

# My Sonshine Ranch Adventures

I heard the crisp, crunching noises as we were walking down the steep path. Sonshine Ranch was going to hold many surprises, starting with archery!

As we approached the clearing I could make out the faint shapes of target boards. Then we got split into groups of 4 or 5. Next we took turns at shooting arrows. "Finally! My turn," I thought.

Slowly I picked up an arrow and instantly gulped. Shakily, I put the arrow into the bow and pulled back my arm. "Trickier than I thought!" I said to myself. A parent helper helped me to pull the string all the way back to my cheek. Then slowly, I released. My heart started pounding loudly as the arrow sprang through the air and went straight passed the target.

As we headed back up the track I took one last look at the colourful targets. Slowly I trooped up the track. "Horse riding!" I yelled. "Oops! I have to be quiet around horses," I reminded myself. I

listened to our instructor, Molly. Horse riding sounded easy enough. I joined the line to get a helmet. The stable stunk! I clipped on my helmet and ran out onto the arena. Wow! Those horses were huge up-close! I watched as Molly sent classmates to their horses. "What one will I get?" I wondered. Molly looked at the small group left. "Who wants my favourite?" she grinned. "Me, me, me!" I pleaded. Molly pointed to me. "Yes!" I said. Over at my horse, Zoo, Miss Orr helped me on. Slowly Zoo and I backed out and trotted around the arena. Molly opened a small gate and we rode out of the stable. We slowly steered our way through the track, following the other horses in front of us. After a while, we came back into the stable. I petted Zoo and said goodbye.

Next we walked out of the stable and into some sort of area with farm animals. As we walked into the pens, I saw a small white guinea pig. I sat down and got to hold a tiny brown bunny-rabbit. I looked over at Erin and the bunny on her lap had fallen asleep. When I held the guinea pig, it nestled its soft little head on my lap. I quickly said goodbye to the cute animals and walked outside. "Aww!" I saw silk, white female goats! I rushed over to a bush and picked up a handful of dropped off leaves. I ran back to the horned creatures and began feeding them.

Then I heard Adesh. "I call it the automatic-leaf-eating-machine!" he announced. I laughed. Adesh is one of Room 21's many clowns. I took turns sharing my gathered up leaves with the two goats. Slowly, I said goodbye to them, too!

After a refreshing break of lunch, Room 21 walked down to the flying fox! I was SOOOO excited! I love flying foxes! When it was my turn, I walked up the steep, dirty ramp. I stood patiently on the platform, waiting to get clipped onto the wire. 1...2...3... "Weeeeeeee!" I screamed. I was having the time of my life! I began running in the air. "Perfect landing!" I thought. I followed the sign that said: THIS WAY. Next I stood on another platform. Whizzzzzz! Down the line again! Another great landing! By this time, I was just about asleep! I walked to the bus and on the ride back caught a few well deserved Z's.

I will never forget the time I had at Sonshine Ranch! Miss Orr said this was only a taster of what camp is going to bring. In that case, I can't wait for camp!!!

By Livi Hautler

