

Echo Hill Ranch Review

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Friday Night Services

This Friday, one camper volunteered to write a sermon about a topic of their choice. To encourage the change in lifestyle, Rachel Bucher composed this sermon, "The rushing cars and the loud honks, the polluting factories and the working skyscrapers, the ringing phones and the blaring radio. It is all gone now. We are free of the city and finally home in our little green valley. Our friends from the city call us crazy to be without texting, facebooking, tweeting, and all the other technology. But that's the whole point of Echo Hill. Here at camp we learn a new way of life. We learn to interact with nature and people. For 60 years, people have lived this more natural way of life at Echo Hill and will continue to do so for many more years after this. So for the 60th summer, nature welcomes us as

well as our friends and family here at the ranch. While you all say the 60th year is special, it's not going to be until you make it a summer to remember. So as I stand here reciting the first sermon of the session, and the first of the 60th summer, I would like to welcome you all home; to Echo Hill Ranch." This beautiful sermon really brought the whole ranch together to make this summer the best one yet. A big 1-2-3 HOW to all the campers who helped with services this week. Rachel Bucher, Remi Clonts, Mia Clonts, Maya Cortez, Alex Cortez, Shea Doty, Daniel Eastman, Rachel Evans, Corinned Francois, Ariel Jacobson, Chloe Lewis, Evan Mendelovitz, Baeran Rubenstein, Ellee Stein, Seth Sugarman, and of course, the whole Stars Bunk!

Our 60th Anniversary Summer

Fun Facts About Our Little Green Valley

- Over 400 acres nestled in the Texas Hill Country
- Founded in 1952 by Uncle Tom and Aunt Min Friedman
- The highest point at Echo Hill is 2093 ft above sea level.
- The coordinate points of Echo Hill are 99 W degrees longitude and 29 N degrees latitude

Echo Hill Turns 60!

By Roger Friedman

When the flag was lowered on Thursday afternoon, June 21st, Echo Hill Ranch officially began its 60th Anniversary summer. Founded in 1952 by Uncle Tom and Aunt Min Friedman, the camp has been family owned and operated by the Friedmans ever since. Echo Hill remains the first and only family owned camp to serve the Jewish families of Texas. We now have many second and third generation campers and staff members. This summer children come to the "Little Green Valley" from all over Texas, as well Washington, DC, New York, Washington State, California, Maryland, Israel, France and Taiwan.

during the 1990s. Copper Love stepped in as Director in 2000 and Katy Sternberg Wolff and her husband Eddie Wolff directed the camp in 2002 and 2003. For the past 9 years, Uncle Tom and Aunt Min's son Roger Friedman, PhD, and his wife, Roz Beroza Friedman, MSW, have been camp directors. The camp is now owned by Roger, Marcie and Kinky Friedman.

We are proud to be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee as a second generation family business. Aunt Min directed the camp until 1985, and Uncle Tom with his daughter Marcie's help ran the camp until 2000. Marcie served as director

Our Motto this summer is to "Cherish the past, build the future, and honor the present," and we're excited to have full camp enrollment and many new and traditional activities. Our child-centered, non-competitive and nature-focused camp philosophy is still alive today! Please consider joining us for the 60th Anniversary Alumni and Family Reunion, July 20-22nd. Check www.echohill.org for more information, and Happy 60th to all of you who are members of the Echo Hill family!

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First Camp Council Meeting

On Sunday after fried chicken lunch, the council held its first meeting of the summer on the porch of the Log Cabin with Roger. All the bunk representatives reported that their bunks were having a great time and loved the food, but of course there is always room for improvement—That’s what makes Echo Hill so terrific. Some creative suggestions included building a sandbox, turning the dining hall into a French or Mexican restaurant some nights, decorating the bunks to look like houses, get more hammocks, beach balls for the shallow water, flower gardens for each bunk, and more bird feeders.

There was a debate over the Head on

Pillow (HOP) Siesta policy this summer, which several council members thought was good because kids were getting more rest, but most everyone felt too long and shouldn’t be every day. One bunk rep said they were looking for loop-holes in the HOP policy by taping pillows to his head and walking around the bunk during the hour long Siesta! Their counselors said HOP actually means Head on Pillow and Pillow on your bed, so they got overruled. Other bunks made more technical requests like needing a clothesline, more extension cords, and an extra broom. All in all it was a fun and very productive meeting.

In attendance was:

- Joseph Dowdall
- Steven Huttenbach
- Michael Levit
- Jimmy Ray
- Sarah Horwitz
- Lauren Distler
- Chloe Lewis
- Alexa Conrad
- Rachel Feine
- Amanda Huttenbach
- Jordan Jacobson

Winston the Dog

By Winston the Dog

The Ranch has a new dog named Winston. We asked him to take a minute from his busy day to sit down and tell us about his first week at camp.

