

JOB ***ALONG*** ***THE*** ***TRAIL*** ***DRIVE***

Title(s)	Level of Experience	Qualifications	Duties	Pay (1890s)	Additional Information
Trail Boss	Very High	Leadership Competence Cooperative Cool headed Resolute Make decisions quickly Previous experience with trail drives "Generally agreeable but firm in his demands" (Fay:33)	Responsibility for entire operation (cows, cowboys, cattle) while on trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves finding water, grass, and good trail for cattle • Can track different animals that move across the range and knows the range well • Keeps peace between cowboys • Keeps horses and cowboys fed • Handles money involved with placing orders for supplies paying appropriate tolls • Communicates with possible irate farmers and others about cattle inspection statutes 	\$90/ month	
Point man	High Most honored post on the drive Would determine the direction of the drive	Reliable Ability to work in group with others toward a common goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rides at the head of and slightly to the side of the herd of cattle as it is heading down the trail • Works in groups of two and points the lead steers in the right direction • Sets the pace for the drive 	\$30–40/ month	
Swing	Some experience required	Must know how to ride a horse Must have had previous experience on a trail drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rides a third of the way back of the herd as it is moving down the trail 	\$30–40/ month	
Flank	Some experience required	Must know how to ride a horse Must have had previous experience on a trail drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Cuts in" cattle that have gotten out of the herd • Rides about 2/3 of the way back of the herd on the trail • Rides in pair—one flanker on each side of the herd • Makes sure that cattle do not wander too far away from the main herd 	\$30–40/ month	

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<p>Drag Rider</p>	<p>Usually an entry-level position</p>	<p>Willing to work hard and endure dust and dirt kicked up by the herd and riders ahead of them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rides at the back of the herd on the trail to make sure that beeves, cows, etc. stay with the herd • Must be able to “push” these slower moving cattle forward 	<p>\$30–40/ month</p>	
<p>Horse Wrangler</p>	<p>Minimal Entry-level position Generally a young boy who wants to be a cowboy</p>	<p>Willing to learn and work hard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drives the remuda before the wagon and ahead of the cattle • Rounds the extra horses up and gets them into a rope corral several times during the day • Keeps the horses together and eating grass until it is time for cowboys to change mounts • Makes sure that those ridden hard are given proper food (corn and grass) • Keeps saddle horses from straying too far • Also helps cook gather wood and harness the teams of horses 	<p>\$25/ month</p>	
<p>Chuck Wagon Cook</p>	<p>High Former cowboy who is either too old for the more difficult work or has been hurt</p>	<p>Must know how to drive a wagon Must be able to prepare meals with limited resources and serve them on time Some experience and knowledge of medical techniques also necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepares three meals a day out of the back of a wagon • Not expected to assist with any cattle or other trail jobs • Cooks for the men on the trail • Moves wagon about two times a day, 10-15 miles each time • Awakens at 3 a.m. and has breakfast ready when the others are awakened • Wakens other cowboys <p>1880’s trip: “Breakfast: sourdough biscuits, white gravy, sowbelly (salt pork), and black coffee; dinner: sowbelly, black coffee, sourdough biscuits, and white gravy; pickles, supper: black coffee, sowbelly, white gravy, and sourdough biscuits”</p>	<p>\$60/ month</p>	