



THE RANCHER

PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES, INC.®

Summer 2018



**Fun
at the
Fair!**



President's Perspective

Bill Frye,
President, Florida Sheriffs
Youth Ranches, Inc.

“God does not exist to make a big deal out of us. We exist to make a big deal out of him. It’s not about you. It’s not about me. It’s about him.”

– Max Lucado

Recently I was interviewed for the Best of American Horseback television program while they were filming at the Boys Ranch. The interviewer was great at getting me to open up and share my thoughts and feelings regarding the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, especially the Boys Ranch. Near the conclusion of the interview, I was asked the following question, “Fifty years from now, when some of the former ranchers are sitting around a campfire at the horse arena, talking about you, what do you hope they will say?” I must admit that I was taken aback by the question as I have not given much thought to me being the topic of discussion after I am no longer around. My answer was, “I hope they say that I loved the Youth Ranches, had enthusiasm and truly believed in what we did.” To me, that was not much of a response and as the interview closed, I kept thinking back to my answer because it really didn’t sound right but I couldn’t define the reason.

As the day wore on, that last question kept haunting me and it did so for the remainder of the evening. The following morning required that I be in my car, leaving my driveway no later than 5:30 a.m. for central Florida. Now, I don’t know about you, but I really struggle to be up and ready to leave at that hour of the morning! Unless of course, it is about fishing, then the question would become why would you not be up and ready to leave for the perfect



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fishing hole by 5:00 a.m. However, on this day, I was heading out for a meeting.

For all of you early birds reading this, you already know that before 7:00 a.m. the roads are usually light with traffic making it easier to drive, even if you are yawning a lot. On this particular morning, traffic was indeed light and as I drove, I spent time conversing with God, something I typically do. Truth be known, I was talking, he was listening just like in all of our conversations. During this early drive, God provided me some insight and suddenly I knew why my answer to that particular interview question felt so wrong. You see, fifty years from now as alumni are sitting around a campfire talking, I hope and pray that my name never even comes up in the conversation. I pray that each alumnus will share stories about their lives since leaving the Youth Ranches and share pictures of their families which include their wives, children and maybe even grandchildren. I hope they will be laughing and maybe even remembering some of the life changing moments that occurred while living in such a wonderful, safe and loving place that we call the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. If there are conversations to be had of staff, I pray that it will be of the cottage parents and others who shared daily moments and who were beside them in their most significant times of need. I pray they will give thanks to our Lord for providing them a safe haven in their most turbulent times. I pray they will have become like “you” our donors, sharing what they have to help other children; especially children who share the same needs as they did when they were young.

As I drove that morning, with the sun slowly rising in the east, changing the sky from darkness to a pale orange glow, I gave thanks for the answer to the question I was asked the day before. “It’s not about me; it’s about the chance to serve God by taking care of his children!”

Thank you for giving us this amazing opportunity to serve God’s children. Your gifts of love and financial support keep

us going and as you read the Rancher Magazine, you will read for yourself the wonderful stories about the children who call the Youth Ranches their home. As you share in their moments, please know that you too are an integral part of their lives and ‘you’ are making a difference!

God Bless,

Bill Frye

Bill Frye

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Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Ambassadors had the opportunity to meet and speak with U.S. Representative for Florida's 13th congressional district Charlie Crist. They met with Crist and other members of the U.S. Government to advocate for group childcare.

The Youth Ranches goes to Washington, D.C.!

This spring, eight Ranchers went on a trip to the nation's capital, where they learned about the country's origins and the importance of advocating for themselves. They had the unique opportunity to meet face-to-face and share their experiences with government officials who work so hard to influence federal law in Florida's best interest.

The first day was dedicated to America's roots. There is no better way of learning about history than experiencing it! On the Ranchers' drive up to Washington, D.C., the group stopped at Colonial Williamsburg and visited the historic site of Williamsburg, as well as America's first British settlement, Jamestown. The young men and women

learned about the nation's origins and sat where America's founding fathers sat when they decided to stand up for the nation and fight for independence.

The Ranchers, who had the opportunity to choose and vote on places they would like to see throughout the journey, were eager to begin undertaking their itinerary. The group defied the cold weather to spend two fun, educational days visiting museums and memorials. They learned about a variety of things, including Native Americans, aviation and even espionage at the Spy Museum. Our students also paid tribute to some of our nation's fallen heroes and their loved ones at Arlington National Cemetery. The young men and women also

toured the national memorials, saw the White House and enjoyed a guided tour of the capitol.

With our cornerstones for success — “work, study, play and pray” — in mind, fun was just as important as education throughout the trip. At the Spy Museum, for example, the young men and women proved their cleverness by solving the mystery of a stolen object.

The Ranchers celebrated the last evening of their trip on ice. “Thank you so much for letting us ice-skate — this was so much fun!” exclaimed Kalahn, summing up what a great time the kids had. For some of the Ranchers, this was the first time they had ever stepped on ice, with or without skates.



Play is the reward for hard work and the Ranchers spent the last two days of

Youth Ranches ambassadors pose in front of the United States Capitol. It is the home of the United States Congress and the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government.



While in D.C. the Youth Ranches Ambassadors met with United States Representative for Florida's 3rd congressional district Ted Yoho. During their meeting they spoke about the benefits of organizations like the Youth Ranches.

their journey on Capitol Hill, where they had the opportunity to meet with some of Florida's representatives and their staff. Throughout these two days, moments of magic occurred. Allowing the Ranchers to tell their stories first-hand was the most convincing proof of the Youth Ranches' good work with Florida's children and families. One congressman even shared his own story of despair and hope with the Ranchers, encouraging them to always pursue their dreams.

These two days also provided the young men and women with the opportunity to learn about federal legislature. “I didn't know about any of the things that are happening right now — this is so important!” Carrie said after learning about the most-recent legislative developments related to child welfare.

The Youth Ranches' staff members work hard to make magic moments like these possible for all our Ranchers. We thank our generous donor family for enabling us to provide children with special experiences like this journey. ★



Ranches welcome spring with annual open house events

Each spring, we host an open house event at our Bradenton/Sarasota, Youth Villa, Caruth Camp and Safety Harbor campuses. This year, we were blessed with some wonderful spring weather and the amazing company of friends, families, donors

and law enforcement officers who joined us for the event. The boys and girls showed our guests around and talked about how important the Youth Ranches are to them.

