

IRON HORSE CLASSIC - WE NEED YOU TO RIDE!

You don't have to be a pro to participate!

What is the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic?

It is a race against the world famous narrow gauge railroad train that begins in historic downtown Durango, up and over two breathtakingly beautiful mountain passes, and ends in the small historic mining town of Silverton. Thousands of people "race the train" every year for many reasons - testing their fitness, to challenge themselves with a grueling task, enjoying God's creation, or to simply check this crazy ride off their bucket list. It really is a monumental feat, and those who complete it feel a great sense of accomplishment.

Why should I ride for team Cross Bar

X?

Our team rides to raise funds to sponsor Cross Bar X's low-income campers to attend our Gospel-centered summer camp. Oh yeah, you also get a sweet custom team Cross Bar X racing jersey to wear on the day of the big ride!

How do I raise funds by riding?

Since you do the hard work of training and riding, we do the fundraising work for you. We design a letter template for you well in advance of the race that describes who Cross Bar X is, what we do, and asks the reader to sponsor you in your ride so that these disadvantaged kids can attend camp. All you have to do is send this letter out to 30 or more people that you know personally and would prayerfully consider financially supporting your ride.



Do I need to be an experienced rider?

Not necessarily. Every year, CBX has several riders who are just beginning their journey as riders. It is important that you train for the ride, but CBX has several veterans who are available to help new riders develop a training schedule and ride preparation advice. There are also two different rides that you can participate in. The full ride from Durango to Silverton and then the Quarter Horse that travels half the distance to the Purgatory Resort. This last ride is much more manageable for those that haven't trained as much or who might be intimidated by the full ride.



How do I register?

Give us a call 970 259 2716 or shoot an email to Jaocb@crossbarx.org

Which race do I register for?

Riding just for fun and to raise funds? You can register for either the McDonald's Citizen Tour (full 50-miles to Silverton) or the Quarter Horse (26 miles to Purgatory Ski Resort). Riding professionally and raising funds? Sign up for the Durango Coca-Cola Road Race.

Where do I stay?

At Cross Bar X Youth Ranch OR at any hotel in Durango. We have accommodations for you and your family at CBX beginning as early as Thursday evening and lasting through Monday morning (race on Saturday). Space is limited though, so let us know early if you wish to stay at camp and how many of you there are. We also provide select meals before and after the race.

RANCH REPORT
Fall/Winter 2019

Bringing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Youth



HOLDING FAST TO THE GOSPEL, IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

By Tim Miller

This past Sunday at Church we sang the old hymn "He Will Hold Me Fast". The last words of that song say "Till our faith is turned to sight, When he comes at last" reminded me that we do not walk by sight but by faith alone. This past summer we talked about being created in the Image of God. As you can imagine, this pushed hard against the popular and ever present agenda the world is teaching the campers we work with. So many of them are struggling through life without any sense of who they are or why they exist. When they seek out the answers to these questions, the predominant message they are met with is "whoever or whatever YOU decide to be".



deeply. The idea that God would expect, command, or ask anything from them rubs against the individualist mentality that has been driven hard into their every fiber. Often at camp we feel like a small voice in a vast cultural darkness. However, we are quick to remind one another that this small voice is the voice of the almighty God of creation. The everlasting and unchanging King of the universe. He will hold us fast. He will turn those that walk in darkness into the light. He gives sight to the blind. He shapes his creation into vessels of glory.

The work of Cross Bar X is important because it goes into the culture of darkness and brings the light of Jesus Christ to open the eyes of the blind. Cross Bar X proclaims the name of Jesus to those that are not often, if ever, exposed to that message. We know that Jesus provides the only way, the only hope, and the only love that will never fail these kids. This is the identity that will last and never fail them. This is the message that CBX has preached and will continue to preach until He comes at last and turns our faith once and for all into sight. Thank you for your support of this difficult, but important work!



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COLS 2019 RECAP

By Jacob Posey



The Colorado Outdoor Learning School (COLS) at Cross Bar X went very well this fall. We had roughly 700 students attend the program over 5 weeks. The program and staff received raving reviews from each school that attended. Several said it was the best the program has ever been. We believe this is not only because it is high quality, but because we offer it from a heart of loving the students with the love of Christ.

