



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



Survival Hike (August 7-14th)

Another year, another memorable Survival Hike. We revisited some of the areas where the Survival Hike was held in the past. Some of the highlights were an amazing thunderstorm up at Cougar Lake (most stayed dry...). There were a lot of huckleberries, and a fresh water spring! For the most part, the weather was dry and there weren't too many mosquitoes! I appreciate the opportunities we have to be in God's creation here at the ranch.

One of the significant aspects of this hike was the journal and memory verses the boys were to complete. This year's theme was from James along with some references to Romans. We encourage them to truly put their faith in Christ. I was impressed that most memorized the verses during the hike.

Another big facet of the hike is the "48 hour Solo" experience. Many times the Bible text explicitly identifies how lives are changed as a result of a wilderness journey. It is our prayer and desire that the Solo can be a time for the boys of profound discernment, learning, and revelation.

The first day of the hike is always meant to be challenging. We want to teach these boys perseverance and to put them through various trials (James 1:2-4). Many, after completing the first day bushwhacking to our first Lake, didn't necessarily see it as pure joy, but they completed the first leg of the journey.

The next few days we spent time at several lakes: Crag Lake, One & Two Lakes, and Cougar Lake. A few of the boys caught some fish with the hook and line they earned for saying Bible verses. This uplifted their spirits considering the small ration of food they receive for the 8-day journey.

From Cougar Lake we setup a compass course off-trail to Swamp Lake. The boys have had map and compass training prior to the hike to prepare for this. Each group sets a course with the compass and then follows it to the destination. This year the different groups all were very close to the objective.

Our last night we spent on Cougar Creek after picking the boys up from their solo's. The last day we only had a short 1-1/2 mile hike out. Overall the boys hiked about 22 miles and had some memorable experiences. The hike was tough, but was a character-revealing exercise!

Our hope is that in learning about God's creation on the Survival Hike, Christ was revealed to the boys in new ways.

M. Aaron Hunting



Praises:

- Always thanking the Lord for His provision of adequate finances for Ranch operation.
- SOWER's (Servants **O**n **W**heels **E**ver **R**eady) on ranch and working; what a wonderful blessing!
- Great 8-Day Hike Report - very nice to hear how God is at work in the lives of our boy population (and staff)
- Our newest staff family, the Griffiths' will be coming on full-time, hopefully in early October.

Prayer Requests:

- The SOWER's are working diligently on the Fried's roof and we would ask for safety as they work.
- Protection from forest fires in the area, as the woods continue to be dry and thunderstorms continue.
- That inquiries would increase for "ranch boys" and families to be placed here at the Flying H Youth Ranch.
- Brendan graduated from high school and the program; he finished strong. He plans on going to college; pray that his resolve would not weaken. Pray that the Lord would continue the call on his heart.
- Fall Family Resolve scheduled for October 11-13th;
- Fall Staff Retreat scheduled for October 14-16th, followed by the ACSI teachers conference October 17-18th. Very busy fall schedule.