Take a look at some of our favorite open house moments. ★

..... Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa Bartow, Florida



..... **Caruth Camp**
Inglis, Florida



..... **Youth Ranch Bradenton - Sarasota**
Parrish, Florida



..... **Youth Ranch Safety Harbor**
Safety Harbor, Florida





Brian proudly poses with his third place ribbon for showmanship following the Suwannee County Fair Heifer Show.

HEIFER PROGRAM BUILDS A WINNING ATTITUDE



Malaki, Thomas, Brian and Greg worked hard for 16 weeks to be able to show heifers at the fair.

Every fall, any number of youth at the Boys Ranch think they are ready to take on the months-long challenge of participating in the Heifer Program. This year, more than 25 boys and girls expressed interest, but as the immense responsibility and time commitment grew, only four had the stamina and determination to see it through to the finish line.

This past November, Greg, Thomas, Brian and Malaki began a four-month journey to the heifer show.

Their journey began with selecting a heifer. Our Ranchers start out by choosing from cows that are not yet accustomed to human contact. Each young man forms a bond with his animal. They put in time and energy to build trust with their cows. Without that trust and friendship, they would not be able to train the cow to walk with a lead. The boys are taught to have a keen eye for sturdy build and good breeding, knowing that these are traits prized by the judges.

“We also learned that one of the things the judges look for from us is eye contact,” Malaki said. “In the arena we are supposed to be watching the judge at all times.”

As you can imagine, getting a cow to walk obediently on a leash takes an

incredible amount of work and patience on the part of our young men, and is rarely ever simple. Without that steadfast dedication to completing the project, they wouldn't be able to make it all the way to show day, which is an accomplishment in itself.

“A lot of other heifers in the competition have been fed, trained and fattened up since they were born just for the show,” Greg said. “But all of our heifers are kept on a natural diet so they can be successfully put back with the herd when we are done at the fair. I think some judges appreciate that.”

Haley Eatmon, Assistant Farm Manager, who worked with the boys along the way, could not have been more proud of the young men. “They all did great! I am so proud of them. It has been great to watch them grow and learn through this whole process,” she said.

This year, Haley and the young men had even more to be excited about. Brian took home a third-place ribbon in showmanship



Malaki poses next to his heifer. Each boy works with one heifer to form a bond.

in the senior age division. This is all the more impressive because he was competing against other teens, many of whom had been showing cattle since they were children.

Brian and the rest of the young men prove that with determination

and a positive attitude, you can accomplish anything. ★

GLIMPSES OF SUCCESS



Youth Villa Alumni Kim poses with her family at the holidays. She has two sons and two daughters.

Learning to earn your goals

Glimpses of Success – Kimberly

When Kimberly (Kim) and her sister Chris came to the Youth Ranches in 1987, it was only supposed to be a temporary placement to give their mother time to get her life back together. The school system in Clearwater had recognized that the children might not have been in the best situation and environment, and stepped in on their behalf. Their older brother had gone to live with grandparents and the two young girls had been bounced around between several other facilities before finding a stable living situation at the Youth Ranches. The temporary placement eventually turned into years, and the Youth Ranches became the girls' permanent home.

"We both started out at Safety Harbor campus," Kim said, "but my sister and I



Kim celebrates her recent graduation with three of her children.

had a complicated relationship. I was more like a mother to her. I only cared about making sure my sister was OK, and I think they realized that living in the same house was preventing both of us from progressing and moving forward."

Kim moved to the Youth Villa, where she began to feel more comfortable, but she still struggled to let down her guard and tear down walls that years of mistrust and a troubled past had helped her build up. "I challenged them



Kim had a passion for helping others even while at the Youth Villa. In this photo she is training to become a life guard.

all the time,” Kim admitted. “At one point, I was on 15-minute intervals of supervision. I couldn’t go 15 minutes without getting in trouble.” Kim laughed as she said that she is getting a taste of her own medicine now, as her teenaged daughter is displaying some of the same strong-willed personality traits that she had herself as a teen.

“I had real anger and trust issues. I couldn’t believe that someone was really trying to help me,” she said. “I couldn’t see it.” But the tireless and caring staff finally started getting through to her. They refused to give up and let Kim continue to feed the anger and hate she had stored in her heart. “There are still sometimes to this day where I will have a rough day and I can feel that anger rising back up in me, but I don’t. I learned that I don’t want to live my life full of hate.”

Kim started to trust that the Youth Ranches were on her side and she began to shine. “It was a great experience,” she said. “I learned a lot. Most importantly, accountability — I learned I am responsible for my own behavior, choices and future.”

Kim got her education back on track, earned her GED and began school to become a nurse’s aide. She was a scholarship recipient, but at 17, found herself pregnant and alone. “I was staying at a home for pregnant girls. I was pregnant and riding the bus to and from school every day,” Kim explained. “I wasn’t going to give up.” Kim may have been by herself and struggling, but she said the Youth Ranches

never gave up on her. At her lowest point, a staffer even visited her and encouraged her to keep going. “He came and sat with me and told me, ‘You can do this. Just keep doing what you’re doing and keep going to the place you want to be,’” she said. “And I did. I did it. It’s possible. I graduated from nurse’s aide school a few days before giving birth to my son.”

Kim never lost sight of her goals or the Youth Ranches. She is now the mother of four amazing children. She earned her Bachelor’s in Nursing and, after 15 years of traveling the country as a nurse as part of a cardiac surgery team, recently went back to school and earned her Master’s as a Nurse Anesthetist, beating out hundreds of other applicants half her age for the competitive program.

“What the Youth Ranches did for me was immeasurable,” Kim said, briefly overcome with emotion. “My cottage parents are like grandparents to my children; they are a



Kim and her sister both had their lives changed by the Youth Ranches.

huge part of my life still.”

