

Summer 2025

RANCH REPORT

Bringing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to disadvantaged youth.



CROSS BAR X
YOUTH RANCH



Best Summer Ever!

Tim Gonzales

"Best summer ever!" Nurse Gretchen proclaimed, and the rest of us Gonzales' unanimously agreed. Not that the months at Camp had been easy or restful but rather, it was the best because the challenges we faced led to spiritual growth and the work we did provided us with the unique and abundant blessings of shared joy, fellowship, and friendship. Living and serving and struggling alongside our brothers and sisters with the like-minded goal of taking the Gospel of Christ to the world is an experience like no other.

It was our last family meeting the night before leaving to return home. The seven of us sitting atop each other on the love seat and 2 chairs in the RV we had called our home since mid-May. Reviewing our favor-



ite moments and pictures captured from the short but eventful sojourn at Camp, we took enjoyment in the simple company of one another remembering our adventures and miss adventures the summer had brought. We talked about what the Lord had taught us. Work hard even when you're tired. Take every opportunity to be a blessing to others. There is no job too undignified for you. Be a good steward of yourself and what God has gifted you with that you can be generous when the opportunity arises.

It was a true encounter with the abundant life that we can live here and now. By God's grace, we all feel as though we received more than we ever gave. Back home, we are excited to plan our return to Camp in 2026, but we will not soon forget, "The best summer ever." ●



CAMP WISHLIST

- Heavy Duty Chainsaws
- Weed Trimmers
- A quad 4 wheeler for grounds work
- Paddleboards
- Prairie dog mitigation machine

FUTURE DATES

- Dessert Auction SEPT. 20TH
- WORK WEEK 2026 May 11-15th
- Denver dessert night - Spring 2026
- Camp Starts June 1st 2026

A Special Thank You!

- The entire Gonzales family
- Cross Fellowship Church
- Sowers Ministry Servants
 - Joe and Chris Amerson
 - Ron and Melodee Oja
 - Evan and Jacquie Asby
 - Robin and Popsie Robinson
- Jude Alderton
- Jenny Posey, Summer Quiring, and Marci Miller (These ladies don't get paid, but work really faithfully to make CBX happen!)
- Kathy Sue Bobbit
- Adam Bricker (thanks for the pasture work!)
- Sarah Sedillo
- Valarie Busenitz

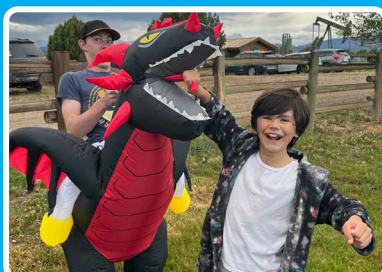


Summer Testimony

By McKenzie Lillis

I returned to Cross Bar X Youth Ranch as a counselor for the second year in a row this past summer of 2025. I always joked that because my roommate was the daughter of the directors that she would leave our apartment a mess if I didn't come back or that I already promised so many campers that I was bound by moral code to return, but in all honesty it was the atmosphere of camp that brought me back. The full time families, the fellow counselors and the campers themselves made CBX such a special place to me. I wanted to surround myself with people who weren't afraid to go deep in hard times and who could a few minutes later be so silly just to make a camper smile. It was the way that everyone at CBX simply wanted to chase after Jesus together that made this community so beautifully encouraging that drew me back to wanting to change the lives of these campers. By coming back again for my second year, I was one of the few veteran counselors and I had the opportunity to play big sister as I got to encourage some of the other counselors as they prepared to counsel for the first time. I could provide them with an experienced perspective and guidance which filled my cup to lead those around me while also leading my campers. I also really loved coming back to see the campers again for a second summer, it was such a special treat to already know what makes these kid-dos laugh and enjoy a fun time at camp. It was great to see how they had grown in their faith since last being at camp, because there was not one camper who came back without a story that had God's hands woven throughout. ●

