

# Tristan's Holiday Dream Hunt



This year, the holiday season turned out to be very special for a youngster from Michigan. 11 year old, Tristan Heinz received the hunt of his dreams from the White Ghost Ranch in the hill country of Texas. The White Ghost Ranch is noted for its excellent hunting opportunities, and owner Brent Geistweidt has been a long-time advocate for hunters with special challenges. Brent donated this trip to Tristan, who would be accompanied by his father, Frank Heinz on the hunting trip of a lifetime.

Young Tristan endures an illness called Mucopolysaccharidosis (I-Cell disease) but the illness would not deter Tristan from turning his dream into vivid reality as he set out to hunt on the White Ghost Ranch. While Tristan is the oldest of the three boys, he is also the smallest.

"Tristan is not the biggest boy I have, he was born with this disorder that limits his growth, but what he lacks in size he has definitely made up in personality, determination and strong will to learn everything he can. He may be small but he never lets his challenges

get in the way of trying everything he can, he is my special little man, and I love him just the way he is", says Tristan's father, Frank.

Tristan and his dad, Frank, met with retired wildlife biologist, Gene Schoonveld as they all waited for the Texas bound plane to arrive which would take Tristan on his USSA dream hunt. Schoonveld, is also a USSA Board of Director and was very impressed with the young man, noting his enthusiasm and intelligence.

After arriving at the White Ghost Ranch, Tristan and his father met ranch manager Steve and his wife, Rita. After the greetings, Tristan went to the range to practice shooting. He had been practicing with a .22 for weeks at home, but this hunt would require a bigger caliber, so Tristan went with a .243. The .243 was a little more than Tristan was comfortable handling, but after going a step down to a .223, Tristan shot just fine and was right "on target" with the new weapon.

With the help of ranch owner, Brent, Tristan was able to shoot two bucks on his hunt, leaving his dad, Brent and the rest of the Ranch excited about his trip to White Ghost. Tristan's dad described, "I was so proud of my son, he handled himself very well, like a young man, he is growing up so fast".

Tristan and his dad gave credit to the White Ghost Ranch and to Brent, Steve, Rita, Parker and Colton for an incredible hunting experience. Tristan's dad, Frank also thanked the USSA for setting up the trip, and everyone was thankful to the Texas Alamo chapter of SCI, an important advocate in world hunting who helped Tristan and Frank with the traveling expenses during this special hunting event.