Kim has used the lessons she learned at the Ranch to help encourage her own children to want to be successful and to never take the advantages they have

in life for granted. “I look at my sister and myself, and we had so many advantages thanks to the Youth Ranches. She is now a Catheter Lab Tech with two kids. I was always told that if you have no education, you have no choices. I have been living by that life lesson ever since. The Youth Ranches showed us that there is more to life than just scraping by. The Youth Ranches taught us to want to succeed. I can’t say enough about how grateful I am to have them in my life.” ★



Jada and A.J. are all smiles at the Suwannee County Fair before the hog auction.

Ranchers go “hog wild” at Suwannee County Fair



Jada shows off her third place ribbon in the hog show.

The Heifer Program at the Youth Ranches has been a staple of fair time at the Boys Ranch for years, but showing hogs at the fair hadn't happened for quite some time. When one of the cottage parents

suggested the idea of raising hogs again, two of our Ranchers were immediately up for the challenge.

“I thought it would be fun and something new,” Jada said.



A.J.'s hog was chosen as a judge's pick at the show.

For Jada and A.J., showing a hog at the fair was something completely unique. “We learned a lot about hogs!” A.J. said. “They eat a lot and they can be lazy,” he added with a laugh.

With the guidance of the local 4-H Club, which is associated with the United States Department of Agriculture, Jada and A.J. learned to care for, train and show their hogs in preparation for the Suwannee County Agricultural Fair.



Jada leads her hog, Pinky at the hog auction.

“It was hard work,” A.J. said. Jada agreed, adding, “It takes a lot of time and effort to raise a show pig.”

The two Ranchers learned a lot during their time raising pigs, not just about the pigs themselves, but about responsibility, confidence and patience.

Making sure the hogs were well cared for, fed and clean took up a lot of the teens’ time. Before and after school, they were on hog duty. They both admitted that sometimes it was really difficult work ... and smelly work. They both also learned to be more self-confident.

Part of showing a hog at the fair is showmanship. Eye contact with judges, knowing and being able to talk about the

animal, and controlling the hog in the arena are three huge factors that contestants are judged on, and both Jada and A.J. presented with pride and confidence.

A.J.’s pig, “Breakfast,” was chosen by the judge as one of the top of his class. Out of the top picks by the judge, A.J. and Breakfast ranked fourth. Jada’s hog, “Pinky,” received a third-place ribbon in her class of pigs.

Jada and A.J. also both presented their hogs at auction and were pleasantly surprised as the bids kept climbing. They each took home a respectable prize for their efforts.

When asked if they would raise hogs again, both responded with an immediate *yes!* Despite the hard work and long hours, they learned valuable life lessons they can take with them far beyond the farm and the Boys Ranch.



A.J. keeps his hog, Breakfast posed for easy judging.

Each day is full of opportunities for learning and growth. It is thanks to our donor family that the Youth Ranches can offer our youth unique experiences that teach them skills they can use for the rest of their lives — including going “hog wild” by raising, training and showing pigs. ★



Youth Ranch Alumni Willie, Contractor Josh Adams, Youth Ranch Alumni Wally, Polk Sheriff's Charities, Inc. Secretary Angie Hibbard, FSYR President Bill Frye, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd, Polk County Sheriff Deputy Major Loyd Stewart, Youth Ranches Alumna Alexis and Youth Ranch Alumni Daniel cut the ribbon for the Polk Sheriff's Charities Scholarship House.

A new home for continued education

Polk Sheriff's Charities Scholarship House opens at Youth Villa

For the past 60 years, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has made academics one of our highest priorities. For our Ranchers, a good education is the foundation of success. The importance of learning a trade, going to college and taking continued education is a pillar of the Youth Ranches and its generous donor family.

For years, the Youth Ranches have had the opportunity to offer scholarships to Ranchers who have applied themselves and desired to pursue an education. Alexis, a former Rancher who received her bachelor's degree from Florida Southern and is pursuing a Master's of Social Work through our scholarship program, expressed her sincere gratitude for the opportunity. "I was so fortunate to be a part of the Youth Ranches Scholarship Program," she said. "Without that, I doubt I would have even been able to go to college at all, let alone



The Polk Sheriff's Charities Scholarship House received renovation inside and out to prepare for the first residents in the fall of 2018.

have so many options available to me."

Over the same years, however, many of our scholarship recipients have struggled to

find their footing after leaving the Ranch. The pressures of school and being on their own often came at the cost of their education. "My freshman year of college was rough," Tasheen, another scholarship recipient, admitted. "I was away from home, away from the Ranch, and I suddenly had all of this freedom. My grades slipped and I was in danger of losing my scholarship and even being kicked out of school. The Youth

Ranch was there for me with some tough love and encouragement.”

Tasheen’s story was a familiar one. She went on to earn her Master’s in Counseling, but many others have come up short. Although we provide our youth with mentors, it seemed that even when they tried their best, some of our students were still struggling in their first year of college. It made us ask ourselves, “How do we help our students be more successful after they leave the Ranch?”

The answer to the question is the newest addition to the Youth Villa: the Polk Sheriff's Charities Scholarship House.

The Polk Sheriff's Charities Scholarship House is the realization of a dream to help young men and women who have graduated from high school continue their education in a safe and stable environment. This home will provide them with fewer distractions as they make their transition to independent living and successful adulthood.

Polk Sheriff's Charities Scholarship House located in Sunshine Cottage will be



The renovated kitchen will soon be ready for a dozen young men and women attending college or trade school in Polk County.

home to 10–12 Youth Ranches Scholarship recipients and a pair of live-in Scholarship House advisors. These students will have 24-hour access to staff for emotional, personal and collegiate support.

We believe that creating the Scholarship House on campus will vastly improve our students’ educational success rates as they make their way into adulthood.



The family style dining room is ready for its new residents.

The Scholarship House was a passion not only at the Youth Ranches, but also Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd. He rallied behind the idea and through the Polk Sheriff's Charities, generously contributed funds to help us get the project up and running.

In the future, we look forward to partnering with other agencies and programs who work with education-focused youth who are aging out of the foster care system and could benefit from our Scholarship House. The Youth Ranches hopes to see great success from this undertaking and will be prepared to expand and open further scholarship houses as the need arises.

