

# Alabama Sheriffs' Youth Ranches



Ranch Round-Up ♦ Online Newsletter ♦ October 2011

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Nick Rauccio .....Publisher  
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## Colbert County Fame Girls Ranch

By Cindy Hall, Director of Ranch Life

Our girls at Fame have unique talents and interests. Continuing the musical heritage of Fame Ranch, one of our girls is taking guitar lessons from Jim Seales, the respected studio musician and famed lead guitar player from the country band *Shenandoah*.

Jim informs us here at the ranch that she is very talented and is "a delight to teach". She was able to play a chord from "Sweet Home Alabama" after her first lesson! Her DHR worker was so proud of her efforts that she chipped in her own money in order to for DHR to provide her with her own brand new guitar.

One of our younger ranchers is very excited about joining the band as a flute player. She was recently able to get sound out of her flute, which we have been informed



is no small feat. The girls have greatly enjoyed attending their



high school football games. We owe a big thank-you to our high school principal, Mr. Olivis, who put us in touch with a donor who has been providing football tickets to our girls so that they can attend the home games. We also have a rancher who is the photographer for the high school year book.

We are so thankful for everyone who helps us out with their volunteer hours and donations and we want to continue the tradition of giving back to our community. The girls will be involved in several service projects in the next month. They will be helping host a trick-or-treat event with the Sorority dorm at the University of North Alabama for community children. They will also be preparing and



servicing lunch for their teachers in November on a teachers' in-service day.

One of our ranchers is an incredibly talented artist and she is working on designing thank-you cards that are unique to our ranch. Her plan is to design a card to represent each girl that resides at the ranch.

The girls are really looking forward to the outings we have planned for the next month. They will be attending the "Battle of the Bands" that will be held in Birmingham. Mr. Tom gave us a surprise visit recently and he was so pleased with the cleanliness of the girls' rooms and the house that he gave us a donation for an outing! We will be using this donation to attend the "Haunted Corn Maze". Thanks so much to all of our donors! It would not be possible for us to provide our girls with these positive experiences without you.



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

Our Ranch boys and girls attend their local public schools. We have students at every grade level, from elementary, to junior high, high school and college.



After school is over, the Ranchers have study time and many have extra tutoring

provided by community volunteers. Then the boys and girls have after-school chores and some free time to pursue individual activities.

Many of the Ranch youth are involved with extracurricular activities both on and off-campus. Some of them

are involved with school sports and activities such as football, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, choir and band.

A few of the older youth may even have part-time jobs in their local communities, depending on their grades and the other activities they are involved in.

Each Ranch has a group of interested local supporters who help plan fund-raisers and fun activities for the children. If you are interested in participating in your local support group, please contact your nearest Ranch location to find out how you can help.



Their school days start early as each Rancher has house chores to do before school each morning. Then each Ranch has a short assembly time where they say the Pledge of Allegiance before the children ride the bus to school for the day.



## St. Clair County Boys Ranch

The boys at the St. Clair County Boys Ranch have had a busy fall so far. They have been involved in many activities. Several of the boys were able to attend an Auburn University football game thanks to a generous supporter. Bruce Bean of Weartek sent eight tickets to the Ranch so that they could enjoy a college football game.

Many of the boys are involved with activities at their local schools. Alex J. is one of our high school ranchers who is involved in band. He plays the bass drum with his high school band.



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