

Horse + Camp = Happy Campers

By Jodi Mondy

Summer horse camps are well under way for many of our area riding facilities. Tyler Mountain Stables is no exception and I had the privilege of being a part of the fun.



Look closely, both Nemo and happy camper, Zoey are smiling for the camera!

Camp councilors geared up for their second of three riding camps scheduled for this summer. The campers were divided into three teams, based on level of experience and each councilor was assigned a team. While one team was gathered around their counselor in an outdoor class setting (and cooling off under a shade tree) another group might be having their daily riding lesson or learning about a new breed in a separate riding ring. Activities included a daily riding lesson, instruction in horse safety, guest speakers, games to cool you off like a water balloon toss, proper grooming, training techniques, careers in horses, breeds, breed demonstrations and so fourth. A fun way they wrap up their week at camp is modestly referred to as the “grooming contest.” It originally started out with just shining up your horse and placing a few ribbons here and there, but has grown over the years into a “pageant” or “parade” of well groomed and highly decorated horses and campers. The only rules are NO scissors and NO spray paint! One last activity at camp is crafts! That’s where I came in to the picture (literally).



Cool off with a water balloon toss!

Crafts at Tyler Mountain Stables included a T-shirt, but it wasn't just any T-shirt, the camp kids were able to color in their own horse. Maybe they applied what they learned during the "colors & markings" instruction or perhaps their T-shirt was inspired by their favorite horse at the barn, whatever the case, the T-shirts were fabulous. Another craft was Scrapbooking. On the first day of camp, I went to TMS to take photos and came back later in the week to introduce the campers to Scrapbooking. They got to learn a basic page layout and use their favorite photos in their scrapbook page.



When I arrived at Tyler Mountain Stables and discovered that there were eighteen campers to teach my craft to I was a bit nervous, but soon after I got there I could tell right away that TMS Horse Camp was a well oiled machine, and after eight years of camps, why wouldn't it be?



Thank you to Sandy & Marlena, TMS camp councilors, Jean, Libby, Andrew, Ashley, Mallory and Angela, and to the happy campers at Tyler Mountain Stables for allowing me to share my love of Scrapbooking, horses and photography with you.



Molly & good old Larry being led by Camp Councilor, Ashley