With our new Scholarship House, we hope to see even more success stories like Alexis and Tasheen. “I was accepted to the Youth Ranches scholarship program and for that I am forever grateful,” Tasheen said. “The Youth Ranches continues to take care of me in so many ways. Because of the Youth Ranches, I can proudly say ‘I made it!’”

The new Scholarship House is just one more way the Youth Ranches are working to take care of deserving youth across the state of Florida. It is thanks to donors like you that we can offer opportunities for students to continue their education and continue on a path to success. ★

David was quickly heading down a bad path.

He was only ten years old, but the young man's bad attitude and unruly behavior were clearly becoming a problem.

Thankfully, David's cousin was in law enforcement and knew the young man needed a positive influence and something



to keep him out of trouble over the summer.

He encouraged David and his mom to check out the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Summer Camp. To David, it looked like a fun chance to

canoe and swim at the springs but to his mom, it was so much more.

What makes summer camp at the Youth Ranches so unique is that in addition to fun and recreation, camp also provides an opportunity for Deputy Sheriffs and other Law Enforcement

Volunteers to get personally involved with the campers to form positive, healthy and respectful relationships with authority.

David's cousin had hoped the opportunity to go to camp would help set him on a better path, and it did! After David returned from camp he couldn't wait to go back!

David is now a Leader in Training working hard to become the authority figure he once rebelled against. **Summer Camp made him want to be a better person and to become a role model for kids just like him!**

"I like meeting new kids and getting to know them," David adds. Some of them remind him so much of himself; troubled, in need and so deserving of the opportunity to change.

Will you help make a difference in the life of a child? You can provide an opportunity for a child to make new friends and to develop trusting, lifelong friendships with caring adults. You can help children learn that law officers are indeed their friends and that anyone can change for the better! ★



Please help a deserving child attend Summer Camp this year!



YES! I want to sponsor a boy or girl at Summer Camp!

Here is my gift of \$250 (full campership) \$125 \$75
 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$_____

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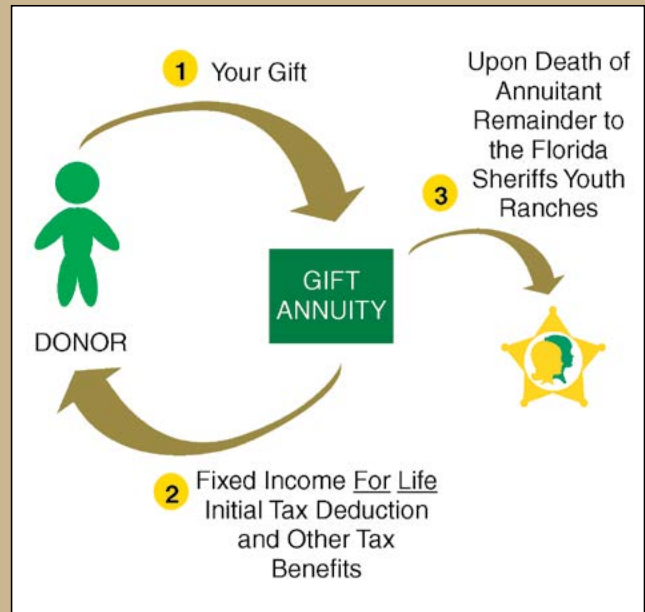
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If you have cash, stocks or property that you would like to transfer into a Gift Annuity with the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and want to lock in this annual payment rate, please contact Debbie Parnell at 1-800-765-3797 for a free, personalized example. Joint rates can also be given upon request. Available to Florida residents age 65 or older.



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Please call us at (800) 765-3797 if you have any questions.

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65	4.7	\$470
70	5.1	\$510
75	5.8	\$580
80	6.8	\$680
85	7.8	\$780
90+	9.0	\$900

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The Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises accepts vehicles in fair to great condition. If your vehicle has proper emission controls, fair tires, no major body or rust damage, and the engine/transmission are in good working order, please consider sharing this resource with our charity.

Your donation will be used to benefit the boys and girls of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

For more information about how to donate your vehicle, call us today at 800-338-0377.



www.sre4kids.org

Please Note: The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 contains new rules pertaining to the charitable deduction allowed for vehicles donated to a qualified charity after December 31, 2004. Basically, this law limits the donor's tax deduction to \$500, or the gross proceeds from the sale of the vehicle, if over \$500. We recognize that each individual's tax situation is different and the impact of any charitable deduction is based on a variety of circumstances. You are strongly encouraged to consult with your independent tax advisor.

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Make a Great Charitable Gift!

Would you consider making a gift to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches through your will, trust or possibly list us as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy?

Your gift, small or large, will help us prevent delinquency and develop lawful, productive members of our communities.

Many people believe in our children and want to help, but they need to preserve the money they have right now to cover the rising cost of medical care and other living expenses. We understand this dilemma and know you should first care for yourself and your loved ones. However, one way you can fulfill your intent to support our boys and girls is by including the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in your will or other estate plans.

As you think about your plans, a simple way to make a commitment

INSURANCE
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*"I bequeath to the
Florida Sheriffs
Youth Ranches,
Inc.,"*

of this type would be to change the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or add the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, PO Box 2000, Boys Ranch, FL 32064

as a beneficiary to your investment or retirement account.

This will ensure the remaining funds will be used to help serve the children in our care. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about these gifting options, please contact President Bill Frye at (800) 765-3797.



Your will should be reviewed annually.



About your estate planning...

Many of our friends have thoughtfully made provisions in their estate planning for our boys and girls. If you are considering a gift of this nature, or if you would just like to know more about the many and varied opportunities for sharing, we can help. At your invitation, it would be our privilege and pleasure to visit you in your home. If you prefer, you are welcome to visit us, or we can furnish information by mail or telephone, whichever is most practical and convenient.

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Address inquiries to:
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Boys Ranch, Florida 32064
Telephone: (386) 842-5501

The proper legal name to provide a bequest is:

"I bequeath to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., Boys Ranch, Florida 32064:
100% of the residual amount of my estate • a specific amount of \$ _____ • a description of the property
a certain quantity of stocks." (or any combination of the above.)

A new sound in Safety Harbor



“I used to hate Mondays,” Acaia, one of the Safety Harbor Ranchers who is participating in voice lessons said. “I like Mondays now!”

