



CIRCLE V RANCH CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

EST. 1945

STATEMENT

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www.SVDPLA.org and www.CircleVRanchCamp.org

REGARDING JOHN ZERTZKE, FLUTES ACROSS THE WORLD PROGRAM

It has come to our attention from media reports that John Zeretzke, founder of the program Flutes Across the World (FAW) has been arrested today (9/13/18) on child exploitation crimes, and been taken into custody by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, who are the leading agencies investigating this case. Authorities indicate that none of the victims in this case are located in Southern California. Located in Southern California near Santa Barbara, Circle V Ranch Camp independently contracted with FAW to provide music education to campers ages 7-13 during specific one-week sessions in July 2011, July 2012, July 2013, August 2014 and August 2015.

Circle V staff have not received any official notifications or inquiries by any authorities at this time regarding Flutes Across the World activities at Circle V Ranch Camp. There have been no complaints or concerns about FAW and John Zeretzke from any campers, counselors or parents to Circle V staff. Camp staff will continue to monitor this situation very closely and apprise you if anything changes as soon as possible. Thank you for your concern and support as we continue to rebuild and reopen Circle V Ranch Camp after the Whittier Wildfire damages experienced on July 8, 2017.

More About St. Vincent de Paul Circle V Ranch Camp

Circle V Ranch Camp & Retreat Center was founded in 1945 by St. Vincent de Paul Los Angeles and has been located across from Cachuma Lake in Santa Barbara County in the Los Padres National Forest on 30 acres since 1990. During the summer, Circle V Ranch Camp sessions offer six days and five nights of traditional supervised fun for boys and girls ages 7-13 years and leadership training for ages 14-17 years. Campers enjoy activities including archery, arts & crafts, hiking, swimming in the pool, learning about nature, reading skills, painting, photography, playing baseball, basketball, ping pong, foosball, soccer, miniature golf and of course, campfires, skits and singing. There is no TV, radio or internet access to affect the experience. Campers stay in wood cabins or traditional canvas tents. Three nutritious daily meals served family-style in the Dining Lodge are not only for food but also for camaraderie and fellowship. In summer 2016, the camp hosted more than 1,000 children for this time-honored experience. During autumn, winter and spring, Circle V is available for rental to other non-profit groups and organizations welcoming more than 3,000 guests of all ages.

After closing due to damage during the Whittier Wildfire on July 8, 2017, Circle V continues rebuilding its water treatment facilities, Craft and Health cabins with a goal of reopening in 2019. Donations to help reopen are needed and welcomed at <https://svdpla.org/donate/rebuild-camp/>

For general information visit www.CircleVRanchCamp.org