



GAINES CREEK 2015-2016

OH, THE STORIES THEY TELL

This book is dedicated to the wonderful community that we know and love as Gaines Creek. We are grateful to the guides who show such genuine respect and care for our young adults; to the parents who value and support the development of whole people; to everyone else who has, is or will contribute to the creation of the school and its culture; and of course to the adolescents who have thrived and flourished, and made this place their own.



We wrote this book to commemorate the year that gave and received such a bounty of love, sweat and tears. All of us know firsthand just how hard it is to say goodbye, which is why it's all the more important to remember the times that make it so difficult. This compendium of far fetched tales and epics, was only possible because of a coordinated effort from every member of the community, each pouring their most treasured memories of this most wonderful year onto the pages that now lie before you.

Happy Reading,
Gaines Creek Community

MO RANCH





from:

Katie Foree

One of my favorite memories from Mo Ranch was from the Big Gulp. As you all should know, the Big Gulp is a giant swing of sorts, where you're hoisted by a series of pulleys attached. Anyways, I was not informed that you are not allowed to hang upside down, because there is a large chance you will slip out and fall to your death. The reason I thought this was okay is because last year the councilor said nothing about this when I went all out and flipped upside down, in the whole "Spider-man swing thing." This year when I went to go do this again, I was nearly all the way upside down when I heard an earsplitting shriek from the poor ropes course instructor as she envisioned me falling to my death on the rocks below. In the end though, everything was fine. I righted myself and besides my pride and the instructor's heart, everything turned out fine.



from:

Vaughn Burger

The craziest thing that happened at MO Ranch this year was probably climbing the MO pole. It was a little bit scary because looking up at it, it didn't look that tall, but when you climbed it it seemed a lot taller than it was.



from:

Caleb Melville

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I loved the big gulp.

“ *from:*
Finn Dickens

I liked Torchy's after Mo Ranch.

“ *from:*
Olivia B

This year we got to experience a new challenge – rappelling. We got to hang over the edge of a 75-foot bridge and slowly lower ourselves into a dry creek bed below. I found it really fun because I personally love heights but I don't like the feeling of falling, so this was perfect for me.



from:

Austin Joos

At MO Ranch we did lots of cool things. This year we repelled off the 75 – 80 ft catwalk. It looked pretty scary at the top but the only really scary part of doing it was getting over the rail. After climbing over the rail it was really fun all the way down.

My favorite thing was the big gulp, it is so much fun when you are at the top and suddenly drop really fast and it looks like you are going to hit the ground but you don't. Then you swing back and forth until you stop.

“ *from:*
Olivia B

TEAM UNICORNS!!! Team One (for the adventure race) came up with a great name and a fabulous motto: “Peanut Butter Jelly Time.” We had a great time working together to solve problems and kick butt! We came in second as a team, but we had great spirit and had a lot of fun!!





Sarah McGee: Mo Ranch was a great way to get to know each other especially when we did this activity where everyone shared a little bit about themselves and we all ended up being connected by one string.



Sarah McGee: Learning teamwork on the rope obstacle course







Mo Pole







BARTON
SPRINGS
UNIVERSITY



from:

Noah Holt

The most important thing I learned was that no one knows everything.



from:

Caleb Melville

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I learned no one knows it all.



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Knox Alvarez: One of the lessons was about the Barton Springs salamanders. We learned about the different species of salamanders in Barton Springs, and the equipment that scientists used to examine the salamanders. This air tank is used to go underwater and catch the salamanders, so that the scientists can examine them.



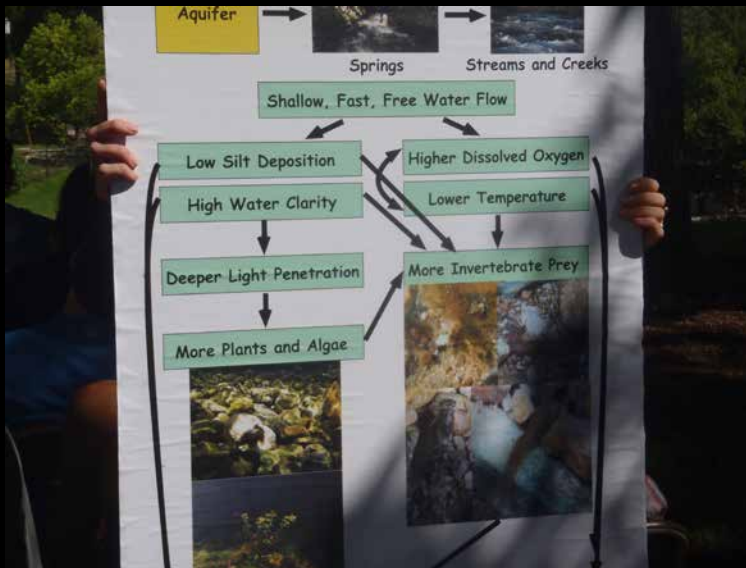
Cole Alvarez: While there, we saw a conversation between the mayor of Austin, the leader of the Sierra Club in Texas and a moderator who is a former councilwoman.



Ananya Salem: Walking to Barton Springs



Ananya Salem: Katie doing cool activities, like painting bags and having fun!



Ananya Salem: There were different stations we could go to to learn about different things that had to do with Barton Springs.

INKS LAKE



from:


Austin Joos

I liked doing the cave, it was a lot of fun being down there and seeing what the cave looks like. It was fun learning about the geology of Inks Lake. When I climbed up Enchanted Rock and got to the top, I could see everything.

When we went to Inks Lake, we did so much in that week but I liked the cave best. The cave got everyone muddy. Some people made mud sculptures and some people threw mud on the roof and others laid down in the cold water. We also saw two skunks. Tom named one Snowflake and the other Black Jake.

 *from:*
Harper Kingsland

I loved being out in nature, and learning about geology. Though literally the whole week was filled with puns. Very gneiss puns.

 **Olivia B:**
Don't take it for granite Harper.



from:

Noah Holt

I really liked the caving. At first I thought I was going to hate it, but then when we got into the cave it was really fun and awesome.



from:

Caleb Melville & Gregory Hilsabeck

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I loved the cave.

 *from:*
Sarah McGee

One of my favorite parts of the Inks Lake trip was when we climbed up Enchanted Rock. Our group accidentally got a little bit off the path in the beginning and ended up bouldering all the way to the top. I think I speak for almost all the students in our group when I say that this made the trip even more fun, but I think Veronique might have died about halfway up.