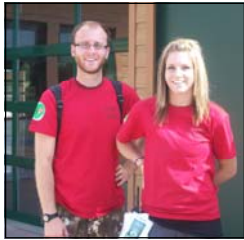


Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch (Northern Alberta) Ltd.

SUMMER REPORT



'Paddlers are you ready?! Get 'em!', was my battle cry for the summers- end canoeing splash war on the lake; every canoe for themselves. Water is what kept us going this summer as we splashed, jumped, waded, swam and danced our way through 9 weeks of 30 degree weather!

15 local Agencies and their 750+ summer camp kids 'cut the red ribbon' on the North Ranch's first summer season of day group programming. The Ranch has been welcomed into this community with open arms; many Agency administrators thanking us openly for offering such a great, free program to their inner city youth.

The Day Programs offered through July and August touched the lives of youth that encompassed the full spectrum of our mandate; serving mentally, physically and/or financially challenged youth. Agency staff running day programs of their own were so pleased to come to a place that could accommodate ALL of their children; no matter the severity or diversity of abilities amongst their campers.

"We appreciate your effort to understand our children's special needs. The accommodations that you made ensured that the campers had a successful and fun experience!"

Centre for Autism Services Alberta

The program hosted 30 children per day and brought the youth back to the basics of being a kid; relying heavily on the use of imagination, debriefing and group cooperative games to create a memorable and meaningful experience. OLQP North has a lot of growing to do to match the facilities that of its parent ranch in Bragg Creek but we are starting with the same amount of heart.

Many youth came from Edmonton's Inner City so activities such as canoeing, fort building and the hay wagon ride were very popular. Although the Ranch is technically located within Edmonton city limits the area feels quite remote as you paddle, walk or drive around the 200 acres of property bordering the North Saskatchewan River.

A unique and frequent compliment to us, especially from those with Autism (who are greatly affected by sense of touch), enjoyed our lush green grass. They would exit the bus and drop onto the lawn and make swimming motions through the blades. In addition to that participants spent their time flying kites, singing/storytelling at Campfire, making Shaving Cream Sculptures, hiking, singing karaoke, playing Frisbee golf, building forts in the Forest, designing robots, solving puzzles, hunting treasure... and much more that their isn't space for in this article.

A special thank you goes out to my summer staff Grasshopper (Chandra) and Tree Beard (Jesse) who worked this summer with a lot of heart and determination. Starting a camp from scratch is not an easy task and I couldn't have done it without their support.

Audrey Richards
Program Manager
OLQP North