



# MO-MESSENGER

stay connected with Mo-Ranch news

**READY FOR A SUMMER OF  
#MOSUMMERMOFUN**



# UPCOMING AT MO-RANCH

## Conferences & Events

Camp Open House.....	April 8
Painting Retreat - Spring.....	April 10-13
Easter @ Mo.....	April 14-16
Bold Word Preaching Conference.....	April 24-27
Summer Camp for Kids Golf Tournament.....	May 4
Men's Conference.....	May 5-7
College Connection.....	May 15-19
Women's Conference I.....	May 30-June 1
Bible Study Conference.....	June 1-2
Women's Conference II.....	June 2-4
Mo-TLC: Teen Leadership Conference.....	June 11-16
Mo/PAM Worship & Music.....	June 18-23
Youth Celebration.....	June 25-30
Junior High Jubilee I.....	July 2-6
MCYC: Multi-Cultural Youth Conference.....	July 6-9
Junior High Jubilee II.....	July 9-13
ART@MO.....	July 16-21
Young Disciples' Confirmation Camp.....	July 24-28
Grand Camp.....	July 30-August 3
Young Adult Weekend.....	September 15-17
Quilting Retreat - Fall.....	September 18-22
Painting Retreat - Fall.....	September 21-24
Small Church Pastor's Retreat.....	October 16-19
Fall Photography Weekend.....	October 20-22
Prayer Retreat.....	October 20-22
Couples in Ministry Conference.....	October 23-26
Clay Week Retreat.....	November 5-10
Safe Place: Retreat for Bereaved Parents...	Nov 10-12
Thanksgiving @ Mo.....	November 23-26
Holiday Gift Making Retreat.....	November 30-Dec 3

## Camps

Mo-Ranch Summer Camp.....	June 4-July 22
Mo-Ranch Day Camp.....	June 5-August 11
Teen Adventure Day Camp.....	June 5-August 11
Summer Camp in the Rio Grande Valley....	July 24-29

[www.moranch.org/attend](http://www.moranch.org/attend)



It was a year filled with changes for Mo-Ranch. In 2016, Mo-Ranch Summer Camp experienced record-breaking numbers and expanded past the banks of the Guadalupe with Mo-Ranch Camp in the Valley, new programs were added, a new legacy society was established, spaces were remodeled, a new website was launched and a columbarium with a stunning outdoor space was built.

These changes didn't happen without a strong team spirit and support from donors, guests, board members and staff. As Mo-Ranch Program Director Kris Johnson puts it, "Together Everyone Achieves Mo." Mo-Ranch President Dick Powell couldn't agree more. "Teamwork has been the guiding compass for the Mo-Ranch staff and it's showing. There has been a renewed energy and great changes in so many departments. It's been exciting to see and there's even more in store."

Amongst all these changes, there are some things that always stay the same—Mo-Ranch will always be a transformational and sacred place for thousands of guests each year who retreat to the Hill Country. Please come and see all of the beautiful changes for yourself in 2017.

*Because of your support, Mo-Ranch thrives! Thank you for making 2016 a great year!*







*View from the columbarium at Serenity Hill*



*Needlework and Knitting Retreat group*



*Thanksgiving at Mo family photo booth*



*Small Church Pastor's Retreat*



*Family Systems attendees*



*Clay Week Retreat attendee*



*Artwork from Couples in Ministry Conference*

## **- FALL & SPRING MO-RANCH HIGHLIGHTS -**



*Gifts made during Gift Making Retreat*



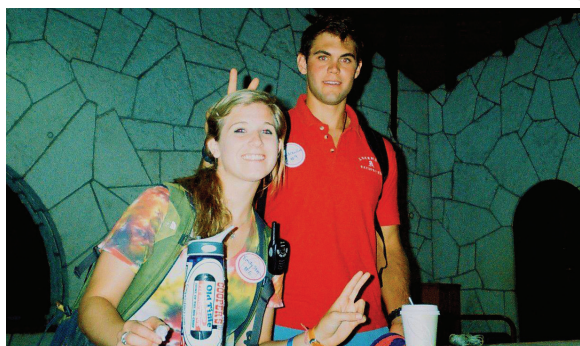
*"Telling Your Story" Writing Retreat*



# MO-RANCH + Romance = MO-MANCE

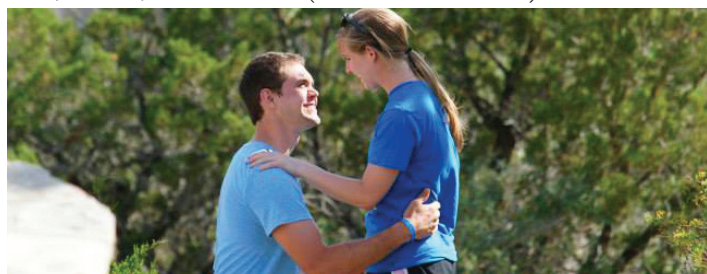
**W**hat's the definition of a "Mo-Mance?" We define it as a couple who met and/or fell in love with one another here at Mo-Ranch!

