



Fall Getaway

by Trisha Mackay

On the weekend of November 9-11, ten LAPA families hit the trail and headed north. The destination was The Rocking Horse Ranch, in Highland, New York. Located just 90 minutes north of NYC, it was an easy commute for the families from Suffolk, and even easier for those from Westchester.

The kids ranged in age from 2 to 20. The adults were just a few years older. But everyone was young at heart at the Ranch. Days were spent doing your own thing, whether that included riding was your choice. There was always something to do, either in a group, or in a stolen moment of solitude. We rode horses, played in a great playground, made crafts, swam in the fabulous indoor pool, played bocce and miniature golf, went on a hay ride. And that was all before the complimentary Happy Hour, complete with live entertainment and loads of great food. Meals were a big, family affair. They provided a nice opportunity for us, as families, to get to know one another better.

The evenings were also busy, but so much fun. The central location of the indoor pool allowed some to play there, as others looked on, gathered into groups in the lodge, warmed by the massive fireplace or the rustic bar. A dip in the hot tub before bed, and then a long, tired, comfortable sleep. Ahhhh!

Once at the ranch, there was no need to leave. Anything you could want or need over the course of three days can be found there. The staff was efficient and friendly. There were a few hundred other guests, yet no real waiting, thanks to a carefully organized operation. We made new friends. The weather was beautiful, making early morning rides even more special.

Sorry you missed it? So get it together, and make plans NOW for this Fall's trip! That's right - we're going

back! November 22-24, 2002. We even got the ranch to reduce the cost! The very special rate being offered us is just \$175/adult, \$75/kids 4-16, kids under 4 are free! These rates are for the whole weekend, not per night. Meals are included! You can't get much cheaper than that, folks! Call the ranch at 1-800-647-2624, tell them you want to make a reservation WITH THE LAPA GROUP. Want to check it out first? Log onto their website: <http://www.rhranch.com>

Don't let this year be another one filled with regrets. Make plans with your family. Keep them. Get involved, and stay involved. And join us in November, back at the ranch. ❦

