



 2014-2015 

BELL COUNTY 4-H EXCHANGE

Welcome to the Bell County 4-H Exchange Program. In this program, you will be able to engage in activities which help prepare you to host other 4-H members from another state. You will also prepare to travel to another state and stay in the home of another 4-H member. You will be able to experience some of the ways that people in other communities are different and ways that they are similar. We are blessed to be in a unique part of Texas in which our county is very diverse in geography, industry, and even culture. Other states in the United States also offer differences in these areas which you will be able to learn about. The lifestyles of some communities are based closely around the work that is done there. In rural areas where farming is prevalent, many activities and celebrations are based on agriculture like “cotton festivals or corn festivals”. In other areas of the United States, the culture may be based on fishing, forestry, or even art. In this program you will be able to explore some of the differences.



Objectives of the Exchange Program

- Have fun as a member of a 4-H group.
- Learn more about yourself and your family, friends, county, and state.
- Learn to help, plan, conduct, and support fund raising efforts to pay for the expenses of hosting visitor and traveling to another state.
- Learn what it means to be a good host or hostess for a guest in your home.
- Learn how to travel as an interested, fact-finding individual by being aware of your surroundings.
- Develop as an individual by learning to think on your feet, work and play with people who may have different beliefs and cultural practices than yourself.
- Create lifelong friendships.
- Learn how the 4-H program works in another state.

June 27-July 4, 2015

Day 1 --- Destination: Dallas and Houston Co, Minnesota

The group of four boys, two girls, and chaperones left Bell County at noon and went to The Magic Time Machine in Dallas for an early dinner. They arrived safely at the Dallas/Ft Worth International Airport at 4:00 p.m. to catch a 6:00 p.m. flight. No delays or cancellations as we landed safely to St. Paul/Minneapolis International Airport around 8:30 p.m. The group was welcomed by two large homemade welcome signs and greeted by several 4-H members and adult chaperones. Houston County 4-H Exchange members gave each Bell County 4-H Exchange members and chaperones nice 4-H gift bags. The adult chaperones, who transported them for the 3 hour drive gave us a brief synopsis of the area and took them for a late night snack at McDonalds before they met up at the Kwik Trip convenience store which was a meeting location for the other 4-H Exchange members. Since it was so late in the evening the youth and chaperones went to their hostess home for a good night's rest.



Airport by Kathy: “The Magic Time Machine has been in business since 1973. The restaurant was an entertaining experience for our 4-H members and chaperones as the servers dressed up as characters to transport us into another point in time. The DFW Airport was very busy at 4:00 p.m. Since we had to book our flights as a group the checking in and going through security took a little longer than expected but we made it to the gate in time. The flight was completely full and we had mild turbulence. We arrived at MSP Airport after 8:30 p.m. and the airport was very quiet. As we went to gather our luggage we were surprised by Houston County 4-H members and chaperones with welcome signs and gift bags filled with t-shirt, snacks, flavored soda and so much more. We arrived at our hostess home around 11:00 p.m. and most of us stayed up late getting to know their family members.”

Day 2 --- Destination: Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Dells is a two hour drive from Houston County, Minnesota. The Dells has been a great vacation destination for 150 years with tons of fun family attractions that bring over three million to the Dells each year. The Dells is home to hundreds of waterslides, exciting attractions, and themed lodging many featuring huge indoor water parks, many popular restaurants, and tons of shopping.



Exchange was scheduled to enjoy the day at Noah’s Ark Waterpark but the morning started off rainy so, they cancelled the water park activity and the youth enjoyed the afternoon at **Knuckleheads** for indoor entertainment activities and pizza for lunch.



Notes - by Victoria: “The Wisconsin Dells is The Water Park Capitol of the World! The whole city is based around entertainment and tourism. There are a lot of parts to the Dells, we went to Knuckleheads. We ate pizza and then played arcade games, rode rides, watched 4D theatre rides, jumped on trampolines, flipped into foam pits, walked a rope course, played basketball, and dodgeball. Then at 5:00 p.m. we left and ate ice cream at the local Dairy Queen.”

