

TSC ... We are thrilled to be celebrating our 80th Anniversary this year!

1. **Our mission:** Tom Sawyer Camps creates lifelong memories by providing fun-filled days where children feel happy and safe!

2. Tom Sawyer Camps was founded in 1926 by Bill and Al Shleicher in Laguna Beach as a summer resident camp for boys. Bill had had previous experience working at a YMCA camp and became highly motivated to develop a camp program for boys, understanding the benefits of what a camp environment provides.

In 1944, TSC moved to its current location, Hahamongna Watershed Park (formerly known as Oak Grove Park) and has been operating there for the past 62 years as a day camp. We are one of the pioneers in youth camping in Southern California, actively involved in and accredited by the American Camp Association as well as a member of WAIC (Western Association of Independent Camps). Over the years, our camp has maintained the commitment that every child should experience carefree, constructive activities in the out-of-doors in the tradition of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher.

TSC has been providing horseback riding lessons as an integral part of its program since we moved to Hahamongna back in 1944. Our horse program's goals are to instill confidence and help overcome fear in each of our campers. Campers learn to respect the size and power of the horses and to control their trusty steeds.

Speaking specifically about the property that the city of Pasadena has just re-acquired, TSC is currently running year round horseback riding programs, our summer camp program and a unique After School Social Skills program called BLAST, for kids who need extra help with their social skills.

During the school year, we have 65 children a week who take riding lessons with us. We offer lessons everyday (excluding Sundays) and have group, private and semi private classes. Kids are riding with us from 3:00 – 5:30 everyday (and 8:00 am – 12:00 on Saturdays).

All of our horseback riders learn horse skills while using the arenas at RBR as well as the “Enchanted Forest” (a favorite riding spot for our pre school aged campers) and the trails that surround the MWP property and lead into the basin (“The Desert”).

During the school year, we also offer trail rides on the weekends to local families. We do about 6 trail rides a month, often to celebrate a young girl's birthday! We also work with many local Girl Scout troops, helping the girls to earn their horsemanship badge (we even just did a class for all the third graders at the Waverly School on The horse digestive system ... the kids got to see what happens at both ends of a horse!). Many people come to us with an idea of a program for children and horses and we work with them to create just about anything that fits their needs and interests!

Over the two-week winter holiday break, we provide full day horse lessons to approximately 30 kids a week.

During our year round lessons, we have children with special needs riding with us as well (children who are diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder and are on the Autism Spectrum).

In the summer, our number of campers and horses increases to approximately 400 children a day and a herd of approximately 50 horses. Our campers ride from 10:00 – 3:00 daily, Monday through Friday. We also offer an additional program for our horse crazy campers from 4:00 – 6:00 (Monday through Friday). At anytime during the day, we have over 46 kids using the arena, the Enchanted Forest and the surrounding trails all on horseback! We also have a horse staff (high school and college aged students) of 16 who are from the local areas, many who have grown up as campers in our program.

And on every other weekend during the summer, we do 3 different trail rides with our camp families (16 riders per trail ride). Our Sunday trail ride is one of the most popular since we have a BBQ at the end up at the RBR clubhouse.

We have a full time employee who is our Operations Manager that lives in a house on the property, running our horseback riding program as well as maintaining the property and providing round the clock security for not only our horses but also the horses that belong to the members of RBR. He also assists in the overall maintenance of the area and works closely with Park personnel and RBR club members.

BLAST: We started our BLAST program in 1996 as a response to the lack of special programs that teach essential skills and increase a child's self-confidence in social situations. We have three different aged programs – Mini Blast (5-6 year olds), Elementary Blast and Middle School Blast. The program runs 5 days a week (every afternoon from 3:30 – 5:00) and takes place at the RBR clubhouse. Our Blast program has become a big success and usually has a waiting list each session. Many of the children who participate in this program are funded by the Lanterman Regional Center. And, of course, one of the highlights of Blast is horseback riding with the kids every Tuesday.

During the summertime, we also use the property for other camp activities ... A Low Ropes Challenge Course for our Middle School kids (all teambuilding activities), an archery course for kids aged 6 – 14, and our annual “obstacle” course (a highlight of the summer for our campers) which includes jumping, climbing and rolling ... all though MUD, of course!

