



# Life Adventure Center

OF THE BLUEGRASS

ENGAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER

Summer 2008



## Summer Equine Campers Had a Blast!



The 2008 camp season has come to a close, and campers had a great time! They rode in daily hunt-seat lessons, and went on weekly field trips to Old Friends Thoroughbred retirement farm and Woodford Equine Hospital. Campers also participated in fun crafts such as soap-making, “Mo-neigh” painting, and making homemade slushies. Students learned vocational skills such as grooming, tack cleaning, lunging, anatomy, bandaging, and bathing. Campers also participated in horse games such as “Musical Horses”, desensitizing the horses to “spooky” objects, and competing in a horseless horse show. At the end of each camp week, students had the opportunity to share a story or poem about their activities that week with their families, or perform a skit with the horses. The campers did an amazing job

with the closing ceremony activities, and showed great creativity! We look forward to seeing the campers’ smiling faces again during our 2009 camp season!

## Congratulations Kelly and Jen!!



LAC would like to congratulate two of their staff who have accepted new positions within the organization. Kelly Tyler returned to work on July 7<sup>th</sup> as the new **Marketing Coordinator**. LAC is very excited to begin a more aggressive marketing campaign while allowing Kelly the flexibility of working in our community while spending time with her new son. Kelly’s enthusiasm and knowledge base of LAC programming makes her a perfect candidate for this position. Kelly has been with LAC since September 2002 and has experience in all areas of programming that LAC offers.

Additionally, Jen Reenders has been promoted to **Challenge Course/Mobile Unit Manager**. Jen’s attitude and commitment to excellence make her the perfect match for this demanding position. Jen has worked for LAC full time since May 2007. Her previous experience in Colorado and New York leading adventure-based expeditions is something she looks forward to sharing with each group. She is definitely a natural at facilitating both young and old on our low and high courses.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Summer Nature Camp Was a Success!



The woods were filled with kids this summer in our highly successful Summer Nature Camps! During the one-day camps held throughout the summer, children explored our creeks and ponds, learned wilderness survival skills, discovered entomology, made eco-friendly crafts, and had adventures on our Challenge Course! One camper commented that “staff was really helpful and it was amazingly fun!” The camps provided campers from nine counties with an engaging opportunity to explore

the outdoors and gain a better understanding of how they impact their world. As another camper put it, “The whole day was a ‘tiring’ blast!”



## The Million Dollar Question Is Answered

Life Adventure Center has been down a long and well traveled road. We have a very rich history that makes us who we are today. And that is just the question that we often hear – who are you? What do you do? What happened to the orphans? So let's take just a minute to answer those questions!

LAC is a program of the John Cleveland Foundation. LAC as we know it today is the result of a merger between Life Adventure Camp and The Cleveland Home.

Most folks remember The Cleveland Home as a large house in downtown Versailles that was a home for orphaned girls. The Cleveland Home *began* its operation as an orphanage in the late 1800's. However, it later shifted into a state-placed residential facility and finally to a private-placed residential home that from 2001-2005 operated at a maximum capacity of 17 adolescent females from all over the country.



Life Adventure Camp was started in 1975 by Dr. Ross and Cathie Brown. The camp set out to teach at-risk youth effective living skills through a wilderness experience. Campers spent one week in the woods of Estill County, KY where they learned to live off of the land. In doing so, they developed their social skills, self-esteem, and confidence.

In 2000, Life Adventure Camp and The Cleveland Home merged. The two organizations operated their respective programs until 2005 when the decision was made to close the residential facility. The decision to close The Cleveland Home was made because we were serving only 17 girls each year, all of them from out of state. We wanted to offer more services to our local and surrounding communities, so the house on 140 Park Street was sold and is now a privately owned bed and breakfast. We then began operation under the name Life Adventure Camp and moved to our 575-acre farm (originally donated by Judge McLeod) on Milner Road in Woodford County, KY. In 2006 we changed our name to Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass to better reflect the services we offer.



Today we offer a unique learning adventure to children and adults alike. We have a variety of programs that are based on experiential education. Through our Challenge Course, Equine Program, and Nature Program, participants learn lifelong lessons such as respect, responsibility, communication, and teamwork. We are working hard to continue to fulfill the wishes of John Cleveland and "provide an array of services to youth and their families". Since the closing of The Cleveland Home in 2005, Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass has served over 5,000 individuals and their families.

