

Nighthawk Ranch – A Unique Summer Camp Experience

Summer is almost here and for many it means – summer camp! In Guffey, Colorado, there is a very



special camp which runs for 4 weeks each summer. Nighthawk Ranch is a non-profit camp for kids ages 10 to 18 **battling** cancer. The goal of Nighthawk is to provide a **safe** and healing environment where these **brave** children are able to enjoy themselves, build up their self-esteem and look towards a brighter future.

Each camper is responsible for looking after a horse for the week, the same horse they will learn to ride. Kathryn Ory, who volunteers her time as the camp photographer, noted that "most of the campers start the week a little standoffish⁽¹⁾ towards each

other, and somewhat **shy** around the horses. By the time the last day comes, they are totally different children! It is **amazing** to see the changes in them. I am so **fortunate** to witness it first hand."

Justin Dunn runs the equine therapy program. The horses that the kids care for and ride are all owned and trained by Justin. In addition to caring for their horse and learning to ride, campers get to experience other activities, like building log cabins, crafts, ropes courses, archery, and camping. Tom and Dorothy Evans started the camp to provide a unique high mountain working ranch experience that encourages achievement through a **variety** of activities. They fund the camp out of their own pockets with the help of donations and the generosity of volunteers. There is never a cost to the camp attendees and their families.

Nighthawk Ranch is so much more than a summer camp, it's a truly **memorable** experience for children and their families.

A. Mark the sentences as True (T) or False (F).

1. Nighthawk Ranch is located in the UK. ☐
2. The camp is open all summer. ☐
3. It was created for children with health problems. ☐
4. They can improve their confidence there. ☐
5. Children can only look after the horses. ☐
6. The camp offers mainly academic activities. ☐
7. Campers have to pay to attend this camp. ☐
8. Children will never forget this experience. ☐

B. Match the parts of the sentences.

1. Nighthawk Ranch is a place ...
 2. In the first few days of camp ...
 3. Justin Dunn ...
 4. This summer camp ...
 5. Tom and Dorothy Evans get help from others ...
- a. children don't interact much with each other. ☐
 - b. offers a wide range of activities. ☐
 - c. to finance this project. ☐
 - d. where sick children can have fun. ☐
 - e. is responsible for training the horses. ☐