



WESTVIEW
BOYS' HOME

BULLETIN

Published for the friends of the young men at Westview



The beauty of a summer afternoon . . .

Just as the day needs night and the light darkness, so the school year needs the summer vacation. Knowledge has to be balanced with experience. For young people, and especially for the young men at Westview, the summer is the opportunity to explore work, play, and adventure to build the experiences that give their education a deeper and more practical meaning.

Consequently, the summer is an important time on the ranch. You'd better believe that we work hard (especially in the cool of the morning)

but we play hard, too. We go explore new places, whether in Oklahoma, Texas or Colorado. We swim. We hike. We climb mountains. We watch the stars cross the sky at a place where it's still dark enough to actually do that.

We round out the life experience of our young men—at church camp for example. At camp young people learn that being a child of God can truly be a life of joy. Whether

playing hard with one's friends—like Sam in the photo above—or singing a spiritual song that touches one's heart, camp can be an opportunity to slow down and explore the deep and real meaning of life.

Summer is demanding in many ways. The Westview

team works nonstop all summer. The boys wear out clothing more quickly because they're working. We go through more food to provide plenty of calories for young, active bodies.

We burn more gasoline traveling. We spend more on electricity to keep our homes cool enough for the boys to sleep well. These are demanding months.

Our trust, though, is in a God who provides and who touches the noble hearts of our friends with compassion. Thank you to each of you who have so thoughtfully and generously made this summer to be a summer to remember for our young men.

Summer afternoon . . . the two most beautiful words in the English language.

- Henry James



Eighth Grade Grads!

The summer begins with an ending. Four of our young men graduated from the eighth grade and are now ready for high school! But first they get a summer off--to play, to grow, to work, to worship, and to discover more about life through new adventures.



A beautiful, busy summer



Happy Birthday!

This summer, Colt was just one of our young men who had a birthday. It's always fun to watch the opening of presents, share some cake together, and celebrate a landmark in a young man's life.

Shoot hoops

As the sun sets, there's always time to shoot hoops with friends in the cool of the day.



Halter breaking

Our calf program keeps going right through the summer. This is a time of the year when we take time to get new calves used to the halter and the young men giving them direction. It is a relationship-building time.



Making the summit . . .

In July, a Westview caregiver, Steve Young, took five of our upper classmen to Colorado to be a part of Wilderness Expeditions. Zayne, Elijah, Kanyon, Jase, and Micah all reached the top of Mount Antero (14,276 feet). For everyone involved, this was not just a physical experience; it was a spiritual experience as well. Our young men made us proud!



There is work to be done . . .

The work program at Westview empowers young men to learn about how to apply for a job and how to discipline their work lives to be productive on the job. Sometimes that means getting down into the trenches because that's what you have to do to fix a broken pipe.

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Splash, Splash!

Every Thursday night Westview reserves the Hollis pool just for our guys. It gives them the opportunity to cool off in the midst of a blazing hot summer. They seize the opportunity to dive, swim, and splash through the cool of the evening.



ARE THE YOUNG MEN AT WESTVIEW?




DJ stands ready to move on to high school

Strong mind, strong body

Many alumni of Westview Boys' Home have worked hard to find success in an arena of life that mattered to them. They have grown to become exceptional ministers, coaches, accountants, teachers, managers, contractors, and ranchers. Many have taken the work ethic learned at Westview and applied it to continuing their education in the trades or in college. Both are important.

The Westview Foundation helps with funds that empower our young men to pursue their ongoing education. Since their families often do not have the resources to help, the Foundation steps in to fill the gap.

Donors interested in providing funding or resources to strengthen the post-high school education of our young men can discuss how to do this with the Westview Foundation.

The Westview Foundation
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“It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”

Theodore Roosevelt
“Citizenship in a Republic,”
Speech at the Sorbonne, Paris, 1910

BIRTHDAYS

Jess Campbell 8/7
Sam Taylor 8/20
Tyson Storie 10/28
Elijah Robinson 11/18



*Westview is supported
by its many friends and
local congregations of the
Churches of Christ*



A MESSAGE FROM HOME

Young men who struggle with life continue to find the phenomenal team at Westview Boys' Home to be a potent force for good in their lives. Through the grace of God, we are able to help young men find restoration, reconciliation, and—often—reunification.

The first task we share with our youth is restoration of physical, mental, social, and spiritual health. Each young man must learn to cope with their unique traumas and issues to find a level of functioning that empowers them to succeed in the life they choose.

Second, we help each youth with reconciliation. Nearly everyone has broken relationships; for our young men, these stressed relationships are often why they are with us. We help them practice and master the skills needed to heal relationships.

Families yearn for the day their son can return; we help them prepare for a positive reunification.

Reunification isn't possible for every family. We help those youth prepare for launch into a job, the military, vo-tech, or college. In short, we help them seek their dream.

Our friends empower us to do this work through their prayers, their volunteer efforts, and their financial support. Thank you for keeping Westview strong for our young men.



Ron Bruner
Executive Director