

May 23rd 2009 @ Honora Bay Riding Stables, Manitoulin

Region 1, 4-H Discovery Day



Discovery day started out cool and later warmed up for a beautiful day on Manitoulin Island. After registration and handing out t-shirts, water bottles and bags with booklets we were off and running. With 38 kids we had a full day starting with games with our 4-H Ambassadors Bruce Betzner and Olivia Groniger, horse grooming, and dress-up races on horseback.

After a thorough grooming demonstration from Kyla Jansen, proprietor and past 4-H member, everyone got into grooming gear as four teams tacked up our horse participants Jack, Hailey, Thunder and Faith.

Youth leaders Anais Masbou and Kelsey Barss helped with horses and tack with help from 4-H parents. The ambassadors ran faster than the horses and all the kids. Hope we didn't wear them out after their long journey to the Island; we couldn't have done it without them.

John Aubers gave an "out of this world" talk and demonstration on the planets and stars. Everyone got their own sky wheel and learned how to navigate they stars according to the calendar and time. They kept their eyes and hands on the wheel and navigated the stars and constellations.

A scavenger hunt was lead through the bush with leaders Julie Pearson, Serena Verboom, Myra Henderson (who has the black fly bites to prove it), Anais, Bruce and Olivia. The only complaint was the kids wanted to go for a longer walk.

The day continue with alternating soccer and baseball games, potting tomato plants, eating snacks and lunch and a grand finale of a tour of the Jansen farm with Barb and Evert Jansen. The goats and chickens were put through their paces, the bunnies and kittens got lots of attention while the horse and pony looked on enjoying the occasional pat. The cows and calves even got a visit.

Many tired and happy faces left at 3:30 to travel home to as far as Sault Ste Marie, Massey and Sudbury and the Manitoulin. Many thanks to the 4-H Ambassadors, leaders, and all the volunteers for their help. Thank you to our sponsors the Ontario Cattleman's Association, Farquar's Dairy and Little Current Valuemart, for your donations and support, and to Kyla and Julia at Honora Bay Riding Stables for helping us with the day. Special thanks to John Aubers for making our day a truly "out of this world" experience.