Then they traveled back to Houston County for a wonderful evening at the Olson’s home with games, swimming, and dinner. Bell County 4-H Exchange members gave each hostess a Thank You gift bag filled with Big Red, Bell County 4-H t-shirts, 4-H water bottle, Texas magnets, and Texas Flag koozies. They also gave each host family a Thank You gift too.



Meet and greet as described by Lindsey: “After traveling back from The Dells we went to the Olson’s beautiful property. While the chaperones were putting the finishing touches on dinner, the members were playing Frisbee, basketball, and table tennis. We were introduced to

their white Akita dog named Nilla and a painter turtle that swims in their pool. Before dinner the Bell County 4-H Exchange members handed out Thank You gifts bags to each Houston County 4-H Exchange members and chaperones for hosting our club this week. Dinner was a buffet style meal which included homemade lasagna, hamburgers, sweet corn, salad, and garlic bread. For dessert we had watermelon, cheesecake, éclair' s and cake. We also celebrated Jennie' s birthday. Then we enjoyed swimming in their heated inground pool. We headed inside to dry off so we could get ready for the fireworks show. I was going down stairs and missed the last two steps and rolled my ankle. Our chaperone took me to the local ER and found out I just sprained it, but I had to be on crutches until I returned home for a follow up visit with my doctor."

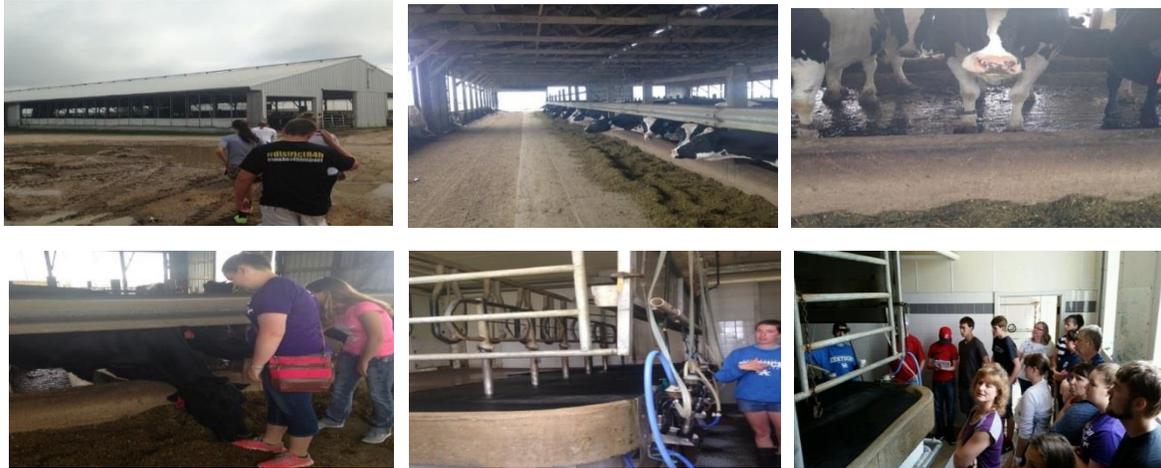
Day 3 --- Destination: Iowa and Wisconsin

WW Homestead Dairy Farm is owned and operated by four individuals with a strong history in the dairy farming industry. Tom Walleser, is a 3rd generation dairy farmer with over 32 years of experience. Tom, along with his family, owns and operates his dairy farm located 3 miles outside of Lansing, Iowa. Tom has a little over 100 head of dairy cattle and is very conscientious of dairy practices. Tom's days are spent managing his farm and promoting products. Dairy's second partner is Tom Weighner. Tom is an experienced dairy farmer with over 30 years of successful farm management. He splits his time between farm manager and day-to-day operations at Homestead Dairy. Tom's wife, Angela, works full time at the creamery and is in charge of creating the newest ice cream flavors. Two of Tom's daughters are also following in his footsteps; Stephanie is a successful Herd Manager at Weighner Brothers farms and Liz recently graduated from Iowa State University as a veterinarian. Paul Weighner is the President of Impro Products, which is a privately held company that has been operating for over 50 years. He has been managing Impro for the last 20 years and his expertise lies with business transactions, accounting, and day-to-day business operations. Paul helps with marketing and promotion of WW Homestead Dairy.



