

# Camp La Junta

# Alumni Edition



# The Tatter



WWW.LAJUNTA.COM - P.O. BOX 139 - HUNT, TX



## Our 94th Summer has Come and Gone.

Few folks besides Wrangler Dave have been here since 1928, and few things even remain on site since 1928. That said, few things have changed at all since 1928. Got you confused?

Since the first summer of Camp La Junta, our experience has been about "boys being boys." It's been about guns and arrows and kick balls and rope swings and horses and lightning bugs. That hasn't changed a bit. In fact, it's become more important that it hasn't changed a bit.

This summer, we saw the emotional impact of 18 months of young boys being separated from many of the things that help make young boys into young men. Our boys needed a place to run. They needed to play. They needed to shoot and swim and ride. They needed to achieve. They needed to fall. They needed to get back up and realize that all is still good.

Special thanks to the Alumni Association for supporting our alumni scholarship fund. In addition to multiple partial scholarships, one young man came to camp tuition-free. He was from San Antonio. He was 11. He got to get out of a lock down world to run, to swim, to shoot, and to ride. He was able to laugh. To win. To lose. To be a boy. I'm sure he had moments in the past two years to just be a boy, but we got to watch him do it non-stop for an entire camp session. You folks made that possible, and we thank you.

Have a blessed holiday. Camp is a legacy that we try to keep as tightly to the original as we can. Thanks for helping us keep the legacy alive.

You old guys ROCK! - Blake

## Life is Good. Camp is Better.

# BROTHERHOOD

I hesitated to share this story of "sad news" in a camp newsletter but.... I do think that so often we can find joy in the midst of tragedy.

You see I went to a funeral of a dear camp friend of mine last weekend. Not only me but also two more camp buddies. The four of us had been connected for 50 years and our friend has passed away too soon. We were united by our camp experiences and growing that bond is what keep us connected for the rest of our lives. That same bond, relationship, connectivity drove Mike and Randle to travel from the west coast, myself from Texas, to gather with Andy's family in Florida to celebrate the life of our friend. And what a celebration it was! We all landed in Florida within thirty minutes of each other and the ~~ties~~ stories started to fly. Do you remember that time you fell off the diving board fully clothed, do you remember when we hunted jack rabbits, what was the name of that girl we all wanted to dance with at Cridders? No, she wouldn't talk to any of us. As we reminisced late into the evening, I was drawn to my favorite camp slogan: "at school I have friends, at camp I have brothers!"

Often 'ol timers visit La Junta to reminisce about their time in the 40's and 50's. I hear them talk about a lifelong friendships they made at camp. While watching the slideshow celebrating Andy's life and seeing so many photos from his summers at Camp La Junta, the truth hit me. Camp La Junta is a special place! I'm a better person because of my time at camp. I grew, I played, I loved, and yes, I cried. But through it all, I had brothers!

I leave you today with one of my favorite camp stories. Just a few years ago on closing day with all the parents gathered waiting to see their sons, I saw two young guys run up to a mom. Mom, this is my best friend! He sleeps on the bunk above me, we have the same riflery class, we rode horses at the same time! Mom says "honey, what is name?" the little guys look at each other for a short while and say, "I don't know!"

The brotherhood continues!

-- Wrangler Dave



**Thank You to Our Alumni Association Members!**

**As you can see, your donations did big things in 2021. Your continued support is vital to ensuring that more deserving young men get the opportunity to spend their summers at Camp La Junta. We ask that you continue your support of the CLJ Alumni Scholarship Fund by returning the enclosed donation card with your 2022 pledge.**

# ALUMNI WEEKEND

**April 29-May 1, 2022**



Join Camp La Junta for our first-ever Alumni Weekend and relive cherished camp memories and make new ones. All alumni (28+) are invited to reconnect with old friends, participate in favorite camp activities, and experience treasured CLJ traditions.

**Visit [www.lajunta.com/alumni/](http://www.lajunta.com/alumni/)  
to register TODAY!**

## MORE THAN JUST FUN!

The wonderful thing about Camp La Junta is that it's more than just a vacation or an AWESOME place to spend summer days. It's an experience that becomes a part of who each camper is – it's learning and growing, having the strength and courage to explore the world beyond their home and beyond their parents.

This summer, CLJ continued our legacy of encouraging campers to challenge themselves and become better versions of themselves. The great part is campers see the camp experience as “just having fun,” but we know it is so much more. Athletics wasn't only about building physical expertise but also learning to be a good sport and a team player. When given the opportunity to try something new like the zip line or SCUBA, campers not only learned to take a step out of their comfort zone but also built confidence and determination. As our campers spent Camp Crafts class in the rapids looking for crawfish and minnows, they not only had fun splashing in the river but also strengthened a connection to nature that will inspire and grow a love for the outdoors and the environment. Alongside their counselors and friends, each camper celebrated their successes, learned from their mistakes, and grew as a young man.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp La Junta. You're awesome, and we're grateful. We can't wait for Summer 2022 and are excited you will be a part of it!

-- Scott

# Snapshot of Summer 2021



## 1st Term

Winning Ranch: Running W

All Around Cowboy: Griffin Murray    Black Eagle Chief: Harris Brownlow

## 2nd Term

Winning Ranch: Maltese Cross

All Around Cowboy: Harrison Cullum    Black Eagle Chief: Henry Cardwell