

## ANNUAL BOYS RANCH

# RODEO

## LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Cal Farley always listened to "his boys," and when some of them asked to have a rodeo, he agreed. An enthusiastic group of about 100 friends cheered on the boys at the first rodeo in 1944.

More than six decades later, thousands of family members, friends and alumni gather each Labor Day weekend for the annual Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo. The rodeo brings together children from Boys Ranch and Girlstown, U.S.A. to compete in events ranging from pole bending and bull riding to stick-horse barrel racing and mutton bustin'. It also serves as a homecoming for Boys Ranch alumni.

In 2000, the inaugural Old Tascosa Rendezvous was first held in conjunction with the rodeo. The event offers living history interpretations on the lifestyles of early cowboys, explorers and Native Americans during Tascosa's heyday.

The children and staff of Boys Ranch and Girlstown, U.S.A. invite visitors to join the fun and excitement of the rodeo and rendezvous held every Labor Day weekend. For more information please visit the Web site at [www.calfarley.org](http://www.calfarley.org) or call 1-800-687-3722.

## CAL FARLEY'S

# BOYS RANCH



Home for this modern community of boys and girls is a working cattle ranch spread across 11,000 beautiful acres in the Canadian River Valley of Oldham County, 36 miles northwest of Amarillo, Texas.

Cal Farley, known to many as this country's Greatest Foster Father, founded America's first Boys Ranch in 1939 as a place where a youngster could find "a shirttail to hang onto."

Today, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch offers a nurturing, structured community where children from across the United States live in group homes with specially trained, compassionate house parents. Boys and girls ages 5 through 18 enjoy a variety of academic, vocational, spiritual and extracurricular activities in a supportive environment.

**BRISD.** Boys Ranch Independent School District serves as an integral part of the community and includes the Mimi Farley Elementary School, Blakemore Middle School, Boys Ranch High School and STARR Academy.

Our students consistently perform above the standards set by the Texas Education Agency on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills and the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Challenging curriculum and a full array of programs, supported by state-of-the-art technology, is available to meet the educational needs of each student, including Gifted & Talented, Special Education, Career & Technology and Advanced Placement/Dual Credit.

Extracurricular activities play a vital role in developing the "whole child." In addition to a variety of athletic opportunities, BRISD provides other activities including choir, band, drama, speech and academic competitions. Student organizations support student involvement through FFA, Skills USA-VICA, and Family Careers and Community Leaders (FCCLA).

**Christian Education.** Building trust and strengthening personal relationships in a spiritual setting is one of the cornerstones upon which Cal Farley founded Boys Ranch. A strong spiritual program continues today.

Nondenominational Sunday morning chapel services and weekly Bible studies are offered through the Christian Education program.

Additional spiritual activities include Fellowship of Christian Athletes, retreats and summer camps. The children are encouraged to participate in music ministry, read scriptures, act out Bible stories, offer prayers and serve as ushers.

**Vocational Skills.** A vigorous Vocational Skills program provides opportunities for residents to develop a healthy work ethic and job skills through assigned chores in the home and jobs in the community.

Vocational training opportunities include agriculture, horticulture, auto technology, building trades, food service, meat processing, custodial and building maintenance, clerical support, firefighting, health services and home economics.

Boys and girls maintain their own accounts at Boys Ranch Bank with guidance from house parents. Children learn money management skills while earning an allowance to help them reach their goals after leaving the program.

**Transitional Living.** Boys Ranch also offers residents training in transition to independent living. This program teaches life skills designed to increase a young person's level of personal responsibility.

The childcare team is involved in providing guidance regarding choices and instruction in appropriate decision-making skills, with the goal of preparing the children to be balanced and productive adults.

**Activities.** Boys Ranch girls and boys may participate in a wide range of year-round activities. Intramural sports include volleyball, basketball, flag football, slow-pitch softball and soccer.

Club sport teams offer competition with youth from nearby communities and may include cheerleading, swimming, archery and more.

Summer recreation is jam-packed with opportunities for trail riding, arts and crafts, fishing, board games, and career choices labs. Lessons are available in dance, scuba diving, rappelling and horsemanship.

Off-ranch activities include field trips for canoeing, river rafting, historical site seeing, and destination visits to amusement parks and museums.

Young people may represent Boys Ranch as members of the Boys Ranch Honor Patrol, the Cowboy Poetry Team and the volunteer fire department. Boys and girls earn recognition and awards as they proudly represent Boys Ranch in parades, grand entries, fire fighting competitions, tournaments and other events.

## CAL FARLEY'S GIRLSTOWN, U.S.A.

Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A., located 45 miles west of Lubbock, Texas, prepares adolescent girls to become responsible family members and successful adults by providing a family-style, Christ-centered environment. The girls range in age from 12 to 18.

Girlstown places strong emphasis on building healthy relationships between the girls and their family members. Ongoing workshops are held for residents' families to work on the communication skills necessary for functional, effective and positive interaction.

The girls attend school in Whiteface, Texas. They may remain at Girlstown for as short as one year or continue on through high school graduation.

## CAL FARLEY'S FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

Cal Farley's leaders have long recognized the value of working with the families of its children, while realizing that distance often makes such efforts that much more difficult.

With that in mind, in 2003 Cal Farley's brought its long history of strengthening families to the Dallas/Fort Worth area by opening Cal Farley's Family Resource Center in Arlington. Since then, additional centers have opened in Amarillo, Austin and Houston.

The centers allow for an expanded scope of services to be provided to families of both current and prospective residents. The centers provide information and referral assistance, as well as follow-up services for alumni of Cal Farley's campus-based programs. In addition, family case management services – family and parenting skills programs and community training seminars – are offered.