

CROSS BAR X THROUGH TIME

Marci Miller

While I'm not the most qualified to share about Cross Bar X's transformation over time, I have been here for 13 summers and observed the direction and paths Cross Bar X has gone. Much like the spring that bubbles up in the center of the camp, that runs as a brook and feeds the camp lake, the path is slowly altered over time. Stresses, changing courses, man's influence and a lot of natural processes change the course of waterways, but it always ends up in the same location. Cross Bar X as a camp and para-church organization is much the same.

When we arrived just before the summer of 2006 we entered a small close-knit full time staff. We worked hand-in-hand with each other and our summer/seasonal staff to further the Gospel and give them hope and joy found only in Jesus. The later has stayed very much the same, due to the strong foundation that Nick and Tracy Brother's laid decade after decade, long before we arrived. In our early years worked alongside Jeremy and Riki Yarbrough, Joy Young, and many interns and program assistants. In 2012 when Nick and Tracy moved into a helpful "retired" role our staff ballooned and we welcomed Sam and Rachel Busskohl, Jacob and Jenny Posey, Zac and Erin Smalley and Mary Beth Clancy. Cross Bar X felt different as we had many hands

and people doing their role in a specialized way. It was a sweet season of time and it's clear how and why God brought each person with their gifting to our team and still our focus remained on the Gospel and serving our neighbors.

Early this year CBX's path narrowed again to our full time staff consisting of us (the Millers) and the Poseys and "Scar" (John Scarbough) working as an organizational "apprentice" and having Angele Vasquez as an intern. I'm often asked how we are managing with "such a small staff" but, as I've shared, this size staff was normative for our early years here at CBX and it doesn't feel unusual. We have all shifted and moved into new roles and we all cover the things not assigned and collaborate. Really, it's quite like the Body of Christ described in 1 Corinthians 12. Recently I've been studying the concept of Biblical unity, one thing that I've been pondering is that being unified as a group of co-workers is a gift of the Spirit. Having a joint "mind of Christ" is evidence of His work and will in how we operate and serve under Him.

Looking back over time I see these things remaining constant and unifying:



- We are ardently and unashamedly dedicated to the Gospel as the ONE best thing we can give our campers! It is our organizational hope and our one goal to impart with the youth we serve.

- We LOVE and are committed to our campers and their families. Cross

Bar X has always been driven and intentional with serving the youth God connects us with. We seek to serve those that no one else is, namely foster children, kids from hard places and those who the Holy Spirit brings to us.

- We are committed to our para-church position, and seek to support the local church, being it's hands and feet and to point our campers and their families toward connection with the Body of Christ.

Looking forward we know that the path may vary and meander for Cross Bar X as different people join the team, leave and put influence in, but we pray and commit that the destination is always the same, at the foot of the cross with our campers and fellow staff!

Summer 2018

RANCH REPORT

Cross Bar X
Bringing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to urban and rural youth



Onward and Upward

Jacob Posey

I was very nervous about this summer before it started. Jenny and I have been working at Cross Bar X for five years now and are heading into our 6th summer here. Every summer before now we have been in the background. I have been responsible for doing mostly office and support work, registration, bookkeeping, Bible teaching, etc. and Jenny has been the kitchen manager. This summer, with our full-time staff being half the size of those previous years, we now have the opportunity to be working up front with the counselors and campers. In addition to a lot of our previous responsibilities, we are now in the role of Camp Director. With the help of Scar, we planned the program, the theme, and the Bible lessons. I have always been more comfortable in a support role, so for me, this is new territory. But once staff training started and our counselors arrived and began to bond in their community, it became clear that God was going to use Cross Bar X this summer to glorify his name, and that my lack of experience couldn't thwart that.

Our theme this summer is "Hero." God led us this summer to look at Jesus in the Gospel of John. We are walking campers through the signs that he per-

forms to show us that he is greater than any superhero we could ever imagine. He shows us that he is the Son of God from the beginning, and that his power is more than magic tricks or slight of hand, but that he has real power to perform miracles, die AND raise from the dead, and to take away the sins of those who believe in him. I am so excited about these lessons. The counselors' skits to go along with them are truly amazing. The first week of camp is going very well. All of our camps for the whole summer are filled to capacity.

We are also extending the length of our camps this year. High school kids will be here for 2 full weeks, and middle school kids will be here for two more full days than in the past. Please pray for us as the surrounding fires will affect our wilderness trips with these camps. Our hope in extending these camps is that counselors will have more time to break down the walls their campers have built and make a personal, deep connection with them. We then hope that God uses this relationship as an avenue for counselors to clearly share the hope and power of the Gospel of Jesus - Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." Thank you all so much for your prayers and support. We are so blessed to be a part of God's working in these kids' lives, and you help to make that possible.