Dairy Farm Life by Alex: "We traveled to a dairy farm in Iowa. We first went to see their calves which only a few days old. Several of our Exchange members bottle fed the calves. The calf usually weigh more or little less in relation to how large their parents are. Next we went into a large barn where we saw the mature cows which were for milking. Each cow has an ankle bracelet which keeps track of each cow on a computer so the owners know when to breed and this also helps them know when a cow becomes ill. Each cow produces around 50lbs of milk per day. Caring for the cows at the farm starts every morning at 4:30 a.m. and usually ends at 5:30 p.m. Next we went to another barn where the owners milk the cows. It normally takes 5-10 minutes to milk a cow."

Described by Kathy: “The cows are housed in a free stall barn and they use sand for bedding. During the summer they have misters to help keep the cows cool and large curtains to close during cold days. This dairy farmer grows their own feed.”



WW Homestead Dairy is nestled in the town of Waukon, Iowa. The dairy's Head of Operation is Bruce Snitker. Bruce has 30 plus years in dairy processing and cheese management. He holds coveted licenses from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture as well as American Cheese Grading. Bruce is in charge of milk processing and cheese production. This community is rich in history and surrounded by fertile farm land. Not only does the creamery offer its customers the freshest products with extraordinary flavors but, tours are available and the public is encouraged to watch how products are produced. A hallway with large viewing windows allows customers to see the hard work, effort, and quality that goes into making their cream-line milk, ice cream, cheese curds, block cheese, and butter.





Dairy and Retail Store by Wesley: “Today we went to WW Homestead Dairy and Retail Store. We started the tour in a large room where the farm trucks come inside, then they close all of the doors, and unload the milk into the large stainless steel refrigerated containers. Next we went into a long hallway with large windows to view the workers processing the milk. Then they use a separator to remove the cream from the milk. The milk travels through stainless steel pipes to automatic packaging machines that fill and seal the milk into plastic jugs. The employee inspects each jug and wipes off any excess milk on the container. Then the employees put the milk into a refrigerator for the truck to pick up and deliver to the local stores. At the end of our tour we got to taste different flavor cheese curds, chocolate milk, and ice cream.”

Villa Louis is the Dousman Mansion located on the St. Feriole Island in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Hercules Louis Dousman acquired a large fortune through various enterprises. In the 1840's he began developing an estate on the banks of the Mississippi River that would evolve into Villa Louis. Its vibrant hues and rich textures reflected the family's rise to wealth and leisure living. He built fur trade building 1850's on his land and traded fur, blankets, beads and etc. Upon Dousman's death the estate was passed to his son H. Louis Dousman and his widow Madam Jane Dousman. They contracted a Milwaukee architect to build a new residence in the fashionable Italian Villa style. The old house came down and recycled into the building. The elder Mrs. Dousman lived there while son Louis was beginning his family, business, and social life in St. Louis. When Madam Jane died, Louis made the decision to move back and start a new business with stock farm for Standard Bred trotting horses. The expansion and remodeling was barely completed when Louis passed away at 37 years old. At the time of death, his children and widow sold and a new and lasting name had settled on the estate –Villa Louis- in tribute to the family.



Notes by Cortney: “Villa Louis is a Historic Landmark. The first people were actually Indians and then fur traders came. We toured the Trade Museum first and learned the fur price for items for sale was called plew. If the fur got wet it would lower the price due to mold. Then we toured the mansion which Hercules Louis Dousman's son rebuilt. Mr. Dousman was a businessman and died in 1868. The new mansion had up to date technology with phones, electricity, and indoor plumbing. The mansion was filled with solid wood furniture, musical instruments, and a pool table. H. Louis Dousman hired a butler, cooks, and maids to help his family and could host 6 guest in the mansion.”

