

Motivating Teen Boys



By Kayla Sanders
Assistant Director/Licensed Social Worker

Today's youth live in a world with high speed technology, low wait times and artificial intelligence. This has lulled the inner motivation to work for answers to questions, or simply anything at all.

Why read a book when Alexa can give you all the information sought, with a simple verbalized question? Answer a text, post this, reply to that, likes, dislikes, thumbs up: all bombard the impressionable young mind of teens seeking affection, acceptance and motivation.

Teenagers can find false acceptance within the emoji's of artificial intelligence and social media or they can find it within their support system. The support system used to be simply "family," however, with the overwhelming number of children no longer living with biological parents, the term family may now include fictive kin.

A foster parent, youth pastor, role model, coach, or friends' parents are often times the person teens look to for guidance and inspiration, both in partnership with parents or in place of them.

So how does one motivate a

young mind consumed with technology? Facetime. No not the smart device application, but actual person to person contact. Taking a teen to a place where Wi-Fi is not available or simply turning it off for 30 minutes a day to just talk can make a tremendous impact on a teen, or even another human being.

Providing consistent, uninterrupted face time gives the sense of one being available. This is not easily forgotten. Drink a shake, play a board game, eat their favorite snack, or just sit and talk.

The first several experiences it is important to be patient and understanding when they are resistant, but don't give up. Just as daily Bible reading induces life application, spending consistent, intentional and interrupted face to face time with a teenager every day will make a life-long impact.

Boys Ranch Celebrates 40th Year

March 2019 will mark the 40th year that Jim and Lovella Yohe established the Boys Ranch. An interesting and aggressive history of growth has ensued since the founding. The LCA school was established and has operated continuously over the years. Numerous buildings have been built. The livestock and agriculture programs have helped to train the boys. We are pleased that over 1,000 boys have participated in our program and have benefitted in a big way.

Ranch Cattle Program Grows

When the Boys Ranch Cattle Project started in 2014, little did we realize it would become an integral part of the program.

Now with 19 heifers and cows,

four steers and one bull, the herd is growing. All livestock is donated.



Ringo (pictured above) is our new (almost four-year old) Ranch bull. He tops the scales at 2,100 lbs. and is as gentle as a lamb. As a Simbrah, he is part Simmental and Brahman (with Angus). He came from Philadelphia, MS., and was a Christmas present to the Boys Ranch. Recent expansion includes a new eight-acre grazing pasture and fencing for the cattle.



Ranch Ambassadors Ron and Jerry Ann Guidroz stay busy as they evangelize across America and represent the Boys Ranch as national ambassadors. They are a tremendous blessing to the Ranch and we appreciate their efforts for this vital ministry. Everywhere they go, they give updates and progress reports about the Boys Ranch.