



## Through Our Kid's Eyes – What They See and Think

Marsha Copeland – Education Chair

This is the third youth interview into what our kids think about SMMBCH, horses, and other related matters of importance to them. The first two in the series was a face-to-face “talk” time. This issue’s “interview” is a little different. Needing a young rider to feature, I thought what better than my own granddaughter! Simple, we see each other often and it would be easy, right? NOT! Since her Papaw and I have not been home for three months (spent the winter in Arizona) our interview took a different path. Phone calls and SKYPE had some drawbacks; it turned into somewhat of a school assignment! Sorry, Katie, probably felt like homework! Katie ended up emailed questions that she emailed back.

So, here we go. This is Katie, daughter of John and Tamra Waitman.

### SOME THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU

1) How old are you and where do you go to school? In what activities are you involved besides riding horses?

*I am 12 years old and go to Marshfield Jr. High in Marshfield, Missouri. Besides riding horses, I play volleyball and love gymnastics, reading, and art.*

2) Describe your horse: name, color, other, etc. - what you like about him and what makes you get mad at him!

*My horse's name is Poquito. He is a 7 year old sorrel fox trotter gelding. I love that every time I go outside he comes up to the fence to say “hello” and he is very gentle. Sometimes I get mad at him for bullying other horses some of the time, but I guess that is what horses do sometimes. He wants to be sure he gets a snack.*

3) Who taught you to ride?

*My daddy taught me how to ride horses and about all the tack. There is a lot to remember.*

4) Where do you ride?

*I like to ride in the Mark Twain National Forest and at trail rides that we go to.*

5) What do you think Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen is all about?

*SMMBCH is all about keeping horse trails open, clean and safe for riders like me to enjoy.*

6) Have you learned anything by being a member of SMMBCH?

*I've learned how horses see and react to danger, how we should act when on the trail in lots of situations, how to take care of horses, and how to help the environment.*

7) What would you do to make SMMBCH more interesting for kids?

*It would be cool to learn more about taking care of horses, their nutrition, and to learn more about horse mane and tail grooming.*

8) What is the best thing about riding a horse? What is the scariest?

*What I like best about riding in the forest is to see everything in nature around you while just relaxing on my horse with no effort. Just spending time with my horse and my family at pretty places in nature. I get a little scared when there is a really big hill to go straight up or down, and sometimes where there are big rocks. But my horse takes care of all of those and everything is ok.*

9) Why do you think the adults in SMMBCH want kids to be involved?

*I hope adults want kids to learn what the adults know so it will make it easier for kids to enjoy a trail ride without being scared.*

Thank you, Katie, for doing this for us. Looks like you like riding for the same reasons all of us do – enjoying your horse, being in nature, and taking care of our trails.

I am looking for another youth to feature in the next newsletter. Contact me and we will feature a horseback riding youth in your life!