

Watson Ranch Prom FAQ

1. Who is hosting the prom and who is invited? The sponsor group is Watson Ranch, a Christian homeschool co-op here in the AV. WR is a little smaller this year so we specifically reached out to a few other groups-- Desert Christian's homeschool group and ECHO (a smaller homeschool group associated with Edwards) and the youth groups that most of our students attend (Faith Community & Westside). While WR is okay with guests outside of these areas, we are not casting a wide net to get as many students as possible. We prefer that every student/guest have some sort of connection to us or our partner groups and that there aren't guests that the associated organizations have no idea who they are. (We hope that makes sense!)

2. Where and When is prom? Prom will be Friday April 26th from 6-11 pm in the Lancaster Gino's Banquet Room

3. Are there chaperones? This is a chaperoned event. The current estimated ratio of chaperones to students is 1:8. The chosen chaperones are teachers/adults from the partner organizations as well as a few younger singles/marrieds who are alums of the organizations. Minimum age to be a chaperone is 22. In the highly unlikely instance of a situation or behavior that is out of line with Watson Ranch's values, chaperones will address it quickly and discreetly. Please note: In the history of WR proms, no conversation of that type has ever happened. These are really good kids and it is a wholesome evening.

In addition to chaperones, 3 or 4 homeschool dads (a few being LEOs) will provide outside security--keeping outsiders outside and insiders inside. Bathrooms are only available to our group. It will be a safe and secure event for our kids.

4. How much are tickets and how can I get one? Ticket cost is \$100. Tickets will be available for purchase at Watson Ranch every Tuesday. In addition, they will be available through the partner organizations during times when the youth are meeting (Sunday services or mid-week youth activities). Kaley Cline is responsible for tickets at Faith Community and Lisa Van Weelden is responsible at Grace Chapel. In addition, you can contact Lisa Van Weelden at (661) 466-7809 and make arrangements to purchase a ticket.

6. How big is the prom? We are expecting a group of about 70-80 students.

7. What is the theme? The theme is Roaring 2020s and All That Jazz. Dressing in period clothing is a fun option, but not required..

8. Is food provided? A wonderful 3-course dinner is included: Chicken pancetta w/asparagus, baked lasagna, penne pasta primavera, salad and garlic bread, as well as a selection of desserts. Following the theme, we've also developed a fun menu of "mocktails" (non-alcoholic themed drinks--think Shirley Temple) for the students to enjoy. Their ticket includes one free,

fancy drink. If they would like more beyond that, they can purchase them for \$5-\$6 cash at the event.

9. What are the seating arrangements? We don't do assigned seating but it usually works out that friend groups can sit together. Tables seat 8, so unless a group is that big there may be a few groups at a table.

10. What is the dress code? We don't have a dress code, per se. We do have a small slide show at this link <https://www.homeschool-life.com/2121/custom/94170> that shows positive examples (because when you're a teen all the "Don'ts" can feel frustrating). Generally, spaghetti straps, strapless, short and even low back dresses are fine, but we prefer to not have deeply plunging necklines, wide sections of visible midriffs or seeing the dimples of someone's behind. The slideshow also helps guys know that a tux is okay, but so is a nice suit, pants and a tie. or even nice clean Chucks and Chinos, but not jeans or scruffy tennis shoes.

11. What will happen at prom? During the dinner service, live jazz music from professional musicians will be performed.. We always have some sort of side activity along with the dancing because not everyone LOVES to dance or sometimes people just want a break. We have rented several full size casino games (black jack, roulette, etc...) Don't worry - no real gambling! Chips will be provided and the students will play for raffle tickets. Toward the end of the evening, students will be able to enter their raffle tickets into several different prize options (movie tickets, Spa or Coffee baskets, and maybe some event or theme park tickets) And of course there will be dancing! We have hired a DJ who has a reputation for clean music (or clean versions)--his family is a homeschooling family that is also very active at Faith Community Church.

12. Is there a prom after party? TBD

13. Can I help somehow? Yes! Please help us get the word out to students who are eligible to come (homeschooled or a guest of a homeschooled student) and encourage them to get a ticket. The costs for prom are increasing right before our eyes this past week, so if you're a small biz or would be interested in a personal donation, Watson Ranch is a non-profit that accepts tax-deductible donations. (You can visit our website to see this year's current sponsors and supporters).