Hi I'm Winston. Some people call me Winstonio or Sir Winston. I'm the new ranch dawg. The new dawg on campus. I like to be pet and eat horse doodoo. My best friend Benny and I enjoy running around the camp and getting lots of attention. If you see me around the camp, make sure to rub my belly. Feel free to bow down to me, for I am your king. My owner, Mr. Kinky Friedman has been taking good care of me and lets me socialize with the campers. They love me because I'm the best ranch dog around (sorry Benny). Benny was sooo 2011, don't you think? I love the ranch! If you see me, WOOF.



Winston celebrates the camp’s Diamond Jubilee!



An excited Daniel Eastman and Anna Rosenbaum rush out of the bus as they catch their first glance of the ranch.

Ranch Officers—Week One

- Foreman:** Dylan Combs and Ariel Jacobson
- KP:** Rosie Bernstein and Ezra Hackler
- Mail:** Remi Clonts and Alex Cortez
- Laundry:** Evan Turner and Chloe Lewis
- Librarian:** Ellie Stein and Hayden Hollek
- Ecology:** Rachel Evans and Jacob Magelssen

Executive Editors:

- Roger Friedman, Roz Beroza
- Editors:** Stephen Barkan, Mike Disman
- Head Reporters:** Mitchell Jacobson and Emma Miller

NEWS FROM THE BUNKHOUSES

Cedars by Lili Miller and Sierra Rosen

Our favorite camp moment this week was finally hitting the target in Archery. We both are excited about the effort Echo Hill is making to recycle, and we hope to get more involved with that as the session continues.

Bluebonnets by Jessie Doty and Ellee Stein

We are looking forward to our cookout at Big Foot Falls. We can't wait to taste the delicious Echo Hill Burgers our counselors are going to make!

Valley View by Emma Miller

This week we got to raise and lower the flag because we won Honor Bunk twice. Our bunk yell was "Valley View is our name, being awesome is our game!" Echo Hill has been fantastic so far, and I will miss all my friends that are only staying for a week.

Boleros by Mia Clonts

Our whole bunk's favorite activities this week have been riflery and archery. Hal-lie got a bullseye at .177 and I got one at archery. I hope that there will be more to come as the session continues.

Interview with new counselor David Ronn

Led by Mitchell Jacobson and Emma Miller

Q: How did you hear about Echo Hill?

A: My sister came to camp years ago, and I came with my parents to pick her up and knew I had to work here when I was older.

Q: Do you feel accepted by the campers?

A: Yes, everyone is accepting of me and has gladly taught me everything I need to know about the ranch.

Q: How is your first week going?

A: It was great. I haven't been pranked by my fellow counselors yet, although I expect to be soon.

Belles by Elle Shaw

My favorite moment from camp this week was when the whole bunk went to the Snake Pit. We swam down the river and jumped off the ledge. It was a lot of fun! I also got to shoot a .22 rifle for the first time!

Stars by Arianna Segal

My favorite moment this week was getting to have a late night with the Spurs at the tennis courts. I really enjoyed the sing-a-long the older bunks got to do after services on Friday night.

Big Foot by Zev Russ

Climbing Echo Hill for the first time was an awesome bonding experience for my bunk and when we finally reached the top we hung a bandana we all signed from the flag pole. It was exciting and the view was very beautiful.

Mavericks by Mitchell Jacobson

I had a lot of fun this week going to archery with my bunk. Every night before bed we do a kudos session where everyone takes turns praising bunkmates for something they did during the day. Similarly, during lunch we all raise toasts with our water glasses to celebrate accomplishments.

Q: What is your favorite camp activity?

A: I really enjoy going on nature hikes; especially water hikes.

Q: What has your favorite meal been so far?

A: I really liked the grilled cheese and tomato soup we had for lunch the other day. Something about that dippin'.

Q: What has your favorite memory been thus far?

A: I loved going to the cookout at the South Flat with my bunk and getting to grill some authentic Echo Hill Burgers!

Rangers N. by Zach Bernstein

On Monday my bunk had an awesome climb up Echo Hill. We went up the back side and when we reached the top we slid down the face. It was so awesome, and I can't wait to do it again.

Rangers S. by Hudson Morris

My favorite moment was when we had a dance off in the bunk after winning honor bunk on Sunday. It was fun to bust a move and have all my friends mimic it. I also really like the quiet time and relaxation I can get during siesta.

Crows Nest by Nathan Lederman

I had a great time at camp this week. Every day I look forward to getting my Gatorade after lunch. Climbing Echo Hill was really fun, and meeting my new friend Eran was cool, because he lives in Israel.

Spurs by Maxime Hofheinz-Montauriol

Arriving on the first day and re-kindling my old friendships was great. Getting back to the ranch was a relief; the weather here is so different from the weather in France. I also like getting to sleep in bunk beds.

9 facts about David Ronn

Favorite colour: Blue

Favorite camp song: the Echo Hill B-day song

Favorite food: Sandwiches

Favorite hill: Echo Hill

Favorite time of the day: Siesta

Favorite day of the week: Friday

Favorite sport: Baseball and Frisbee

Favorite evening program: Hoe Down

Fried chicken or BBQ Chicken: Fried