It’s easy to see that Hantz and Lissette Metellus and nearly a dozen other volunteers have brought a new sound to the Youth Ranches Safety Harbor campus, but it is more than just music for our youth.

Lissette teaches voice and her husband can play and teach nearly any instrument you could think of including: piano, violin, drums and viola. For the last two years the pair and the other volunteers have held hour long weekly jam sessions and lessons for the boys and girls in Safety Harbor. They work with our Ranchers to explore their creativity and experience the benefits of music therapy that go far beyond simply learning to sing or play an instrument.

Acaia and several other young ladies have been taking voice lessons with Lissette. The trio were quiet, barely singing above a whisper when the sessions started, but weeks later their confidence has grown as they beautifully rehearsed their song.

Research has found that learning music actually improves a students learning ability in other subjects and enhances skills that children use in other areas. Learning an instrument or learning to sing teaches the Ranchers discipline, and children who are taught music have been proven to have better test scores in school than those who have had no musical or vocal training. Their education isn’t the only thing that is getting better, the students' attitudes have also improved since beginning the program.

“It’s like somebody coming out of a caterpillar shell and becoming a butterfly, said Lissette, “and that transition happens every time.”

For our Ranchers, not only is learning music a way to express themselves and improve motor skills, but they also are gaining confidence, developing critical thinking abilities and it is also a way for them to relax.

Many of our young men and women come from situations or a home life they would like to forget. Music education provides a chance for them to focus their energy on something positive and forget about their past and look forward to their future. With the help of the music education volunteers our Ranchers are able to channel their energy into playing an instrument. When they feel like screaming, instead they can use their voice to sing.

It is thanks to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers that we are able to help these deserving young men and women explore new talents and find healing through positive outlets. ★

Law Enforcement leaving a legacy

The Youth Ranches touches more lives than just the young men and women who call us home or attend one of our camps. Each year thousands of deserving children's only chance to experience camp is through the Youth Ranches. Whether it is Summer Camp, Day Camp or Harmony in the Streets this experience is often life changing for the boys and girls who attend. It can also leave a lasting effect on families, like that of Brad Fojtik.

Brad Fojtik served on the Indian River County Sheriff's Office SWAT team for nearly 30 years, spent time working as a School Resource Officer and Ranch and Grove Deputy, as well as a Sergeant in both units. But every summer for much of his career, he could be found playfully cannonballing into the swimming pool and carefully soldering leather bracelets at the craft cabin.

Fojtik spent his summers as a volunteer at the Youth Ranches Summer Camp. The Youth Ranches Summer Camp teaches that Law Enforcement are our friends. Brad Fojtik is one of those friends.

Each and every year men just like Brad Fojtik leave a long lasting, life-changing impact on children around the state.

At camp, Fojtik spent time making positive and meaningful connections with our campers. Our staff and volunteer officers help teach communication, perseverance and compassion; all while enjoying activities like canoeing, high ropes course, swimming, crafts and more!

Like many other dedicated Law Enforcement volunteers, her dad didn't have to spend time each year supporting kids from around the state, but he did. His daughter, Katie, shared that they were all better for it. "The effects of his service extended beyond those weeks in



Law Enforcement officers like Indian River County Sheriff's Office Deputy Brad Fojtik, left, help teach summer camp attendees that law enforcement officers really are their friends.

Barberville. My dad and his work with the Youth Ranches taught me about trying my best, being part of a team, laughing at myself and appreciating the outdoors. The Ranch values of integrity, quality, stewardship and character were all things woven

throughout my childhood, thanks to my dad and mom."

Fojtik is retiring this year and Katie added, "With my dad's retirement this year, I am reminded of all he has accomplished. He may be leaving behind the uniform, but, more importantly, he is leaving his imprint on the kids he mentored each summer."

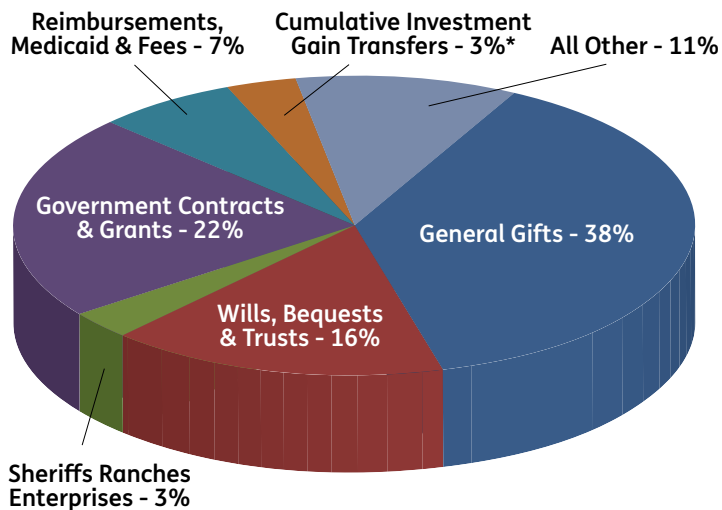
Each and every year men just like Brad Fojtik leave a long lasting, life-changing impact on children around the state. We are so grateful to our Sheriffs and Deputy volunteers for helping children build positive relationships with Law Enforcement.

"As my husband and I raise our own two daughters, we're embracing those same values and lessons in our household. I can only hope that my dad's influence was felt by others each summer like it was by me throughout the years, and that other officers will continue the Ranches' traditions in the future," Katie said with pride.

Without our generous donors opportunities like this wouldn't be possible for children all across the state of Florida. Our campers are so grateful for our donor family and our volunteer Law Enforcement. ★

Annual Report 2016-2017 at a Glance

Revenue 2016 - 2017



Expenditures 2016 - 2017

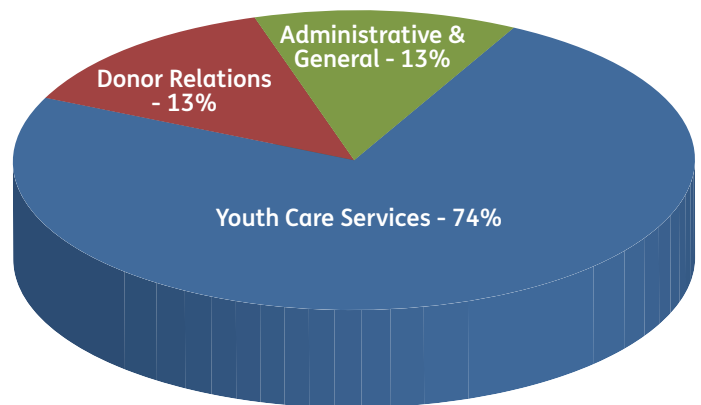


Chart Reflects Percentages of Operational Expenses.

