



CHRONICLE

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Discover the Spirit!

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU... *We're Going for GaGa Glory!*



Howdy Pardners!

GaGa ruled The Ranch this week! All campers first grade and older got a shot to compete in the preliminary rounds on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. The winners from the preliminaries progressed to the semi-final round on Thursday, ending with the GaGa Championship matches today. Posters and banners filled the stands of The Pit today as Pardners showed up to support their friends. Whether a spectator or participant, campers brought their high spirits and enthusiasm to the Dream Dome! We are proud of all the campers who participated in the GaGa Tournament; congratulations to all!

Beginning this past Monday, Kinfolk began arriving at Coleman Country for a glimpse of what their campers experience daily. Campers had the opportunity to show off their soccer skills, dance moves, gymnastics talents, archery abilities, musical energy, and pool prowess. Parents were able to observe not only their campers' athletic abilities but also see the many friendships they have forged this summer. We can't wait to welcome back Kinfolk Tuesday night for the Parent GaGa Tournament.

Also on Monday, the Pioneer division held their annual Pioneer Songfest. This allowed all the Pioneers to sing their own songs as Mrs. G. provided the musical accompaniment. Songs like "That's What Friends are For" and "The More We Get Together" filled The Ranch with the spirit of the summer's theme, "Lean on Me."

This past Wednesday, campers competed in "Dance Dance Revolution," filling the Grand Playhouse with rhythm. Scouts, Explorers, and 49ers all had a chance to become "dance dance" champ of their group. Although the dance moves were new and unusual for some of the campers, they quickly learned the game and were able to keep up with the best of players. By the end of the activity, all were dancing with the beat like pros.

Today we said goodbye to our camp friends who had their last day with us this summer. We hope the July campers had as good a time with us as we had with them. From Wet 'n' Wild to the GaGa Tournament, we will miss them at camp and cannot wait for our reunion next summer. As sad as it is to see the July campers leave, we look forward to welcoming new August camper friends on Monday.

Until then... Happy Trails!



WALL OF FAME... 2009 Scout Boys Champ Mitchell (center), along with second and third place winners, Brett (left) and Kyle (right), celebrate a hard-earned victory at The Dream Dome.

PARENT GAGA TOURNAMENT!

Tuesday, July 28 at 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday night, Kinfolk get their shot at The Pit's Wall of Fame at the Parent GaGa Tournament. So Pardners, start giving your Kinfolk pointers and Kinfolk, get ready to bring your best game!

70's AND 80's DRESS-UP DAY Tuesday, July 28th

Pardners and Ranch Hands are invited to leave their Coleman tees at home in exchange for their **grooviest** clothes. Wondering what to wear, Pardners? Here are some funky examples:



Anything neon!~Side ponytails for girls~Bell-Bottom Pants~Lots of plaid!~Leg Warmers~Hair Scrunchies~Tie-Dye shirts~Acid wash jeans~High-waisted pants~Over-sized tee-shirts~Leggings!~Overalls~Bold patterns~Floppy sunhats~Mini-dresses~Paisley~Polo shirts~Multi-colored hair~Double Socks~Hot pants~Headbands~Bandanas

Explorers' CARING CORNER

After last week's big increase in campers "Caring in Action," the Explorers had a lot to live up to this week. They met and exceeded last week's challenge, reaching out to their friends all week. Here are some examples:

- waiting for friends to join them before they ate
- encouraging friends in the GaGa Tournament
- helping clean up the locker rooms after swim
- helping set up lunch for another group
- helping counselors clean up at specialties

Ready for RossCup!

Monday marks the start of the RossCup, the next 49er tournament. Preliminaries for the RossCup Hockey Tournament will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Winners from each group vs group single elimination round will advance to the finals on Friday. Winners from the RossCup, like other 49er tournaments, will earn the coveted "Nothing Could be Finer..." tees. 49ers, start practicing your hockey teamwork. Kinfolk be sure to check Coleman Town for updates and photos of the tournament!

Learning Responsibility

This week the youngest campers on The Ranch have been learning about Responsibility. Anna and Michelle explained that "responsibility" means thinking before you act, cleaning up your own messes, and fixing your mistakes. The Giva Geta Responsibility card taught them that they should do what they can by themselves and complete all jobs they start. When they are finished they should be proud of their work. Anna and Michelle asked Pioneers to practice responsibility in their "houses" in Pioneer Station by putting away their mats and cleaning up their toys.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

During the week of August 3rd, Coleman Country will welcome all interested Pardners, second grade and above, to participate in the Circus of the Kids! Professional circus performers will visit The Ranch to teach campers everything from juggling to acrobatic flips. Circus of the Kids is an extremely rewarding experience for all those who choose to participate; however, it does require participants to attend all practices. Pardners will have to stay late after camp or come back later in the evening for practice. If you want to join the circus, please come on Sunday, August 2nd!

(Details to follow, but save the date!)

Opening Our Hearts

This week at Coleman Country we are embracing the spirit of "Lean on Me" as several visitors from Camp Sizanani in Soweto, South Africa, were welcomed into the extended Coleman Country Family. The three campers will be joining us for the next several weeks as members of the 49er division, while the staff will be joining our staff ranks. Ross has been talking with the staff and fifth grade girls about the importance of happiness, regardless of one's possessions. Kay-Bee, one of the counselors from Sizanani, shared "Laughter doesn't rain, it pours."

We are sure the Sizanani spirit will be infused throughout The Ranch over the next three weeks while our guests are here, and they will certainly return home with the Spirit of Coleman Country. We are all bonded forever as we learn life lessons through each other. The laughter and love keep pouring in, thanks to all our new friends. We are all very excited about the upcoming weeks with counselors Tshepo, Martha, Lello, and Kay-Bee, and campers Thembelihle (nicknamed Tanjiwe), Masentle, and Simphiwe. If you want to learn more about Ross, Pam, and Tony's experience volunteering in South Africa as well as see a great video about their time there, please go to ColemanCountry.com/sizanani.

SCOUTS SHARE!

Scouts share smooth moves!

During the Dance Dance Revolution contest on Wednesday, Scouts shared their dance time. They took turns everytime the MC shouted "switch!" They've even begun using the term to help guide sharing in other activities.

Scouts share GaGa strategies!

Throughout the tournament this week, Felicia and Lew were impressed with the way their first and second graders took time out of their games to teach friends defensive and offensive strategies.

ON THE HORIZON

Tuesday, July 28:

*Leave your uniform at home and put on your funkiest wear for **70s and 80s Dress-Up Day!***

Tuesday Evening, July 28:

*The Ranch is invaded by Kinfolk looking for their spot on the Wall of Fame in the **Parent GaGa Tournament** at 6:45 pm!*

Wednesday, July 29:

*The third and fourth graders get a chance to shine with **Explorer Karaoke!***

Thursday, July 30:

***Make-up Picture Day**-Get ready to say "cheese!"*

Sunday, August 2:

*The Ranch opens its doors specially on a Sunday for the **Circus of the Kids Auditions!***