

Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches



Ranch Round-Up ♦ Online Newsletter ♦ August 2011

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Alabama Sheriffs'
Youth Ranches

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Christine ClineEditor

Tallapoosa County Girls Ranch



Neria S. graduated from Reeltown High School in May. The senior lived at the Girls Ranch for several years. She is shown with Ranch Relief Houseparent Mary Allen. All of the Ranch girls attended the graduation ceremony and are proud of their fellow Rancher.

The Ranch staff came up with a special way to celebrate the birthdays of several Ranchers and have a fun outing for all of the Ranch children. The Splash and Birthday Bash celebrated the birthdays of Hillery, Jax, Amanda and Tabitha. Following the birthday celebration the entire Ranch enjoyed an



outing to Dare Park at Lake Martin.

Ranchers and volunteers from a local church spruced up the paint on the porch railing surrounding the Welcome Center this summer. After the work project the group enjoyed a cookout with the Ranchers and staff.

A group of supporters from Chambers County sponsored the Ranchers for a special outing on the Tallapoosa River this summer. The girls enjoyed swimming, kayaking, tubing, a cookout and watermelon.



A local supporter has been helping several of the Ranchers learn how to ride and care for horses. The



supporter brings her horses to the Ranch once a week for grooming and riding lessons.



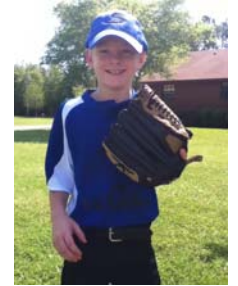
"It's easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women"



Baldwin County Boys Ranch

The garden project is really growing down at the Baldwin County Boys Ranch. This is the second year in a row that the Ranch has had such a large garden. The boys have planted and tended plots of tomatoes, squash, okra, eggplant, cantelope, as well as several varieties of peppers and beans.

As the photos show, what started as bare ground has turned into a great abundance of fresh produce for the Ranch. Plus the Ranchers have had quite a learning experience throughout the entire summer. Another project that the Ranchers have



helped with this summer is a renovation project on one of the houses. The boys have learned many aspects of home building as they helped the pops and volunteers put in new windows, remove old siding and put in new siding.

Another building project that the boys have enjoyed is helping the pops build a tree house. The Ranchers are looking forward to playing in it during their free time.

Tyler is one of our

Ranchers who enjoyed playing baseball with the Summerdale city baseball league.

St. Clair County Boys Ranch

The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office conducted a special presentation to the St. Clair Ranchers designed to show them the dangers of driving under the influence. The goggles shown in the photos are designed to simulate the effects on your vision when driving under the influence.

The St. Clair County Boys enjoyed racing go-carts at a local amusement venue during a trip to the Ranch beach house in Gulf Shores this summer. The Ranch



Beach House was built with funds specifically designated for this purpose in the 1980s. The house sleeps 32 with six bedrooms and six and a half bathrooms and is available for lease most of the year. It is perfect for

family reunions, church groups, office retreats and other large group gatherings. For more information on renting, please call the Administrative Office at 1-800-548-4256.



Colbert County Fame Girls Ranch

The girls at the Colbert County Fame Girls Ranch enjoyed a special presentation by wildlife biologist Jack Paul. He educated the girls about snakes that are native to Alabama and taught them how to identify which ones are poisonous and which are nonpoisonous. He let the girls hold a king snake and a black racer.

The girls enjoyed their trip to the Ranch beach



house earlier this summer too. This is the first time that the Colbert County girls have been able to go to the beach. None of the Ranches went down last summer due to the Gulf oil spill. But conditions were much nicer this summer and the girls and staff enjoyed a wonderful week playing in the warm Gulf water and enjoying local activities. For several of the Ranchers, this

was the first time they had been down to the Gulf in their lives, so it was a visit filled with special moments and memories.

The girls enjoyed a recent trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Supporters allowed the Ranch to stay in their cabin and others donated funds so that the girls could enjoy local attractions including Dollywood. The girls learned about the Trail of Tears by watching the Cherokee drama "Unto These Hills." The girls also enjoyed swimming in a creek and seeing the elk during their trip.

A local hairstylist came out to the Ranch and gave



each of the girls a hair-cut. One of the girls was able to donate her long locks to the Locks of Love organization that provides hairpieces for children who need them.



Non-Cash Donations



We always appreciate your donations of non-cash items such as vehicles, boats, farm and lawn equipment, and clothing. We also need household items such as toilet paper and paper towels, laundry detergent and dish soap, as well as personal toiletry items.

Computer equipment as well as books appropriate for middle or high school students are also needed at several Ranch locations. If you can help in any way, please contact either your local Ranch or the Administrative Office at 1-800-548-4256 to arrange a pick up.

Join Your Local Support Group!

Each Ranch has a local group of supporters who are interested in the welfare of the children on that Ranch. They meet regularly to help with

fundraisers and projects on each location.

If you are interested in joining a support group, please contact your local Ranch.

