlers North of the Rio Grande. Card wool to prepare for a spinning wheel, spin wool on a wheel, use a mortar and pestal to grind herbs or corn stories about vaqueros - the first cowboys. Not open to public for tours.

**EL CAPOTE**
c. 1838
Early settlers used natural materials to build shelters like El Capote. Demonstrate how to build a log cabin with the NRHC cabin building kit or prepare food over a fire, write with a quill and ink, tell stories about everyday life in Texas in the 1830s. Not open to public for tours.

**HEDWIG’S HILL**
c. 1855
This structure was built by German immigrant Louis Martin. Demonstration opportunities include talking about immigrants that came to the Republic of Texas, sewing, giving tours and explaining the function of the dogtrot house, playing children’s games, etc. Not open to public for tours.

**JOWELL HOUSE**
c. 1872
The 1870s mark the days of cattle drives and the beginnings of big Texas ranches. Tell stories about this time period, demonstrate everyday household chores, discuss protective measures in the home’s design and why they were needed. Not open to public for tours.
LONG S WHITEFACE CAMP  
c. 1901, 1905  
Long S Whiteface Camp headquarters is a link between the simple dugouts and later homes built when the railroad made lumber accessible. Demonstrations here can include “cooking” in the kitchen, doing everyday cowboy downtime activities (see matador 1/2 dugout). Not open to public for tours.

WAGGONER COMMISSARY  
c. 1879  
Demonstrate what a ranch based store was like in the 1870s. Towns were far away, so ranches purchased items in bulk. Supplies were used by cooks, cowboys and everyone else who called the ranch home.

BOX AND STRIP HOUSE  
c. 1903, 1907  
A ranch wife refused to move West with her husband until he promised to build her a frame house above ground. The Box and Strip was the most economical way to build. Demonstrations in this structure can include story telling, household crafts and chores. Behind the house volunteers are needed to assist visitors with laundry on washboards. Not open to public for tours.

HARRELL HOUSE  
c. 1883, 1900, 1917  
It took four owners and 34 years to build the Harrell House, which was situated in a quiet draw beside Hackberry Creek in Scurry County. Demonstrations in this house include common household chores, sewing, picnicking, candle making, the oven is available for baking/cooking, crafts, story telling. Not open to public for tours.
BAIRFIELD SCHOOLHOUSE  
**c. 1890**  
The usual ranch schoolhouse was a one-room building named for the rancher or the ranch. Others had colorful monikers like Lick Skillet, Possum Trot, Cedar Ridge, Hell Roaring Holler and Chicken Foot. Demonstrations at this structure can include leading school yard games (hoop & stick, sack hop races, maypole) conducting lessons, telling stories about the history of the structure, one room schoolhouses, educators in the 19th century.

80 JOHN WALLACE HOUSE  
**c. 1900**  
When this house was built, the land around it was grazing pasture owned by one of Texas’ most successful black ranchers, Daniel Webster Wallace. The name may not be as familiar as his nickname—80 John. Demonstrate what life was like in the home, tell stories about 80 John and his working days as a cowboy, rancher and horse trainer.

MASTERTON JY BUNKHOUSE  
**c. 1879**  
“Home was wherever a cowboy hung his hat.” The cliché had truth to it. Cowboys of the American West were vagabonds, roaming from place to place. At the ranch headquarters, the bunkhouse was their home until they moved on again. Demonstrate typical cowboy chores and down time activities, tell stories about the life of a cowboy during this time and the ranch.

LAS ESCARBADAS (XIT)  
**c. 1886**  
The XIT embodies the story of ranching on the plains of Texas, from the free range to enclosed grazing land backed by foreign capital and the development of small ranches and farms. Demonstrations here can include sharing the “rules” cowboys on the XIT had to live by, doing typical cowboy chores, cooking in kitchen, dancing in the dining hall, etc.

JA MILK AND MEAT HOUSE  
**c. 1880**  
The JA is among the best-known ranches in Texas and perhaps the entire country. Started by John Adair, Charlie Goodnight, & Cornelia Adair there are many stories to share. During Ranch Day, butter is made with visitors taking turns churning in a ceramic butter churn. Sign up to help with this activity.
TRINITY MISSION CHURCH

**c. 1920**

Rural Churches were an integral part of ranching communities and also served as social centers, schools and shelters. Demonstration here can include reenacting a church service or community event, telling stories about this church and other rural churches in the west.