Fort Mulligan’ s Grill is located close to Villa Louis. The Famechon Building was built in 1855. The building was built out of limestone and recycled material from Fort Crawford. The walls are 23 inches thick and window with steel shutters. The flooring was recycled from an old school gym floor. In 2000, the building became Fort Mulligan’ s Grill and Pub as a casual restaurant. The 4-H Exchange members and chaperones enjoyed a wonderful lunch at this historic building.

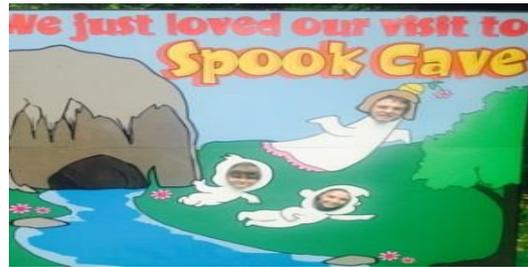
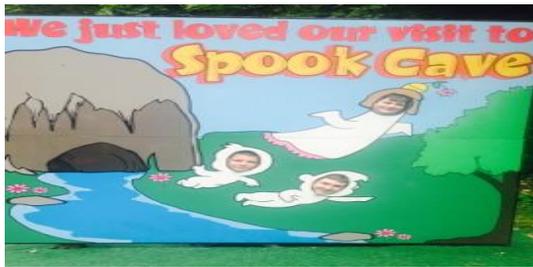


Pikes Peak State Park is located in McGregor, Iowa. From the top of the 500-foot bluff (1,130 foot elevation), the confluence of the Wisconsin River and the Mississippi may be seen to the south. To the north, the view of the bridges connecting Iowa and Wisconsin is breathtaking. Pikes Peak State Park is the "Paleozoic Plateau" that was missed by the glaciers that flattened and molded so much of Iowa. This area, often called the "Driftless" region, is noted for its natural beauty. Its hills and valleys offer great vistas, large timbered tracts, spring-fed streams and a natural beauty unique to northeast Iowa.



Spook Cave is located in McGregor, Iowa. The slow processes of nature have been developing the cave for centuries. The early settlers often referred to the strange noises coming from the hold at the base of the hill along Bloody Run Creek, but it took Gerald Mielke to make the discovery of nature’s handiwork. It has a guided underground boat tour that tells about the discovery and development of the cave.





Spook Cave by Patrick: “We loaded on to the 60 year old aluminum boats. The tour guide explained boat safety and said the water was only 3 foot deep. The dam is manmade to control flooding of the Bloody Run Creek. Spook Cave was originated as Spook Hole and the temperature is always 47 degrees. The cave was first explored in 1953 and then opened to the public in 1955. The cave was full of stalactites and stalagmites. The tour guide told us if the water dripped on your head you would lose your hair as a joke. They also had fake floating alligators to try to scare us.”

Pork Burgers by Kathy: “After a marvelous day touring we headed towards the Tyribakkens Farm which is located in Iowa. First we stopped at their neighbor’s home to see their Clydesdales and learn how they use them on their farm, but the tour was cut very short because of a thunderstorm. Once everybody arrived at the Tyribakkens Farm the electricity went out because of the storm. The family served us grilled pork burgers, snicker apple salad, cookie orange salad, cheesy potatoes, pasta salad, and seasoned ranch pretzels. For dessert we had several choices from monster cookie bars, pumpkin bars, and brownies. Everyone had a pleasant time eating dinner and playing games by candle light.”



Day 4 --- Destination: La Crosse, Wisconsin

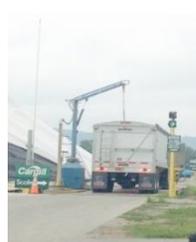
Brennan Marine Inc. is an inland port management company that provides high-quality switching, fleet, project barge transportation, and vessel repair services. Located in several ports between St. Genevieve, MO, (UMR 138) and La Crosse, WI, (UMR 697) Brennan Marine can respond to several geographical locations along the inland waterways. Brennan Marine has implemented the same commitment to safety, quality, and the environment as their sister company, J.F. Brennan Company. J.F. Brennan is a marine construction and environmental remediation company that provides high-quality services to engineering, utility, railroad, paper mill, government, municipality, and harbor entities located throughout the inland waterways of the United States. Our services include dredging, diving, dam repairs, pile driving, railroad bridge repairs, in-situ capping, and more. We employ some of the nation's most talented marine professionals, and we pride ourselves on our commitment to safety, quality, and the environment. Founded on the principles of hard work and innovation, Brennan has provided nearly 100 years of construction excellence.



