



Flying H Youth Ranch 370 Flying H Loop Naches, WA 98937



The annual Father/Son Weekend was enjoyed by fathers, sons, staff, and volunteers during the long weekend of the Presidents' Day holiday in February. In spite of a few logistical glitches at the beginning, this MAN weekend was experienced in all its primitive glory. Held at American Ridge Lodge and snow camp up the Chinook Pass, all persons, equipment, food, etc was either transported by an all-terrain vehicle or walked up to the lodge a mile from the road. Running water was run by pail from a spring; lighting was provided by propane lanterns; meals were cooked on a propane grill; heat was provided by wood in a barrel stove; sleeping arrangements were wherever a man could park his sleeping bag on the lodge floor; and the winner was the outdoor toilet boasting 20 seats! Those dads hailing from suburbia experienced some serious culture shock.

The intent of the weekend is implied in the name—a connecting time for fathers and sons. Although most dads were able to come, there were a few boys for whom other men stood with

them in their father's place. Tom Morris, pastor of Calvary Chapel Selah, taught several sessions

emphasizing the parables of the Prodigal Son, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Sheep. After the speaking times, the fathers and sons were given the opportunity to apply the message to their lives.

Although the spiritual emphasis was paramount, many robust, manly activities exercised and entertained the group. Decidedly the favorite (of the boys at least) was the target shooting activity. Joe Ellithorpe (former parent and firearms historian) educated the guys about several guns he brought along; Craig Baird (retired policeman) trained the participants in gun safety; and the fun began. Continuing the outdoor marksmanship idea, they also enjoyed a rousing game of paintball one afternoon. Each year Mike Nash from the Nile provides the equipment for this event.

Usually much sledding, tubing, snowmobiling goes on during the weekend; but the icy snow was not so inviting this time. Still several took advantage of the mountains and the snow. Of course, a most favorite activity was eating. Alumnus Rob Ellithorpe assisted his former mentor Chris Rodriguez in preparing the meals. During the down-times the guys enjoyed visiting, playing card games, and playing guitars.

Dads, boys, staff, and volunteers came down the mountain tired and dirty but very satisfied. Thank you, Lord, for another safe and meaningful Father/Son Weekend!

Patty Fried (as told by Jim Fried)



Prayer Requests:

- The boys are on Spring break (as we write this) pray that if they do anything they shouldn't, that they would be caught. For the parents and family this week, that they would have a good week together.
- For heart changes for the boys, that they would see their need for their Savior!
- For the staff, for safety during their break.
- More applications for boys.

Praises:

- We are able to buy new mattresses for all the boys beds
- Our Staff retreat this past weekend went well.
- By two, semi local dairies, we acquired 8 new calves to raise for our meat!
- The Albrights support is at 100% and they will be coming on staff as of April 8
- The Creach's and Griffith's support is raising, we are so excited to see how the Lord provides.