General Gifts	\$5,977,457
Wills, Bequests & Trusts	2,521,626
Sheriffs Ranches Enterprises	452,790
Government Contracts & Grants	3,489,845
Reimbursements, Medicaid & Fees	1,054,739
*Cumulative Investment Gain Transfers	500,000
All Other	<u>1,633,092</u>
Total**	<u>\$15,629,549</u>

*Cumulative investment gains were transferred to help meet budget expenses.

** Represents total public support, revenue and net assets released from time and use restrictions.

Youth Care Services	\$11,499,835
Donor Relations	2,044,690
Administrative & General	<u>1,930,703</u>
Operational Expenses	\$15,475,228
Capital Outlay	<u>\$725,209</u>
Total Operational Expenses & Capital Outlay	<u>\$16,200,437</u>

This report is a summary of our financial activity for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017. A complete audit prepared by Batts, Morrison, Wales and Lee, Certified Public Accountants, Orlando, Florida, is also available. The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

For a copy of the complete audit, contact:

Bill Frye, President
Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.
P.O. Box 2000 ★ Boys Ranch, FL 32064
www.youthranches.org

Programs & Services

Residential Leadership Programs are hosted at camp and led in conjunction with community partners. This sometimes includes JROTC, ROTC and other leadership groups who work with us to lead young people through challenging activities to help them grow in their leadership skills.

Summer Day Camp consists of a variety of camping activities. These day camps are held on campus at the Youth Ranches around the state. Each one has special components whether it is a challenge course, horseback riding and horsemanship skills or a focus on aquatics, each Youth Ranch is a valuable resource to the community.

Boys Ranch

Residential Care	103
Referral Services	463
Summer Day Camp	68
Total.....	634

Youth Villa

Residential Care	71
Total.....	71

Youth Camp

Residential Camp.....	478
Harmony in the Streets.....	665
Residential Leadership.....	14
Other Camping Services.....	640
Total.....	1,797

Youth Ranch Safety Harbor

Residential Care	65
Summer Day Camp	2,582
Total.....	2,647

Youth Ranch Bradenton-Sarasota

Residential Care	57
Summer Day Camp	84
Total.....	141

Caruth Camp

Residential Camp.....	465
Harmony in the Streets.....	713
Harmony in the Schools.....	580
Residential Leadership.....	245
Other Camping Services.....	34
Total.....	2,037

Youth Service Statistics

Average Age of Youth in Residence 12 years

Average Length of Stay in Residence 10 months

Youth Served at On-campus Learning Center..... 82

Youth on A/B Honor Roll..... 40

Youth on College Scholarship 19

Youth Volunteering in Community..... 52

Total Youth Served

in 2016-2017..... 6,864

Total Cases Opened

Since 1957..... 152,083



★ AWARDS, EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS



Mrs. Carol Brandes recently donated more than 50 handmade pillowcases to the boys and girls at the Youth Ranches. Mrs. Brandes purchased the materials and put in hours of work to make sure our boys and girls have a little bit of color and comfort. Thank you so much for your kind donation.



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Mike Gauger presents FSYR President Bill Frye with a check for \$40,000 from the recent 2018 Palm Beach County Golf Tournament. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to prevent delinquency.



David Cahill and Elizabeth Rollins of Safelite AutoGlass in Tampa Bay presented a check to FSYR Director of Development Wayne Witczak in recognition of their newly established corporate partnership and to help children in need.



The Joseph family presented FSYR President Bill Frye with a check to help the young men and women of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. The Joseph family joined us for a fun and exciting day at the recent Youth Villa Open House.



FSYR President Bill Frye accepts a check from Indian River County Sheriff Deryl Loar from the Annual Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches Barbecue hosted by the Indian River County Sheriff's Office. This money will go towards helping the young men and women who call the Youth Ranches home.

AWARDS, EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS



A check from the P&C on the Sea Fishing Tournament was recently presented to FSyr VP of Residential Programs Chuck Deitch and FSyr Director of Development Wayne Witczak. Attending the presentation were ServiceKing representatives April Delinger and Lisa Hallam, Safelite AutoGlass representatives Marolyn Hair and Liz Rollins, Service Master representatives Michael Clayton and Courtney Brown as well as Enterprise representative Mona Warren. Thank you so much for caring and sharing with our Ranchers.



Consuelo and Felix Munoz presented a check in the newly renovated Polk Sheriff's Charities Scholarship House at the Youth Villa Open House. Thank you so much for your generous gift to the children we serve.



Wayne Martin, Retired Calhoun County Sheriff Buddy Smith, Sharlyn Smith, Pat Williams and Butch Williams presented FSyr President Bill Frye with a check for \$6,000 from the 2017 Calhoun County Gospel Sing. This generous donation will help us continue our work of helping at-risk youth across the state of Florida.



Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gaultieri presents FSyr President Bill Frye with a check for \$40,000 from the 22nd Annual Pinellas Sheriffs Golf Tournament. We are so grateful for their continued support in giving our youth hope for the future.



The Flagler County Mounted Posse Unit was joined by some of our young men and women from the Boys Ranch for the McCulley Farms fundraiser. Over the past two years the Flagler County Mounted Posse Unit has raised more than \$7,000 for the Youth Ranches.



Hidden Valley Community Sale presents a check to FSyr Donor Relations Officer Debi Girard celebrating their 40th Anniversary of giving. The Hidden Valley Community sale raised more than \$1,000 in cash and an additional \$1,000 in non-cash items each year.