J.F. Brennan by Victoria: “J.F. Brennan ships goods in and out for commercial and consumer benefit. Some imports and exports are coal, cotton seed, pig iron, corn, potash, etc. The tugboat is the boat that pushed the barges up and down the Mississippi River. The barges are flat bottomed boats. We toured the tugboat which has sleeping quarters and kitchen. So, employees work 7-30 days straight.”

F.J. Robers Co handles marine cargo. They are located next to Brennan Marine. The trucks drop off distiller grain to transport into the barges. They have three silos, one is used for grain, and the other two are used for other materials.

F.J. Robers by Lindsey: “Today we toured F.J. Robers Co which was next door to J.F. Brennan. The trucks are dropping off distiller’s grains, corn, salt, fertilizer, and etc. to load onto the barges. We watched a truck loaded with corn go to the scales to get weighed and while the truck was getting weighed they took a sample to measure the grade of the corn. Then they drove the corn to the silo where they empty the trucks to fill the silos until they are ready to load onto the barges. Each silo holds 60,000 bushels and each barge can hold between 50,000-55,000 bushels. This company ships all over the world. Since I injured my foot at the beginning of the week, I got to ride with the owner during the tour on his golf cart.”





Riverside Park is located along the Mississippi River in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The park has been open since 1911, originally called Levee Park. The park is well known for hosting the River Fest. In addition, the park offers trails, open spaces, and plenty of area to sit and enjoy the river.



Riverside International Friendship Gardens are located on a 1.2 acre site just east of the La Crosse Convention & Visitor's Bureau at Riverside Park. The City of La Crosse has provided land and additional resources and expertise to ensure the ongoing success of the gardens. The Bluff Country Master Gardeners have provided expertise in design and horticulture, as well as leadership in planting and maintaining the gardens.



Described by Kathy: "For lunch the youth and chaperones had a picnic at Riverside Park. The youth played football, badminton, and threw the frisbee. We also walked through the Riverside International Friendship Gardens which had plants from China, France, German, Ireland, Norway, Russia, and native Wisconsin plants."

La Crosse Queen Cruises is located in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The La Crosse Queen is a modern-day replica of the Grand River boats that plied the Mississippi River in the late 19th Century. Cruising out of La Crosse, she is one of the few authentic Mississippi River paddlewheel river boats still in operation in the United States today. In keeping with early traditions, she was built with sternwheels that are her only means of propulsion. The La Crosse Queen has a split sternwheel and each is run by a twin diesel engine that powers hydraulic motors which turn the paddles. This is in contrast to most Mississippi River paddle wheelers in operation today that have a “freewheeling” paddlewheel at the stern of the boat for visual effect, but have traditional screw-type engines hidden for their real means of propulsion. The 1 ½ hour scenic cruise on the upper Mississippi River while the guide explained the facts and trivia of the historical and present day river. The cruise passed steep bluffs, eagles, and lock and Dam #7 in Dresbach, Minnesota adjacent to the Great River Road.



Cruise - Summation by Patrick: “On the La Crosse Queen everyone sat on the top deck so, we could have a good view. The tour was beautiful and we had a great guide. We learned a lot about the Mississippi River and got to see many things. From the boat we saw a Bald Eagle, but he was too far away to take a picture. We had a short break and went downstairs and had refreshing drinks and snacks.”

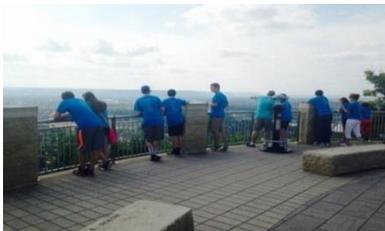




Grandad Park was started with the purchase of the land from the state by Judge George Gale in July 1851. Between 1851-1912, there were 83 property transfers. The last owner was Ellis Usher, who had built the road to the top of Grandad. Mrs. Usher transferred the deed to Joseph Hixon in 1909 until it could be transferred to the city. The purpose of Grandad Bluff was for park and with clause providing a site for a water reservoir. Bluff Park opened in 1912. Grandad Bluff is the largest bluff in the La Crosse area and is well-known for its scenic overlook of La Crosse.



