

2014

The Lord Blessed SON VALLEY DAY CAMP



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“Like” us on facebook

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Camp had “40” kids total attend.

“18”kids and “2” adults make a decision to be baptized!!!

The Lord is always giving me opportunities, and volunteering at S.V.Y.R. for this year’s Day Camp was one of the most rewarding!

Emily, Debbie and I volunteered to help on Monday, day one. Camp started with an organizational meeting, dividing everyone into groups, Ranchers, Ropers, etc.

Our group “Sheriff” was a giant of a man! By that, he was not only big of stature; he had a heart for the Lord and kids to match. He did not tire, nor did I ever see him without a smile on his face. I knew our teen’s group the Ranchers was going to be especially blessed with him as our leader.

As we began our agenda for the day, the kids were pretty typical kids...they had gotten up much earlier than normal, most had been “encouraged” to come, and some were just not happy that they didn’t get to go with their best friend’s group, and were determined “not” to have a good time... Since it was my first time as well to the camp, I wondered how we were ever going to change those little minds...

Thankfully it was my first time as a volunteer, but it was not the first camp for S.V.Y.R.! Agendas were all allotted a certain amount of time, not too much, not to little! It was amazing! We moved from one activity to the next, until suddenly it was lunch and a short informational meeting about the afternoon activities. Lunch was good and filling, and we started out refreshed for the afternoon.

Our team started the afternoon with the OBSTACLE course!! This course was amazing! Our group had done some quiet crafts and nature things that morning, but this was Different!!!

I got to man the rope for the rope jump! OH my goodness (it really was fun, I tested it)!! Now let me tell you, our group was all girls, but these girls were TOUGH!

One thinks of OBSTACLE as something that stops or slows down progress... Well, at the Ranch, with the Lord's guidance, faithful, loving volunteers, the OBSTACLE pulls the team together! And I was blessed to get to be at the Rope! You grabbed this Rope, (could have been the Lord's hand?) and propelled yourself off this huge stack of hay bales, over this ditch, until you landed safely on the other side!

There were many other things to do on this course, but this is the one that opened the door to these kids hearts, when it came to learning about "faith"...Some were not as brazen as others, and the team cheered them on, encouraging them, clapping, caring...until everyone "took the Leap of Faith"! I'm here to tell you that was one of the most awesome OBSTACLES I've ever saw!

We went from there to Bible study, perched on hand sawed tree stumps in the middle of the woods, with only the babbling of the nearby creek for noise. The message was so good from our teacher, and as volunteers, we asked the kids questions, and the kids asked us questions... Those tough ones we had been encouraging all day, were still determined... asking questions about if God loves us, why do bad things happen...why do parents get divorced...and the Lord helped us give them His word, His promises, His love for them. I watched with tears as their demeanors started changing, their knowledge of God's word came and they started listening with their hearts...



The day ended for our team at the pond, and as I sat and watched them, I had to take a moment to give the Lord thanks for being there as always. Those kids, who had been so withdrawn that very morning, were laughing, splashing, swimming together like best friends! When we left later that evening, they had heartfelt tears because we had to leave!

As we left, I sent up more prayer asking for His wisdom, and love to continue that week, and thanks for letting me be able to help.

The week went on for me but when Dona sent me a text asking if I could please come Friday for the supper and ceremonies, I decided I'd just go! Was I ever so glad I did!

Upon arriving, I was greeted by one of the parking volunteers, a young teen who I have known since she was so small she had to be lead around an arena by her mom at the small fun show I used to take our Corner Creek Stable kids too! She was so glad to see me and I was thrilled to see her there! She had come as a volunteer too, and later that evening, she personally baptized one of the kids!!! Hallelujah!!



When the awards were called out, the tears flowed down my cheeks! Those hard to reach kids on Monday were award winners on Friday! Not only that, but each and every one of them was baptized that night!! That evening was most certainly a Celebration!

Dona, Mandy, and all of the 34 volunteers this year, GOD BLESS YOU! Twenty souls were changed forever, and I know the rest were all personally touched as well! Kids were surrounded with the love of Christ in an atmosphere of safety, fun and learning. They learned outdoor skills, made new friends, and heard about the good news of Jesus Christ!

Dona and Jeff, you opened not only your ranch, your barn, your house, but your heart, and GOD thanks you! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

In Him,
Vicki L Chandler from Quincy, IL

How to Help

Prayer Partner

Volunteer

(Office, fundraising, grounds upkeep or mentor or bible teacher, drivers, no horse experience needed)

Sponsor a Ranch Kid or a Horse

Donate Items from Wish List

See website



Son Valley Youth Ranch
RR 1 Box 48 B
Canton, MO 63435

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Ranch Kids

G.A.T.E.S. Youth Groups (starts Aug. 18th)
8-11years old Mondays 4-6PM
12 years and Up Wednesdays 4-6:30PM

Lessons group/ private (paid) or
One/One Sessions (sponsored). (starts Aug 12th)
Call ASAP to schedule your 4 to 6
recurring natural horsemanship classes.

Upcoming Events

Harvest Hoedown (open to public)
October 5th , Noon-5PM

Horsemanship Camp
June 8th -11th,2015

Day Camp
June 22nd -26th,2015

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