AWARDS, EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS



On March 7th a check was presented for the proceeds of the 28th Annual Chowder Festival Hosted by Moose Legion #227 and Flagler Avenue Business Association. The event was held January 28th and raised \$7,263.52. In the 28 years this Special Event has raised \$122,415.00 for the children of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Present for the presentation were: Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood,FSYR Donor Relations Officer Debi Girard, Vice President Moose Legion #227 David Blumenauer, Secretary Moose Legion #227 Keith Bradshaw, President Moose Legion #227 David Butler, Recording Secretary Moose Legion #227 Robin Fulghum and FSYR President Bill Frye



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Helping Our Children through a Memorial Gift.

Contributions to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches are listed in alphabetical order by name of the deceased. Donors are listed after the name of the person in whose memory they contributed.

Memorial Gifts from January 1, 2018 - March 31, 2018

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| WAYNE E. ALBERT
Mr. Marvin Marr | MARY JANE APONTE
Mr. Victor M. Aponte | MASON BALSMAN
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Girard |
| MRS. ANNA M. ALKINBURG
Mr. Donald E. Alkinburg | MURIEL "MIDGE" APPLETON
Ms. Carolyn J. Forrest | Mr. & Mrs. George A. Lehor |
| PAUL ALLARD
Mr. Robert Dupras | PATRICIA D. ARENS
Mr. Edward W. Arens, Sr. | BARBARA BAPTIST
Mr. George R. Baptist |
| DONALD ALLEN
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Milleman | WILBUR ARNETTE
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Yarick | Mr. & Mrs. Christopher D. Granholm |
| MIKE ALLEN
The Honorable & Mrs.
William N. Meggs | DR. RUSSELL W. "BILL" AUST
Mr. & Mrs. Stevan K. Bass | GILBERT BARBOT
Mr. Lou R. Ruiz |
| MARY ANN ALLISON
Dr. Ronald E. Allison | Mr. & Mrs. Roger O. Bouchard, Jr. | ANTONIO BARNCASTLE
R. J. Barncastle |
| GERALD F. ALTHOUSE, SR.
Ms. Margaret Althouse | Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Burrell | BARBARA BASS
Ms. Joanne C. Cox |
| JOANNE E. ALTHOUSE
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Mr. & Mrs. John V. D'Albora, Jr. | Ms. Elizabeth J. Heal | WILLIAM A. BAUER
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie C. Pearson |
| LCDR & Mrs. Cecil R.
Hurst, Jr. USN | Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kenny | BARBARA SUE BECK
Mr. & Mrs. Joan Green |
| HENRY THOMAS AMAN, SR.
Mr. James M. Gabriel | Mrs. Maria Knapp | RITCHARD BECK
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel B. Love, Jr. |
| Sheriff & Mrs. David B. Shoar | Sheriff & Mrs. Geoffrey
Monge (Ret.) | LANA BECRAFT
Mr. John E. Becraft |
| BARBARA A. ANDERSON
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Mrs. Diane R. Beland |
| BRYM ANDERSON
Mr. Russell E. Nansen | Ms. Barbara E. Rowell | SAM BENNETT
Ms. Cindy Eatmon |
| CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON
Mr. Norman E. Anderson | Ernest J. & Sherrie Rowell | ALEC BENSON
Mr. John E. Finch |
| PAUL ANDREW
Mr. & Mrs. Truman J. Wilder | Scott F. Rowell | TOM BERARDI
Ms. Joan K. Berardi |
| ANGELA
Ms. Judith Olmstead | Shaina F. Rowell Jarcia, PhD | JOHN BERENS
Ms. Barbara S. Holcomb |
| ROBERT ANTHONY
Mr. Kirk Anthony | Marjorie A. Rowell | BERNICE BERGERON
Mrs. Rose S. Pastula |
| | William C. & Lota Rowell | SCOTT ANTHONY BERGNER
Ms. Virginia E. Campbell |
| | Jillian G. M. Rowell | ALBERT LEE BLAIKIE
Mrs. Wynn B. Cook |
| | John P. Rowell | |
| | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stewart | |
| | Mr. John R. Taylor | |
| | REV. DEACON GREGORIO AYALA
Mr. & Mrs. Tye E. Barber | |
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Mrs. Carol A. Bagley | |
| | Ms. Mary C. Cahalane | |
| | EDMUND BALCOM
Ms. Sally A. Balcom | |
| | COL. DALE H. BALKE
Mrs. Virginia A. Balke | |

Estate and Trust Gifts

ESTATES

Katherine U. McMannis
William H. McMannis

.....
The Sheriffs of Florida and the Board of Directors of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc. would like to extend their sincere appreciation for the gifts received between January 1, 2018 and March 31, 2018 from estates and trusts.

- | | |
|--|--|
| DIANE V. BLICK
Mr. George L. Blick | MARILYN BOSHELL
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Appelblatt |
| SUSAN ELIZABETH BLOWERS
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Mr. Roy L. Bubb |
| | FLORENCE BUBB
Mr. Roy L. Bubb |

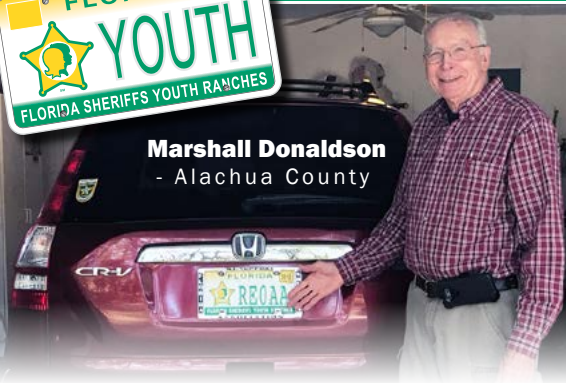


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|---|--|---|--|--|
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Mr. Grover Cleveland | GERALDINE DEBIEN
Mr. Edward C. Herfort | TIM DIETIKER
Ms. Joan E. Dietiker | CAROL EMANUELSON
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Cummsiskey |
| RAY BURKE
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Be A Mobile Ambassador!



Marshall Donaldson
- Alachua County



"We put a star on all of our cars for more than 20 years! We love the Youth Ranches!"