Emily and Andrew Cox's love story began in a typical Mo-Mance fashion. The two met at Mo-Ranch in 2003 while attending Junior High Jubilee, but at age 12, they were not interested in each other just yet. Luckily, the two of them would cross paths again two years later at Mo-Ranch and finally share their first "MO-ment." They locked eyes in the Main Auditorium one night and sparks flew!



*Emily and Andrew as small group leaders at Mo-Ranch in 2012*

Years flew by, and their love continued to grow. In 2013, the couple attended Mo-Ranch's College Connection together. During the conference, Andrew asked Emily to go up to Chapel on the Hill with him where he planned on proposing. Emily agreed, and invited many other friends attending the conference to go with them! Luckily for Andrew, it ended up being just the two of them at Chapel on the Hill. It was there that Andrew proposed on bended knee, taking Emily by total surprise. Andrew said that Emily was so shocked that she said, "No, no, really?" and then immediately she said, "YES, of course!" (much to his relief).



*Andrew's proposal to Emily at College Connection in 2013*

Memories and new beginnings continued for this Mo-Mance couple during their visits to Mo. Emily and Andrew have a pet cat they rescued from underneath Manor House during one of their trips to the ranch; he's fittingly named Mo, of course!

Their family continued to grow after they adopted their Mo-Ranch kitty. In summer 2013, they added a second cat, Sir Isaac Newton II, and then a dog, Zia. Then came their first child, Jacob, who was born in October of 2016. He's now their pride and joy who happens to sport a "future Mo-Ranch summer camper" onesie from the Mo-Ranch bookstore!

Mo-Ranch will always be a special place that overflows with memories of people they love and the moving spiritual experiences they both had.

"I will always remember and cherish vespers, especially the night in summer 2011 at College Connection when Emily and I held hands under the stars and dreamed about our future together," said Andrew.

**Emily is now the director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church Waco and Andrew is a lab manager and research associate at Baylor.**

A + E



*Emily, Andrew and Jacob*

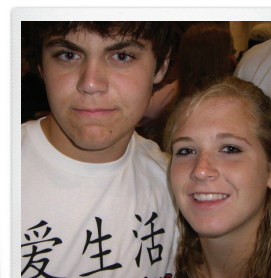


*Their kitty, Mo*

Mo-Mance



*The couple with their dog, Zia*



*Youth Celebration 2007*



# SAVE THE DATE

## FOR THE FIRST EVER

### *Mo-Mance Retreat!*

If you and your spouse are a “Mo-Mance,” then this weekend retreat is just for you!

Join us at Mo-Ranch with other Mo-Mance couples for a romantic weekend getaway. This all-inclusive couples retreat will bring back fond memories and include time for story sharing, worship, laughter, dinner and dancing, free time to explore the ranch and so much more!

If you're not a Mo-Mance but know someone who is, please share this Mo-Mance only retreat with them. There are 68 years of Mo-Mances out there to be found! Retreat details and additional information can be found online at [www.moranch.org/attend](http://www.moranch.org/attend).

**Email [program@moranch.org](mailto:program@moranch.org) if you or someone you know is a Mo-Mance. We'll include them in all of our retreat updates as our first Mo-Mance event approaches!**

*Mo-Mance Retreat | Feb 16-18, 2018*



*Another Mo-Ranch Mo-Mance! Pictured above are Caitlin Cummins and Andrew Thompson the day of their engagement (left) and Caitlin during her bridal portraits at Mo-Ranch (right, photo courtesy of Megan Smart Photography). The couple met at Mo-Ranch in 2012, became engaged at Mo-Ranch in 2016 and were married here at Mo on March 11, 2017.*

[www.moranch.org](http://www.moranch.org)

## MO SHIRT TRAVELS

We recently launched a hashtag campaign to encourage others to share photos of themselves and their location while wearing a Mo-Ranch shirt. Here's how it works!

1. Wear your favorite Mo-Ranch shirt.
2. Snap a photo of yourself.
3. Post the photo on your social media account using the hashtag #moshirttravels so that Mo and others can find it!
4. Don't forget to include the location of where the photo was taken.