Even though we aren't able to share the gospel with them explicitly, our staff did an amazing job of pointing students to Christ through his creation and by modeling his service and love. Many COLS campers inquired about attending our summer camps, which is an answer to prayer. We are so grateful for this program, how it provides for Cross Bar X, and for all the people who put in the hard work to make it such a success this past year.



NEW TEAM MEMBER

By Wes Nitzsche

My name is Wes Nitzsche, I have worked for Cross Bar X seasonally for the past 2 years as the camp nurse and have a passion for the ministry of the camp. This past May I joined the leadership team as the youth development coordinator. This means that in addition to being the nurse for the camp, I am in charge of coordinating follow up with campers throughout the offseason. This includes meeting 1-on-1 with them, planning retreats, and organizing Bible studies and other events in order to evangelize to



these young men and women year around. I have also taken on an active role in Cross Bar X providing respite care for local foster families and ministering to the children and families through that. I look forward to seeing how God

will build the kingdom through the opportunities He has allowed me to have at CBX!

UPCOMING PROJECT AT CBX

We are always looking to improve CBX. These days, most of our time is spent fixing and repairing things that have worn out over the years! This past summer, we took down the old rotten back deck of Alpine Lodge and will be replacing it with a covered deck that wraps around the side and back of the building. If you are interested in helping with the rebuild, we will begin the work this winter and then tackle the majority of the project this work week with the help of the TXS Baptist Men and our friends up at Bear Valley Church! We are also looking for sponsors for the building materials. If you would like to contribute this way, you can send a gift to CBX with a notation stating the Alpine Deck Project.

Work week will be May 11-16th



TRANSFORMATIVE PRAYER - SUMMER 2019

By John "Scar" Scarboro

First, we give thanks for the work of God in our staff and campers of this past summer. Additionally, we are thankful to you for your donations, time, and prayers not only for this past summer, but over the years as well.

With this past summer, I noticed the power of prayer toward our campers. We ceaselessly prayed for the gospel to be in our words and deeds as a light shining into the darkness of our campers' hearts and situations. My prayers were for specific children like "Jake." When he came to camp, I was able to see a transformation. In 2018, Boys Eagle was exceptionally difficult due to the attitudes of a few young men, especially "Jake", creating apathy towards summer camp and always wanting to fight. This year, I saw a particular change and maturity in "Jake" who actually apologized for his previous actions. He also became a leader among the young men by being kind and serving the other young men, keeping the peace, and giving encouragement and truth in each conversation. Throughout the summer, I had these small glimpses of transformation through prayer and God's work in the saving grace for these campers.



And so, I ask as we enter into this new year, pray with expectant hope in God's work through Cross Bar X in transforming our staff, our vision, and our campers as we walk together out of our brokenness into the transformation and hope that comes through Jesus.

DONATIONS DOUBLED BEFORE Dec. 2nd!

CBX has been provided the opportunity to receive a dollar for dollar match up to 20K for every donation made prior to Dec. 2nd.

Simply make a donation by mail or online and indicate that it is for the matching donation campaign. Even if you are not able to make the actual donation by the 2nd, just let us know of your pledge and we will be able to get the amount matched!

This is a great opportunity to stretch your generous support of CBX! call or email us for more info. theranch@crossbarx.org 970 259 2716



MEET THE INTERNS

Ben

Hi! My name is Ben Davis and I've been an intern at Cross Bar X since January. In my year as an intern, I've learned some of the intricacies of camp ministry, and have grown in both my knowl-

edge of the Bible, and my passion for reaching people in a camp setting. As I counseled through the summer, I got to see God work in some really amazing ways, and I can't wait to see Him continue to work through this ministry!

Chris

I'm Chris Young, I'm 24 and I'm from a suburban town outside of Philadelphia, PA. I'm here at Cross Bar X Youth Ranch because God called me in 2018 and took me from darkness hopelessness and despair into joy hope and love in Jesus Christ. Now I have the motivation of God's great love to speak life and hope in Jesus Christ to campers that come to Cross Bar.