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Specialty License Plate provides Florida citizens with a unique and personal way to help in the mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches! See your tax collector to purchase your plate!

DID YOU KNOW?

100% of our specialty license plate sales go directly to our children in program. By putting a **Star on Your Car** you help Florida's needy boys and girls find shelter, guidance and self-confidence.

WE WANT TO THANK YOU!

When you sign up for the FSYR plate at your local tax collector's office, be sure to check the box that releases your contact information so that we can properly thank you, our generous donor!

PUT A STAR ON YOUR CAR!
Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
Mending Lives, Healing Hearts



★ For more information call (800) 765-3797 or visit us online at www.youthranches.org. ★



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Mr. & Mrs. John C. Johnson
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Mr. & Mrs. Ernest F. Chapman
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Dr. Stephan L. Hatch
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HOLLINGSWORTH
Mrs. June L. Hollingsworth
- AUDRIA HOUGH
CMSgt & Mrs. James R. Hough, Jr. USAF (Ret.)
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- HERBERT E. HURST, JR.
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- IAN JAMES
Mr. & Mrs. Truman J. Wilder
- JAMIE
Ms. Nancy A. Wilkinson
- JAN
Ms. Nancy A. Wilkinson
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Jefferson County Retired
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Mr. Lawrence T. Katz
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- THOMAS KEATING
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 Ms. Sue Carol Musgrove

IKEA (DOG)
 Ms. June F. Schnepf

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Helping Our Children through an Honor Gift.

A gift may be made to the Youth Ranches in honor of a person and/or a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, etc. If appropriate, and if a mailing address is provided, a card of acknowledgement will be sent to the person being honored. A listing of the donor and the person honored will appear in a future issue of *The Rancher* magazine and, when address is provided, the person honored will receive a copy of the issue in which his or her name appears. In the listing below, the Honoree is listed first in all caps.

**Honor Gifts from
January 1, 2018 -
March 31, 2018**

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CARL
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USAF (Ret.)
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youthranches](http://www.youtube.com/user/youthranches)



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Join the "THE ROUNDUP"

Join "The Roundup" email newsletter to receive monthly updates from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. Visit www.youthranches.org and sign up in the "Join the Roundup" pop-up window.



MOVING?



Please fill this form out and return promptly if you're moving, even temporarily.

Use the envelope enclosed in the center of this magazine.



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc.
P.O. Box 2000
Boys Ranch, FL 32064
fsyr@youthranches.org
www.youthranches.org

- I'm moving. Please change my address as indicated below.
- My address will change temporarily.
Date from _____ to _____
- Please delete my name from your mailing list.

Name (please print)

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Mark Your Calendar

55th Annual Youth Villa Classic Golf Tournament

May 25-28 – The Youth Villa Classic will take place at the City of Bartow Golf Course. The address for the Bartow Golf Course is 190 Idlewood Avenue, Bartow, FL. Please contact Kayla Bianchi at (386) 842-5501 for more information on any Youth Villa Classic activity.

Suwannee County Sheriff's Office 2018 Run and Row

September 1st – 3K run plus canoe the Suwannee River to the Boys Ranch for BBQ lunch. Details coming soon.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Annual Ranch Run

September 15th – For more information contact the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Division at the following: (813) 247-8115 or email at communityevents@hcsso.tampa.fl.us for more information.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Golf Tournament

September 24th – For more information contact Captain Sean McGillen at (727) 453-7212 or Captain Sara Spiva at (727) 464-7090.

Leverock's Seafood House Fish Fry

November 5-8th – Tickets are \$7 for an old fashioned fish fry dinner. Come by for good food and fellowship in support of the Youth Ranches. For more information contact Kayla Bianchi at (386) 842-5501.



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
Mending Lives, Healing Hearts

Join us for our special events!

For additional information visit www.youthranches.org, or contact the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Donor Relations Department at (386) 842-5501 or the Sheriff's Office sponsoring the event.

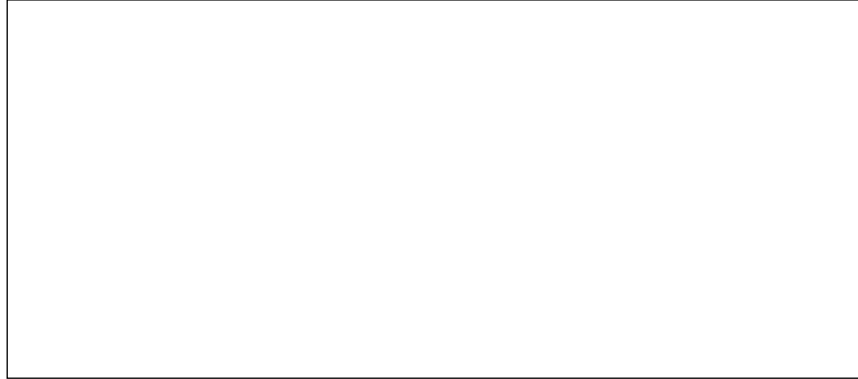
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Learning the value of the state government

This spring, four young men had the opportunity to be a part of history. The Florida State Senate offers young people an opportunity each year to observe and participate in the legislative process through the Senate Page Program.

During regular sessions of the Florida Legislature, four of our Ranchers and other students from across the state traveled to Tallahassee for a week to serve as assistants to members of the Legislature in carrying out the work of the people.

“It gives you the opportunity to see how it all works,” Evan said — “how bills become laws, how government really works.”

During their assigned week, Anthony, Brian, Evan and Tony helped members of the Florida Senate by distributing materials and messages. They learned about the legislative process through a hands-on approach and were able to experience a mock legislative session. During the mock session, our Ranchers role-played as senators and engaged in debates, discussions and voted on legislation.

“I liked the Senate floor the best,” said Tony. They all agreed that the experience gave them a deeper appreciation for the process and the difficult steps it sometimes takes to move things forward in government.

These four young men took pride in representing the Youth Ranches and the



State of Florida. While it may have only been a week-long experience, they are sure to carry these lessons and memories for a lifetime. When asked if they would ever want to go into politics, they all stopped to think, so who knows — one day, one of our Ranchers could be representing the State of Florida as a Senator.

For these young men, the sky is the limit!



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
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