



The Hensley family jumps for joy at being in Wyoming!

### Little Bit Of Fun

**This summer I visited the Gros Ventre River Ranch in Moose, Wyoming, with my family and the Ferris family. As the trip time came closer, I was pretty apprehensive. I was not comfortable riding a horse and wasn't sure what to expect from a dude ranch, but my excitement and curiosity rose.**

The Gros Ventre River Ranch is located outside of Jackson. My first impression was that the area was breathtaking. The Teton Mountains were simply amazing! The ranch was much nicer than I expected. I thought the dude ranch would be "old timey," but it was more like a nice resort. The ranch sits on the Gros Ventre River with lots of land for the horses and cattle to roam. Some of my favorite things were the bottomless cookie jar, great food, energetic staff and wranglers and the endless games of cards, ping pong and pool with the Ferris kids.

Our first morning on the ranch, the wranglers introduced me to Little Bit, my horse for the week. They gave me Little Bit, a white horse with gray spots, because he was a "little slower." Unfortunately, he also liked to scratch on thistle trees. And when I say scratch, I mean he walked into and on top of the trees with me on him. I was thinking, "What the heck is this

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Wyoming sunset

horse doing?” Everyone was laughing! Jess, one of the wranglers, helped coach me on how to keep Little Bit on the trail. It was a challenge, and I really did not want to ride again. But each morning, I got back on Little Bit. We rode every day on different trails through the hills, and slowly I became more comfortable on Little Bit. By the end of the week, I was confident trotting and loping with my horse.

In addition to horseback riding, we had fun competitions of guys versus girls and sorted and penned the cows. This was one of my favorite activities at the ranch. Of course, it ended in a tie. We went fly fishing at the ranch and spent an afternoon hiking and cliff jumping. (We thought we were pretty brave jumping from a 30-foot cliff until we saw some guys doing back flips off of it.) Another highlight of the trip was white water rafting on the Snake River. Our raft guide was so funny. He let us take turns “riding the bull” over the rapids on the front of the raft. The water was cold, but getting soaked was worth it.

My family decided to go on this trip to give us an opportunity to do things we had never done or experienced before. And by the end of the trip, I didn’t want to leave. The Gros Ventre River Ranch opened my eyes to new adventures, and I look forward to riding Little Bit again one day.

For more information on the ranch, visit [www.grosventreriverranch.com](http://www.grosventreriverranch.com).

*Garrett Hensley is a sophomore at Myers Park High School who enjoys playing soccer, running and hanging out with his friends. He is also interested in marine biology and sports medicine/training.*

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The Hensley family (L to R): Alex, Catherine, Carter, Garrett and Andrew



Garrett and Little Bit



Rafting fun



Horses in the pasture