Notes - by Wesley: "Grandad Bluff Park was opened to the public 1912. This park has several hiking trails, overlook areas, shelters and lots of open area. The bluff is 700 feet above the river (1,202 feet above sea level). The members and chaperones took lots of picture of the beautiful view."



Pizza and snacks by Kathy: "After spending a busy day in La Crosse we enjoyed dinner at Pizza Doctors in La Crosse, WI. The Pizza Buffet Professionals were featured on the Travel Channel. Then we traveled to the DeBoer's for a fun evening playing games and snacks."





Day 5 --- Destination: Family Day

Family Day is designed to experience the Minnesotan culture with the host families. Four groups ventured in different directions and had four separate and unique experiences.

Adult chaperones, Kathy and Josie were guest of Tyribakken's family. First we toured **Windy Pines Greenhouse** in Dorchester, Iowa. We learned how simple it was to take care of Succulent plants and Josie purchase some to bring back to Texas.



Second we met up for lunch with the Olson's family who were hosting Victoria, Lindsey, and Denise. The Olson's took them on a morning tour of **Luther College** in Decorah, Iowa which Victoria will be attending this fall.



After lunch both groups went to **Winneshiek Farmers Market** and enjoyed tasting homemade Amish rhubarb jam, breads, and fudge while the host family was purchasing breads, muffins, cookies, and vegetables for their homes.



Next they toured **Seed Savers Exchange** which is non-profit supported organization that saves and shares the heirloom seeds of their garden heritage, forming a living legacy that can be passed down through generations.



Then, they toured **Fish Hatchery** in Decorah, Iowa. This hatchery was full of Brook Trout and Rainbow Trout. While touring the hatchery we noticed a bald eagle was in a large tree on the property.



Lastly, they spent the evening with the Waldenberger family. They gave us a tour of their town in Spring Grove, MN. The town's legend is Jesse James stolen items from this barn and hid in cave which is located outside town along Minnesota-Iowa boarder before he robbed bank in Northfield, MN. We also toured the Swiss Valley Dairy Farm. The owners of this farm are close friends of Waldenberger family and they allow Kendra to keep her show cows in their barns.





Wesley and Cortney were guests of two brothers Brandon (AKA Bobby) and Daren. They decided to sleep in after a week of long nights. When they woke up, they fished on the Mississippi River and Wesley was the only one that caught a fish. Later they went to Shenanigans Entertainment Center for a few hours. Lastly enjoyed a movie at local cinema.



Alex, Patrick, and Alyson were guests of two brothers, Austin and Josh. First they started off the day at **Riverside Amusements** in La Crosse and enjoyed playing mini golf, driving go karts, and hitting baseballs at the batting cages.



Then they had a delightful lunch at Rudy's Drive-In which is a 50's themed restaurant. Lastly, they spent the evening at Austin and Josh's baseball games.



Day 6 --- Destination: Wabasha and Kellogg, Minnesota

The **National Eagle Center** is a world-class interpretive center located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Wabasha, MN. They are home to five rescued eagles, four bald eagles and one golden eagle. During the visit you

can experience these magnificent creatures up close. The Upper Mississippi River Valley is home to hundreds of bald eagles. Many choose to build their nests in the tall trees along the river valley. Hundreds more bald eagles arrive here in the winter months, as the Mississippi River remains open around Wabasha year round. In 1989, they began as Eagle Watch, Inc. (still our corporate legal name) as a group of volunteers sharing with visitors to Wabasha views of wintering bald eagles from an outdoor observation deck along the river. In 2000, we opened year-round in a small storefront downtown and welcomed our first two Eagle Ambassadors, Harriet and Angel. In 2007, in a partnership with the City of Wabasha, we opened this 15,000 square foot interpretive center right on the banks of the Mississippi River. From this facility you can enjoy magnificent views of wild eagles and meet our resident Eagle Ambassadors. This unique area is home to both North American eagle species, the bald eagle and the golden eagle. Golden eagles can be seen here in winter months, though rarely close to the river.