We'd love to see where your Mo shirt travels to! Email your photo to [info@moranch.org](mailto:info@moranch.org) for a chance to be featured in future newsletters.



*London,  
England*



*Colorado Springs,  
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*Cabo San Lucas,  
Mexico*



*Queensland,  
Australia*



spring 2017

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# *Thank you to our donors in 2016!*

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# \$101-\$249

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# UP TO \$100

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Dr. Robert Bone by Mary Adamson  
Fane Downs by Women's Book Group 2  
FPC Sugar Land 100th Anniversary by Kevin and Lori Keaton  
Fran and Grant Billingsley by Joan R. Baskin  
Gene Alfrod, M.D. by David and Martha Barnes  
Grace Bassett by Paul and Grace Bassett  
Hank Bacak by Brian and Laura Bacak  
Harold and Donna VanderWeide by Dale and Carol Austin  
Harry and Micki Wiesner by Jay and Bonnie McNemar  
Jack and Alice Hunnicutt by Jack and Laurie Mealy  
Jerry and Jane Bylander by Stan and Carolynn Cobbs  
Joan and Chuck Hudson by Kay Wilemon  
Joan Tibbets Hudson by Michael and Marcia Tibbets  
Joe Nall by Rob and Marian Richmond  
John Wurster by St. Philip Presbyterian Church  
Kathy Ragsdale by Joan R. Baskin  
Kay Jordan by Women's Professional Retreat  
Martha and David Barnes by Gordon and Donna Marcum  
Meredith and Jeepers Ragsdale by Joan R. Baskin  
Otis and Marilyn Moore by Stan and Carolynn Cobbs  
Patrick Fitzgerald by Micki Wiesner  
Patrick Fitzgerald by Ralph and Jeannie Graham  
Paula Cahoon by Joan R. Baskin  
Preston McIlveen by Donna McIlveen  
Rev. Dick Powell by Jerry Newbold  
Robert and Becky Laird by Dean and Lois Jameson  
Sid Wells by Eleanor Cherryholmes  
Stan and Carolynn Cobbs by Diane Hopkins Hughs  
Vance and Charla McCracken by Dean and Lois Jameson  
Walt and Martha Richardson by Amy Guest  
Walt and Martha Richardson by Sharron and Ed Carnes  
Wayne McClure by Joan R. Baskin

## IN MEMORY OF

Barbara Montgomery by Gayle Smith  
Charles Beasley by Walt and Martha Richardson  
Charles Fryar by Eddie and Dianne Bartee  
David McLaurin by Kathleen McLaurin  
Donald W. Woehrle by Marvin and Marilyn Eckerle

Edith Johnson by Richard Johnson and Meg Scott Johnson  
Edith Johnson by James P. Randle  
Edith Johnson by Tim Coffey  
Eloise Scrivener by Craig and Faye Sanders  
Ernestina Rendon Ramirez by Dick and Lynne Powell  
Harry Wiesner by Samuel and Shirley Kennedy  
Herb Polgue by Betsy Polgue  
James Lee by Dick and Lynne Powell  
James Lee by Walt and Martha Richardson  
Jane Harben by Stan and Carolynn Cobbs  
Janet Ewing by David and Kay Ewing  
Janet Sims by Carol Baskin Tatum  
Janet Sims by Stan and Carolynn Cobbs  
Jennie Shull by Matt and Meg Bierwirth  
Jerry Sims by Larry and Diana Walker  
JJ Baskin by Amy Johnson  
JJ Baskin by Bill Walker  
JJ Baskin by Douglas Kilday  
JJ Baskin by Graves, Dougherty, Hearon and Moody  
JJ Baskin by Joan R. Baskin  
John and Bob Knox by First Presbyterian Church, Giddings  
John J. Frasca by William and Cindy Spencer  
Kenneth Sewell by Gordon and Donna Marcum  
Lila Smith by Stan and Carolynn Cobbs  
Marie and John Hewson by Ginger Lukacs  
Marie Hewson by Irene Milam  
Marie Hewson by Loris B. Woolley  
Marie Hewson by Robert Antrim  
Mary Northern by Budge and Shirley McDonnold  
Mary Northern by Carol L. Howell  
Mary Northern by Dee H. Norton  
Mary Northern by Dick and Lynne Powell  
Mary Northern by Jim and Anne Beall  
Mary Northern by Kathy Ragsdale  
Mary Northern by P. J. Aldridge  
Mary Northern by R. W. Gribble  
Mary Northern by Rayna Loeb  
Mary Northern by Ronda Berkeley  
Mary Northern by Stephanie Caprielian  
Mr. Laverty by Eddie and Stephany Klein  
Rusty Bond by Stan and Carolynn Cobbs  
Sid Lunsford by Sharon Lunsford  
Tom Blankwood by Stan and Carolynn Cobbs  
Travis Dickson by Bill and Sharon Dickson Charitable Fund  
Virginia Farling by Dale Farling  
Virginia Farling by Pete and Georgia Woodson  
Willard Amann by Clarice B. Amann  
Yvonne Sears by Gayle Smith

