

In March I was lucky enough to be sponsored by the Chandlers to attend the Young America's Foundation High School Conference at the Ronald Reagan Ranch. The Young America's Foundation (YAF) has the goal of educating young people about the conservative movement. At this conference, they accomplished that goal thoroughly in a fun and interesting way that inspired me and my 71 fellow conference attendees to appreciate conservative ideals in a whole new way.

During our three days at this conference we heard from several speakers, received a tour of Rancho del Cielo (Ronald Reagan's beloved ranch), saw several short films explaining Ronald Reagan and his legacy, as well as the conservative movement, and we heard from a panel of conservative college leaders. The speakers were Ron Robinson (*What is the Conservative Movement?*), Michelle Easton (*Who Really Represents Women?*), Kate Obenshain (*The Great Youth Depression: Thank the Obama Administration*), Kirby Wilbur (*Faith and the Founding Fathers*), Dr. Burt Folsom (*The Myth of the Robber Barons and New Deal or Raw Deal? Evaluating Government Spending*), Joseph Phillips (*Race in America Today*), Star Parker (she spoke about how welfare is hurting far more than helping), and my personal favorite, Michael Reagan (*The New Reagan Revolution*). All the speakers were wonderful. Each one made a different point that we could take back to our schools and use to educate our peers. The ranch was beautiful and seemed to represent the true American dream of accomplishment due to hard work. Nearly everything on the ranch Ronald Reagan had built himself. It was fun to hear

all the silly stories about Ronald Reagan and his adventures in life. Turns out he was quite the romantic.

This conference was a terrific experience that helped me better understand what conservatism is all about and appreciate Ronald Reagan. Before attending this conference, I actually considered myself somewhat of a liberal simply because I had never really heard a really strong and logical argument from the conservative side. After attending this, some of my views have changed completely, while some things I never really had a strong opinion on I now understand and have a conservative viewpoint. Other views are the same, but I now I have background on both sides of the issues and can confidently support my opinions.