Notes by Alex: "During the eagle presentation, we watched the eagle eat a piece of fish and learned the eagle exerts 400 pounds per inch of force through its talon. Eagles can see 4-5 times further to the side than looking forward. One of the rooms at the Eagle Center had three injured eagles. The eagles were pretty quiet, but one started screeching at the other ones."



Described by Cortney: “Before we starting kayaking we attended a paddle class and we all passed. While kayaking down the Mississippi River, we went under a tree that had an eagle sitting on a branch. They we went to a beach, found clams, shells, and swam.”



Notes - by Kathy: “The youth had a picnic along the Mississippi River before they went kayaking down the Mississippi River. Some of the other parents and chaperones toured downtown Wabasha and enjoyed lunch at Slippery’ s Tavern Restaurant.”



Lark Toys located in Kellogg, MN was founded in 1983. They crafted wooden toys for their sons and began to sell them at art fairs. People liked their toys so much that they began to manufacture them in earnest. Eventually they sold to 2,500 stores nationwide. A small retail store was opened in the factory. Families, tour and school groups discovered this interesting destination. High quality toys and gifts were added, along with great children's books and tin toys. A toy museum was begun with the owners' favorites and toys donated and purchased. In 1988 they began to design a carousel. Over a period of nine years, Tim Monson (LARK's head toymaker) blocked-up the wood; carved the animals; and LARK artist hand-stained them. Finally, in 1997, it was ready to begin delighting riders from around the world. The scenic 18-hole miniature golf course was added and outdoor recreational fun.



Notes - by Kathy: "After a fun day in Wabasha and Kellogg. They traveled to Chapel's family farm and camp ground. Brandon gave us a tour of his Grandmother's cabin. The family moved the cabin a few years ago closer to their family home piece by piece and restored it. Then Daren showed us their family show pigs. Lastly the youth played football, threw frisbee, and some of the youth rolled down the grassy hills. The Chapel's grandfather showed them his restored tractor. Then they enjoyed the evening dinner of pork tenderloins, salads, beans, sweet tea, and different dessert bars by the camp fire."



Day 7 --- Destination: Saint Paul and Bloomington

The **James J. Hill House** is located in Saint Paul, MN. The house was built by railroad magnate James J. Hill. The house, completed in 1891, is near the eastern end of Summit Avenue near the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The house, for its time, was very large and was the "showcase of St. Paul" until James J. Hill's death in 1916. It is listed as a U.S. National Historic Landmark, operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. It is also a contributing property to the Historic Hill District. The home has 36,000 square feet (3,344 square meters) of living area.



Mall of America is located in Bloomington, MN. Mall of America has over 520 stores, Nickelodeon Universe, Lego, Barbie Dreamhouse, House of Comedy, American Girl, and so much more. They employ close to 12,000 people and have over 40 million visitors each year.



Sea Life Aquarium is located in the Mall of America. Sea Life has thousands of sea creatures, including sharks, sea turtles, rays, jellyfish, seahorses, 1.2 million-gallon aquarium and more! Plus, fun interactive activities throughout the aquarium including touch pools, stamp stations with dive books.





Day 8 --- Destination: Bell County, Texas

After a wonderful week in Minnesota it was time to say Good Bye. The members and chaperones left the hotel and took the shuttle to Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport at 5:00 a.m to catch a flight on Sun Country Airlines back to Dallas/Ft Worth International Airport. The flight was full and had some turbulence. They made a pit stop on the way home in West to get a snack and they arrived back in Bell County at noon. Bell County 4-Hers were a little sleepy after this amazing week in Houston County, Minnesota.



June 28-July 5, 2014

Day 1 -- Destination: Dallas and Rogers

Welcome party at Powell's Ranch.





Day 2 -- Destination: Family Day

Lindsey took her guest Kendra and Jennie to her ranch, painted, and watched a movie at **Last Drive-In** in Gatesville.