BARTON HOUSE

**c. 1909**

It was the dream of Joseph James Barton to have his elegant, two-and-a-half-story house anchor a new town that was secured by a railroad depot and train. During Ranch Day, tours are given to public of the Barton House. Volunteers can assist with tours or demonstrate activities that would have taken place in the home - playing piano, food prep in kitchen, men meeting in the parlor, children playing, etc.

MATADOR OFFICE

**c. 1838**

The 400,000-acre Matador Ranch was one of several huge spreads owned or backed by foreign investors, this structure served as it’s business headquarters. During Ranch Day, children who participate in the Ranch Hand Experience visit this structure to turn in their work cards and get paid! Volunteers needed to run “pay day” and provide directions to the commissary.

RENDERBROCK-SPADE BLACKSMITH SHOP

**c. 1917**

The most distinct sound on a ranch was the ring of a blacksmith’s hammer striking iron. The smell of coal or burning mesquite wood filled the air as bar iron glowed in the hot fire. Volunteers can work with a Ranch Host blacksmith to demonstrate metal working, help to tell stories about the role of the blacksmith in the West, etc.

CARRIAGE HOUSE

**c. 1906**

During Ranch Day, the Texas Tech Therapeutic Riding Center provides horseback rides for children behind the Carriage House. Volunteers are needed to collect waiver signatures from parents, help with the line, and to close the line when the horses leave for the day.
REYNOLDS GENTRY BARN  
**c. 1877**

This barn once housed thoroughbred racehorses. During Ranch Day, members of the Texas Tech Ranch Horse Team provide horse training demonstrations in the round pen next to the barn. Volunteers are needed to make sure guests keep a distance from horses and to help answer questions.

ROPES DEPOT & TRAIN  
**c. 1877, 1917**

The railroad depot was an exciting place. With people coming and going and cowhands returning from cattle markets, all sorts of news was brought from other towns to the far-flung settlements in the West. Demonstration can include: hand pump rail car rides for visitors, telegraph operations, tours of the caboose, etc.

6666 BARN  
**c. 1908**

A landmark in Guthrie, Texas, for many years, the 6666 Barn stood near the imposing home Samuel Burk Burnett built in 1917 to be both “the finest ranch house in West Texas” and the headquarters of his ranching empire. During Ranch Day, a magic show is featured on the stage of the 6666s Barn. Volunteers needed to help gather visitors for show times, pick up and monitor trash, monitor restrooms, answer questions & provide directions.

PICKET AND SOTOL HOUSE  
**c. 1904, 1905**

As ranchers progressed, they built for the long run, but the pioneer “made do.” The settler heading for a new life in the West used materials at hand to construct a shelter for himself and his family. Demonstrations can include talking about the construction of this home, life for homesteaders, doing everyday household chores, etc.

PITCHFORK COOKHOUSE  
**c. 1900**

The cookhouse consists of a kitchen and dining area and was in continuous use by Pitchfork Ranch cowboys for two meals a day until its move to the National Ranching Heritage Center in 2007. At mealtime, the cowboys waited outside on benches or under a tree until the cook rang the dinner bell. Demonstrations include dutchoven cooking, telling stories about the Pitchfork Ranch and life on the ranch for everyone who worked there.
LEMONADE STAND
During Ranch Day, volunteers sell lemonade and bottled water to visitors. Proceeds from the sales go directly towards volunteer efforts, education events and NRHC historic structures. Volunteers are needed to make and sell drinks, distribute bottled water to volunteers throughout the park and answer questions/provide directions to the public.

DOOR COUNTERS
Assist our guards in counting visitors, distributing Ranch Day maps, collecting donations and providing information to guests.

VOLUNTEER MEAL ASSISTANCE
Help ensure our volunteers have an opportunity to eat, relax and grab a cold glass of tea during Ranch Day. Volunteers prep tea, refill ice, and clean up the space throughout the day.

CASH FAMILY RANCH LIFE LEARNING CENTER GUIDES
During Ranch Day several volunteers are needed to serve as docents/guides in the Cash Family Ranch Life Learning Center. Duties include monitoring exhibits, answering questions, monitoring outdoor areas, trash pick up, keeping play spaces organized, etc.

Period clothing is available for checkout. Many living history demonstration items provided by NRHC (butter churn, etc). We also have reference materials if you would like to learn more about the history of a particular structure.

This is not a complete list of volunteer opportunities. If you have a question or an idea, please give Julie or Lea Ann Lust a call to discuss!