WHY I CAME BACK

By Raijene Murchison



My name is Raijene Murchison and I am 24 years old from Baltimore Maryland. I am currently a college student at small Christian College in Boston. I returned to Cross Bar X Youth Ranch because of the community, the campers and the breathtaking mountains. When I first came to CBX in the summer of 2015 I had no idea what to expect. The only thing that I knew was that I would be far away from family, friends and anything familiar. My experience here 3 years ago was unforgettable. The staff was intentional in getting to know me and making me feel like I was a part of something bigger than a summer ministry team, but apart of a family. I saw the Lord work through many youth's lives as well as my own like never before. Over the past three years I have been a part of many youth minded ministries, but nothing compared to my experience here. When I started thinking of where I would like to serve, grow, and give back it was an obvious decision to return to Cross Bar. This time around I have decided to come back as a support staff. One of the things that kept me going was the hard work and encouragement of the support staff. Just when I thought I could not go on or had no more energy to give my kids the staff would always be there with a helping hand and kind words to push me forward. I wanted to be apart of that team, that pushes the counselors to keep going and that works diligently behind the scenes to keep the CBX wheels turning. I am incredibly blessed to be here serving at Cross Bar. My hope and prayer is that more people hear about this camp and become apart of this amazing family as I have had the privilege of doing.

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SALT

By John “Scar”
SALT, an acronym for Servant Adventure Leadership Training, has been a program at Cross Bar X to teach young men and women servant leadership, responsibility, integrity, adventure, and much more.
This summer, we have one young woman and four young men who have dedicated their time to serve



the children and counselors of the first two weeks of camp. During these two weeks, we have washed dishes, prepared games, and supported the counselors in any manner possible to allow them more time to share the Gospel with their children. The majority of our service is to humbly serve the counselors and support them, which can be hard for many of our “Salties.” The majority of our “Salties” were campers at one point in the past years, but now they serve in giving back to a place that has helped develop them in so many ways. It is never an easy transition from camper to support staff because we design camp to be completely about the camper, whereas, as a support staff, camp has nothing to do about you. With the second week, I have seen a transformation in each of them to love on the people by putting others before themselves.

As we discussed their thoughts on the SALT program, they stated growth in work ethic, patience, service, and loving others. Along with this inward growth towards others, I believe that they have inwardly grown towards themselves as well. They have become more self-aware of their actions and words towards others, as well as, their self-worth being rooted in Christ rather than men. As my first year leading SALT, it has been amazing to see the small transformation that hopefully will grow as they leave this place, but I have learned from them as well through their challenging questions and community mindedness. Through these weeks, we have grown together in Christ learning about who we are in Christ and where He wants us. It hasn’t been the easiest two weeks, but it has been two weeks of growth and learning. I look forward to leading next years SALT as well. Please continue to pray for these young men and women as they leave Cross Bar X, for the future “Salties” to come, and the leadership in place.



Growing up CBX

By Addie Miller
Growing up a camp kid is a life changing, crazy, fun experience. First of all, camp is life changing when campers come to Christ. It is amazing to see a camper come to camp not caring about Jesus and leave changed completely.



Also, camp days are long and tiring yet wonderful and exciting. You never know what will happen next and every day is adventure at camp. Since I was eight I have been running the Trading Post. It’s crazy and fun and I loved talking with the kids and getting to know them. One day a girl had a rash on her legs and she couldn’t do anything. So, she hung out with me all day. It was so much fun! This year I am not running the Trading Post (Allán, my brother is this year.) This summer, I’m taking pictures! It’s so much fun but a lot more demanding. Growing up at camp is awesome and I love living here. I hope I live here forever!



“I learned about initiative and hard work and to look for ways to serve and help out even when not asked.”



Work Week 2018

We were blessed to have many young families join us for work week this year! In fact, we had 36 children under the age of 16 in attendance!

With the youthful enthusiasm and many willing and able hands and feet, we were able to tackle major renovations, new improvements, past due maintenance, and the regular camp clean-up and preparations.

Some key improvements included:

- A new 1800 gallon water cistern
- New road with utilities to the ropes course
- Foundation log restoration on Eagle Lodge
- Stadium lighting to rec field

“Work Week isn’t just a week of backbreaking labor, it’s a rich time of Christ-centered fellowship!”



“Such a wonderful week of service to our King!”

Hey Campers, what do you love about CBX?	Izzy - 11	Alexis -9	Josh - 11	Bryson - 16
	Hanging out as a community and having plain old fun!!!	Horses and the lake!	Everything, ‘cause this place is amazing!!!	Sharing in fellowship with the SALT staff and leadership and oh, the food!!!!