Wesley took his guest Brandon and Mike to **Cameron Park Zoo**, **Temple Train Depot**, and **Webers Paintballing**.



Cortney and Patrick took their guests Darin and Austin to **Webers Paintballing**. While Victoria took her guest Lauren and Katie to **Temple Mall**.



Alex took his guest Josh to tour **Texas A&M University** in College Station.



Day 3 -- Destination: San Antonio

The youth and chaperones had a funfilled day at **Fiesta Texas** in San Antonio.



Day 4 -- Destination: San Antonio

Started the morning off watching *Alamo-The Price of Freedom* at **IMAX** theater and then they toured the **Alamo**. They spent some time eating and shopping at the **Rivercenter Mall** and along the **River Walk**. and enjoyed the **Rio Cruise**. Later toured **El Mercado Market Square** and enjoyed dinner at Mi Tierra Café. On the way home they made a quick stop at **Buckee's** which is the world's largest gas station.





Day 5 -- Destination: Belton and Austin

First they toured the **Bell County Museum** and then off to Austin to tour the **Texas State Capitol**. The group enjoy Freddie's for dinner and listened to some live music. The youth enjoyed some down time and went to **The Union** which is an underground bowling alley on the **University of Texas** campus. Later in the evening went on **Lonestar Cruise** to watch the bats come out from under Congress Bridge.





Day 6 -- Destination: Waco and Belton

Took the members and chaperones to **Texas Rangers Hall of Fame and Museum**, **Dr. Pepper Museum**, and **Waco Mammoth Site**. Later that evening enjoyed the **PRCA** at Bell County Expo .





Day 7 -- Destination: Belton and Troy

Started the morning off at the Belton 4th of July Parade. Then the host family had free time to spend at the festival or with their family. Later in the evening we met up for some BBQ and a firework show in Troy.





Day 8 -- Destination: Temple and Dallas Ft Worth International Airport

Houston County packed their bags in the morning and then they went to Oscar Store for lunch. On the way to the airport they made a pit stop at Little Czech Bakery in West for some Kolaches. Then it was time to say good bye at DFW Airport.





Top 13

Things we learned in Minnesota

1. Houston County, Minnesota name was chosen to honor Sam Houston, who was president of Texas - Kathy
2. Wisconsin Dells is The Water Capital of the World - Victoria
3. Plew is a beaver skin used as a standard unit of value in the fur trade - Cortney
4. One cow can produce over 50lbs of milk per day - Alex
5. Pikes Peak is often called the "Driftless" region – Wesley
6. Spook Cave is always 47 degrees – Patrick
7. Tugboat pushes barges down Mississippi River – Victoria
8. Every truck load of corn is weighed and grade is measured - Lindsey
9. Barges can hold between 50,000 – 55,000 bushels - Lindsey

10. La Crosse Queen is a modern day replica paddlewheel boat - Patrick
11. Granddad Bluff Park is 700 feet about Mississippi River- Wesley
12. Houston County is known for Barn Quilt Trails - Kathy
13. Bald Eagles wingspan ranging around seven foot - Alex

Bell County 4-H Exchange

- The Bell County 4-H Exchange Program is a 2 year program for Senior-aged 4-H members.
- The program is open to 4-H members across Bell County and begins a new group every other year in August.
- Special thanks to our 2014-2015 Assistant Adult Leader Denise Young for her dedication and commitment to the program's success.
- We would also like to thank all of the parents in Bell County and Houston County for serving as great hosts.
- Thank you to all of our donors who supported our fundraisers!
- Special thanks also goes to Denise Young, Alyson Crow, Josie Powell, Mike De Boer, Dawn Tyribakken, and Melanie Capel for serving as traveling chaperones for our youth.
- We also would like to thank Brandon Young, Ricky Crow, Chad Ide, Melissa Cobb, Eric Cobb, David Powell, and Heidi Prude for your work behind the scenes in making things happen.

For more information about the Bell County 4-H Exchange Program:

Contact: Kathy Ide

Bell County 4-H Exchange Leader

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