

Who's Cousin Charley?

In Laura's first book, *Little House in the Big Woods*, Laura tells about her visit to Uncle Henry's and Aunt Polly's farm at harvest-time. There was a lot of work to do and Cousin Charley was expected to help. But Cousin Charley was lazy and spoiled and didn't like to work. In fact, he was set on making mischief. He hid the sharpening stone that Pa and Uncle Henry used to keep the cutting blades sharp. He refused to bring water when the men were thirsty. He played pranks that interrupted the work and eventually got himself into trouble, getting severely stung by a swarm of yellow jacket bees. His whole body became swollen and feverish; he had to be covered in cool mud and wrapped in a wet sheet. Laura and her sisters stood and stared at him. Perhaps he learned a lesson from his naughty antics. Even though he wasn't punished or even scolded for all his pranks, Laura mentions (in a later book) that Charley did turn out much better than ever expected. We hope our Cousin Charley contestants are more cooperative and well-behaved than Cousin Charley was. We do see bees around the park, but they're not yellow jackets (thankfully).

COUSIN CHARLEY CONTEST RULES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2014



1. Due to limited space, the Cousin Charley Contest participants will be limited to 25. Contestants must obtain a **free** entry form (before noon) at the Information Table. These will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Cousin Charley Contest participants must be boys, age eight through ten years old.
3. All Cousin Charley contestants will be on stage at the same time to answer a short series of questions related to the late 1800's time period. The contest will take place on the stage immediately following the announcement of the winner of the Laura Contest 9-year-old division.
4. Cousin Charley contestants are invited to ride on the Laura parade trailer in the Sunday parade. Parade line-up is ½ block from the intersection of County N (Dunn St) and Hwy 35. This intersection is 6 blocks south of the park – see map. If you are going to ride in the parade you must be there between 1:00 and 1:15 pm. After the parade the boys will be dropped off at the motel across the street from the Main Stage (in the park).