PICTURES



Summer Testimony

By Carsten Harley

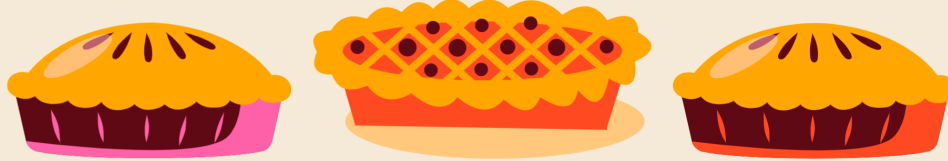


I would like to think that God brought me to camp this summer, and He most certainly did, and yet I came to learn how to counsel young men in a camp setting after experiencing mentoring and discipling myself. The impact that counseling delivers is more than receiving "counseling" or "advice," in fact it is the experience of knowing that another person hears you, cares for your story, and in this setting, for many, meets Christ's love for the first time. Amongst many, many other amazing memories, my favorite memory from camp was when one of my young men in my cabin shared his testimony to all the other guys around the campfire. It happened naturally, the tears started flowing, the truth was spoken, and the hope of the gospel was preached through him so evidently; the product of the Holy Spirit. It was convicting for me to see such faith.

I grew in many ways this summer. By growing, I don't mean to say "a step closer to perfection" for that would be a distortion of growth. This growth provided a reservoir of pains in my soul, which allowed for clarity, peace, and discernment amidst all the uncertainties, anxieties, and doubts that life naturally brings my way. This growth is closer to what I think of when I think of sanctification and it provided that I understand theological truths with my mind, but ultimately, ruthlessly trust God's Word in my heart, leading me to pursue Christ solely and order my desires faithfully. Before the summer and before these experiences, I would have been stuck over how I might be able to complete all the impossible tasks in front of me, and after this summer, my largest takeaway is this: by myself it's impossible, but with God, nothing is impossible. ●

You are invited to CROSS BAR X's Annual

Dessert Auction and Concert



Cross Bar X
2111 CR 222
Durango, CO 81303

September 20th
6-8pm

PLEASE BRING
YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT
TO AUCTION OFF

Host a table (7 guests total) and receive a CBX coffee mug and T-Shirt!



Support CBX Thourgh Donating A Car!

CBX is excited to announce an all new way to support the good work at CBX. Last year, a few CBX supporters started a new non profit called "Motors For Good". Motors For Good is a 501 C 3 charity that exists to support families in need by utilizing unwanted vehicles, boats, trailers, and other property to create resources that would help and bless families and youth in need. It is our hope that through the generous charity of folks from our community, we can repurpose these unused items and provide camp scholarships, meet vehicle needs for families, contribute to other areas of need, and provide grants to individuals and families in our community.



If you have a vehicle you would like to donate or sell at a discount (we can likely match trade in value), you can get more information at: www.motors4good.com

Thank you to our Iron Horse Bicycle Sponsors!



Summer 2024 Recap

Jacob Posey

Every summer at Cross Bar X takes on its own identity it seems. 2025 did just that as we had several new counselors learning the work at CBX for the first time. But 2025 had a familiar feel as we also had several returning counselors come for a second season from CCU. All of them did a fantastic job sharing the gospel and loving their campers.

This year, we shared the gospel with our campers through the lens of "Dragons and Heroes." The world is filled with dragons to conquer. And the Bible is filled with examples of heroes that conquer a proverbial dragon. We looked at several of these heroes: Moses vs Pharaoh, David vs Goliath, Daniel vs Satraps, Esther vs Haman, and more. Each of these heroes relies on God for strength

to fight and win their battles, and each of their stories points us to the greatest Hero who fights the ultimate battle against the fiercest of dragons: JESUS vs Satan and our sin.

We looked with the campers at how Jesus overcomes our own sin and its consequence, death. We encouraged them to put their faith and trust in him for the forgiveness of their sins and for the battles that they have to fight every day. Each of our over 100 campers throughout the summer heard the truth of God's love for them and his desire to draw them into a relationship with himself.

Please pray for our campers as they go back to school and into the real world, where there will be dragons to fight. Pray that they would turn to God and trust in him for eternal life and for the battles they will fight as his children every day. ●



EST. 1977

CROSS BAR X
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