

The Mustang Project
864-592-1477

Program Objectives:

Born of the belief that positive experiences with animals can be life-changing, The Mustang Project was created with the following objectives and purposes:

- a) to provide a program for youth, especially those deemed to be at-risk, to learn about, interact with, and care for horses,
- b) to give participating youth the opportunity to gentle and train wild horses (Mustangs),
- c) to use this interaction with horses to increase awareness of and empathy toward animals and people,
- d) to foster a sense of accomplishment and self-worth among participants, and to provide an incentive to excel in all areas of their lives,
- e) to give them the skills and opportunities to pursue a career working with horses if desired,
- f) to hold special events and distribute educational materials to increase public awareness about adopting and training Bureau of Land Management mustangs,
- g) to adopt BLM mustangs for use in the program.

Individual Objectives:

- a) to learn responsibility for one self and another living creature,
- b) to have empathy toward animals and people,
- c) to work in cooperation with others,
- d) to learn basic care and safe handling of horses,
- e) to learn basic riding skills,
- f) to participate in gentling a BLM mustang,
- g) to improve school attendance and grade point average,
- h) to learn about, and prepare for, career opportunities with horses.

The Program:

Participants will begin by learning basic horse safety. Participants will also learn basic horse care, and will be required to spend time working around the barn. This may include cleaning stalls and feeding / grooming the horses.

Once participants show knowledge of basic horse safety, they can begin learning basic riding skills.

The program will be tailored to each individual participant. Those who wish to participate in gentling a BLM mustang will learn basic horse behavior and training skills. Horses will be gentled using non-forceful training methods.

Opportunities will be available to learn anatomy, first aid, hoof care, and careers working with horses. Field trips and guest lecturers will be scheduled based on individual participant's interests.

There is no cost to the individual to participate. If an individual cannot supply their own personal safety equipment (boots, gloves, helmet), they will be provided by The Mustang Project by prior arrangement.