### **ATTENTION PARENTS:**

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **LAC is hosting a Fall Break Camp**

**Challenge Course, Equine, and Nature Programs  
All Included**

October 13 - 17, 2008

**8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.\* Ages 9\*\*-15 \$250**

**12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.\* Ages 7-9\*\* \$150**

\* Friday's camp schedule will be 8:30-noon

\*\* 9-year olds can choose full-day or half-day camp

**More Information Still to Come!**

### **Our Nature and Equine Programs Have A Wish List!**

**If you have any of the following items,  
please contact us. All donations are  
tax-deductible.**

- Gardening Hand Tools
- Aquarium Nets
- Barometer
- Thermometer
- Wind Gauge
- Riding Helmets
- Binoculars
- Bird Feeders/Seed
- Geology Rock Samples
- Magnifying Glasses
- Compass
- Paddock Boots

## Boy Scouts Build Trails at LAC

This spring LAC had 3 Boy Scouts plan and complete service projects as part of their efforts to reach the elite rank of an Eagle Scout. Each of these young men created a plan and then directed a group of fellow scouts in building a hiking trail through different areas of our wooded property. A total of 3 new trails were built by over 40 volunteers who provided nearly 600 volunteer hours. A big THANK YOU goes out to Scott Calvert from Troop 13 in Lexington, Ian Smarr and Zach Webber from Troop 40 in Midway, and to all of their team members for their hard work. We are very excited to have these new trails and have already put them to good use during our Nature Camps and with overnight guests. Our horse and rider partners have been exploring them as well!

If you are interested in taking part of a service learning project, please contact Tracey Wright at Tracey@lacbg.com. We have many opportunities available that include trail work, mulching, staining, gardening, and tree planting.



**Did you hear the news?**

**Our website changed!**

**You can now find us at both**

**[www.lifeadventurecenter.org](http://www.lifeadventurecenter.org) &  
[www.lacbg.com](http://www.lacbg.com)**

## Farm Field Day 2008 Draws Over 300 Kids To LAC!

In conjunction with Woodford County Cooperative Extension, Woodford County Conservation District, and many other local and state agencies, LAC hosted the 2008 Farm Field Day. Funded by a 4-H venture grant, 310 fourth graders from Woodford and Anderson Counties visited LAC in May for our Farm Field Day. 22 Woodford County FFA members volunteered as tour guides for the students. Students spent time with several of our 30 station volunteers and learned about topics including sheep, horses, cattle, and bears in Kentucky. They had an opportunity to visit with the Woodford County EMS, take a hay ride or see demonstrations from the Bluegrass Energy Cooperative and the Soil Conservation District. Students worked in our evolving teaching garden to create a pizza garden filled with basil, tomatoes, peppers and onions. LAC would like to thank the planning committee and all volunteers who helped make this event a wonderful success!



### Some thoughts from our 2008 campers:

*"My favorite part of LAC was riding and working with horses. Embracing new challenges enabled us all to grow as people and riders."*

*"I love this camp! I'm coming back next year!"*

*"The staff is the best and I had a great time building the survival hut!"*

### Some thoughts from campers' parents:

*"Our daughter had the time of her life - in fact she can't stop talking about what a great time she had. Her grandparents have also commented several times on how wonderful the staff at the Life Adventure Center were. You have a great place out there and have a fantastic program. We are already planning on signing our daughter up for camp next year! THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!"*

*"Activities were well organized & very educational & looked like fun!"*

### **\*\*Reminder\*\***

***Fall is right around the corner  
and LAC is busy!***

***Information on fall programming can be  
found on our website [www.lacbg.com](http://www.lacbg.com)  
or by contacting our office.***

***Challenge Course: [Jen@lacbg.com](mailto:Jen@lacbg.com)***

***Equine Program: [Hillary@lacbg.com](mailto:Hillary@lacbg.com)***

***Nature Program: [Danielle@lacbg.com](mailto:Danielle@lacbg.com)***

***859-873-3271***



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A Program of  
The Cleveland Home  
[www.lacbg.com](http://www.lacbg.com)

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**ATTENTION:**

**LAC NEEDS YOUR TRUCK  
OR SUV!!**

Get Full Market Value for  
your Truck or SUV. Donate  
it to Life Adventure Center  
today!



**Photo Gallery**



*This little camper is playing the part of the Brown Bar-ba-loot.*



*Swinging in the trees!*



*Summer Equine Campers visiting Old Friends farm in Georgetown.*



*Campers getting directions for the high course.*



*Running on the Lily Pads!*



*Campers performing a skit with Magic the "Super-Mini".*