

August 2015 Newsletter



Starting Small

I love teaching kids about horses. I love teaching kids about God. I love using horses to teach kids about God and I love giving teens a chance to “do” ministry. So each summer when Stacie Connors and I host a Youth for Christ horse camp, it is always a special time. Our horse camp is organized differently from most of the other Central NY YFC horse camps. We invite younger kids to

attend and learn about horses along with teens, who participate as helpers/teachers to the younger kids. It is really a great experience for all involved.

This year, we had 16 youngsters and five teen helpers who participated. We work in teams, with each teen leader having three or four youngsters and one horse. They work together learning to groom, saddle, and ride the horses along with how to share as they take turns. During the week there many teachable moments because the horses also have emotions, fears, and relationships with the other horses. Devotion time is included each day with a different teen leader sharing with the younger kids. It is wonderful to see the great lessons the teens come up with, and to see the younger kids looking up to the older kids.

I think that too often in our society and even in our churches we try to have programs for our teens that are fun and we find ways that we can “play” with our teens, but we fail to give them opportunities to serve—ways that can promote growth in their faith walk and enable them to be a functioning part of the body of Christ. I believe that our teen leaders can have “fun” and enjoyment being leaders in this camp, without having everything done for them. This type of opportunity is a natural way for the teens to grow in the faith and become Christian leaders as they mature. We can also see that the younger kids cannot wait until they are old enough to become the leaders. Our kids grow up and move beyond our horse camp to college or jobs, but each summer we see a new crop of youngsters come through our program, preparing to take their places in leadership roles.

This horse camp week would not take place without the combined efforts of a lot of folks. Parents transport kids, bring snacks, and even hang around to offer an extra pair of hands/eyes to help things run smoothly and to keep everyone safe. Exhausting? Yes! Rewarding? Yes!!!!

We see God working in the lives of these kids all week long, and we build relationships that will be eternal. Life does not get better than that!

Ann Hegler , YFC Volunteer

Looking Ahead

- Teen Center is open Saturdays 6:30pm-10pm
- Laurens & Unatego Clubs start at the end of Sept.
- Walton Club starts Oct 6

Praises/Prayers

-Horse Riding and Adventure Programs went well this summer. Thank you to all involved!
-There is a possibility of a **“Parent Life” ministry** within YFC

2015 YFC Bike Trip Info to Follow in September's Newsletter...