We currently store 20 of our vans during the winter on the property as well. They are moved during the summer months since they are used for our summer camp.

3. **The Benefits:** Camp Give kids a World of Good! We hear over and over again from our parents (and staff!) that their children gain confidence and learn to take safe risks in a caring environment while participating in our program. Campers also develop an awareness and appreciation of the natural environment. Our program has not changed much over the past 80 years; we have a successful formula that proactively supports and promotes positive human development, in both our campers and staff!

ACA's research shows that campers who attend camp gain self-confidence and that specifically camp helped them to feel good about themselves and to make new friends! TSC helps build self confidence, strengthens social skills, increases cooperation, explores and appreciates nature and best of all, provides a FUN, safe supervised setting.

TSC expanded its program in 1997 to allow more children to experience the magic of camp ... we opened TSC Too in Arcadia at the Arcadia County Park where approximately 100 children attend camp every day in the summer time.

4. We serve over 1600 campers a year (approximately 1000 families). Our service area is broad – most of our campers are from the San Gabriel Valley but we have had children from as far as Japan attend our programs! Many kids travel from all over LA County to participate in our Blast program as well.

5. **Fees:** Children pay to participate in all of our programs.

Year Round Horse lessons: \$96 for a four-week class (one day a week for an hour)

Trail Rides: \$25 for a 1½-hour ride.

Blast: Approximately \$800 for an 8 week program (Two days a week). Parents are able to submit bills for insurance companies to cover (group therapy). We do have scholarships for Blast based on need.

Summer Camp:

We offer more than 30 camperships each summer to children enrolled in PUSD as part of our lease agreement with the City of Pasadena. We are thrilled about this program – In Summer 2005 we gave out 42 camperships at a value of \$32,410 (average \$771 per camper).

Donations:

We give out over 30 different “donations” each year to local schools and non-profits to help with their fundraising events they hold. This past year, we have donated 15 “camperships” and 10 horseback riding classes to support the silent auctions that these groups held.

6. **How do we generate revenue?** People pay to participate in our programs!

7. **What qualifies people to receive services?** Again, people pay a fee to participate in our program.

8. **Fee to RBR?** We have a “sub-lease” with RBR. Last year we paid RBR almost \$16,000 for rental space (corral) and use of the Clubhouse for our Blast program.

In addition, our Operations Manager provides both security and some onsite maintenance to the club.

9. **Other Facilities:**

Hahamonga Watershed Park – permit

Muir High School Pool – permit

Arcadia County Park – permit

Eaton Dam Stables – agreement

Bonelli Park – permit

10. **Similar Organizations:**

There are many other local summer day camps (agency and private) but none that are ACA accredited. Our program is very unique in comparison to these other programs because of the horseback riding program of it as well as the door to door transportation provided during the summer.

There are other local riding stables, but TSC offers basic horsemanship as opposed to specific disciplines (i.e. English, dressage, etc). The cost for our riding lessons is very reasonable in comparison to other programs since we provide the horses and do not require membership to the organization to ride.

11. **Membership Growing?**

Our numbers are continually growing, so much to the point that we are almost at full capacity in ALL of our Programs.

We started TSC Too to expand our summer camp.

We also started a Monrovia Blast program to allow more kids to come to Blast (Elementary aged).

We are flexible with our year round horseback riding lessons and are able to squeeze more kids into our lessons by adding instructors to our classes.

12. **Where do we see our Organization in the next 5 to 10 years?**

We have developed a successful formula for camp. The most logic decision would be to expand geographically to other areas in Southern California.

We often talk to local Non-Profits (i.e. Five Acres and Outward Bound Adventures) about providing horseback riding lessons at a dramatically reduced fee to allow their clients to participate in our program. We are always interested in partnering with local groups whose kids might never get the chance to ride a horse! In fact, over the past two years we have worked with a camp located in Northwest Pasadena called "Smile awhile" subsidizing our horse program so their kids could get the chance to ride. We had 10 kids a class in an eight-week class. Many of their campers have special needs as well, opening, blending "typical" kids and special needs kids together in one class,

Talk about CIC!!!