*Your support* **changed lives**  
*and brought many needed*  
**changes to Mo! Thank you!**





# IN SEARCH OF

## *Small Group Leaders*



**S**mall groups are integral to Youth Celebration, Jr. High Jubilee and Multi-Cultural Youth Conference. Time and again, young people tell us they love their small groups where they find a welcoming community and a place where they can share the journey of faith.

If you would like to make an impact in a young person's life this summer, here is your chance! Small group leaders' responsibilities include leading a group of approximately 15 youth and adults during the conference. Perks include reimbursement for travel expenses and complimentary Mo-Ranch lodging and meals. Leaders must be 21 years of age or older by the time their conference begins.



If you are interested in serving as a small group leader, please contact our program office at 1.800.460.4401 ext. 236. Information can also be found online at [www.moranch.org](http://www.moranch.org) on the youth conference pages.



*Art Bell sliding down the Mo slide at the 2017 Polar Bear Challenge*

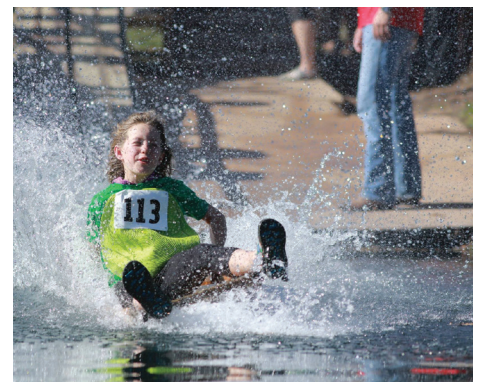
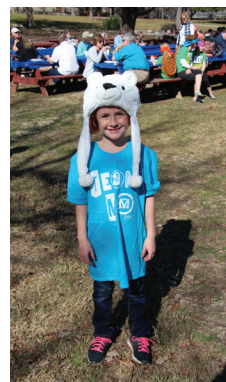
## MO-RANCH PHOTO MAKES NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EDITORS' TOP 10 PHOTOS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

**O**ver 300 community members made the drive to Mo-Ranch to watch 73 polar bear participants brave a slide down the Mo-Ranch water slide, straight into the chilly waters of the Guadalupe River. This year's Mo-Ranch Polar Bear Challenge set a new record by raising over \$38,000 for Kerr County Young Life.

The above photo of a 2017 Mo-Ranch Polar Bear Challenge participant made the National Geographic editors' top 10 photos from all over the world on New Year's Day! The photo was taken by Tony Gallucci, a local photographer who submitted it for the contest.

The Polar Bear Challenge slider in the editors' top 10 photos was also the recipient of this year's "oldest polar bear" award from Mo-Ranch. Art Bell of Kerrville, Texas, is 85 years old and has slid for multiple years now to raise money for different non-profits.

## #theresnoplacelikemo







# 2017

# CAMP OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 8th  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

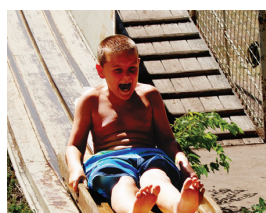
\*COME AND GO!



**MO-RANCH SUMMER CAMP IS HOSTING A FREE OPEN HOUSE FOR OUR SUMMER CAMP AND DAY CAMP PROGRAMS!**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SEE WHY MO-RANCH SUMMER CAMP IS THE PREMIER CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY WITH A SNEAK PREVIEW OF #MOSUMMERMOFUN! BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMP OPEN HOUSE, CONTACT 1.800.460.4401 EXT. 253 OR SUMMERCAMP@MORANCH.ORG. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AT WWW.SUMMERCAMP.MORANCH.ORG**

**NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

## OPEN HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

CAMP TOURS • ARCHERY • ARTS & CRAFTS  
PRIZES • CRITTER CLASSES • KAYAKING  
CANOEING • SWING FROM THE 52' HIGH BIG GULF  
REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS





# MO-RANCH

2229 FM 1340, Hunt, TX 78024

meet | stay | play | pray



[www.moranch.org](http://www.moranch.org)