

2026 4-H Overnight Horse Camp

Nevada 4-H Camp Alamo

Survey Results

Lacey Tom, Community Based Instructor IV



Campers at Cannon Ranch for an equine facility tour.



Participants practice basic 4-H horse showmanship.



Campers learn with 4-H horse volunteers.



Daily horse care builds personal responsibility.



Volunteers teach horse nutrition and feeding.



Campers participate in a guided trail ride.



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Experiential Learning and Program Design	3
Results: Youth Impact.....	4
Knowledge and Skill Development.....	4
Youth Feedback.....	4
Demographics	5
Summary.....	5
Why the Overnight Experience Matters	7



Introduction

The 4-H Overnight Horse Camp at 4-H Camp Alamo engaged 34 youth ages 6-16 from across Nevada, supported by 12 adult volunteers. Participants included 5 male youth and 29 female youth. The camp welcomed both returning participants and youth who were new to the overnight horse camp experience. In 2025, this camp was offered and had 18 participants ranging in age from 5-17 years of age.

The program also expanded its geographic reach, welcoming new campers from the White Pine County/Ely area and the Pahrump area, in addition to youth from Southern Nevada (Clark and Lincoln Counties). This growing participation demonstrates the potential for the overnight horse camp to connect youth from across Nevada through their shared interest in horses and animal science.

Experiential Learning and Program Design

The 4-H Overnight Horse Camp was designed as a four-day, progressive hands-on learning experience combining equine education, youth development, physical activity, leadership, and community building. Each day intentionally built upon the skills and experiences of the previous day.

Day 1 - Community & Responsibility

Youth arrived with their horses and immediately began taking responsibility for their animals' care and settling into camp. Activities included safety and camp orientation, team-building icebreakers, a Horse Quiz Bowl, and a pre-program survey. Youth also began developing independence by adjusting to cabin life and spending time away from home.

Day 2 - Foundation Skills

Youth focused on foundational horsemanship, safe horse handling, riding skills, showmanship, and equine nutrition. Daily feeding, watering, grooming, and horse-care responsibilities reinforced that animal care is a consistent responsibility. Crafts, horse-treat making, and a campfire provided additional opportunities for creativity and relationship building.

Day 3 - Western Skills & Real-World Learning

Youth advanced their Western riding and showmanship skills while participating in a photography workshop and a tour of Cannon Ranch. A service-learning activity connecting youth with deployed horse units encouraged gratitude and civic engagement. The day concluded with a sunset trail ride, allowing youth to apply their skills in a new environment while practicing communication, awareness, and trust.

Day 4 - Challenge & Skill Demonstration

Youth applied the skills developed throughout camp through obstacle courses, flags, mounted games, horse bathing, and the Horse Olympics. These activities challenged participants to problem-solve, communicate with their horses, adapt to unfamiliar situations, and demonstrate confidence and horsemanship skills. Evaluations and recognition activities concluded the camp.

Results: Youth Impact

Because of this camp...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree
I can handle my horse through a variety of situations.	93%	7%	
I know more about caring for my horse.	94%	6%	
I want to join or keep participating in a 4-H Horse Club.	100%		

Circle the option that relates best to your experience.	No	Sort of	Yes
Are you a member in a 4-H Horse club?	11%		89%

These results demonstrate that the camp effectively increased youth knowledge and confidence in practical horse-handling and equine-care skills.

The camp also strengthened participants' connection to the 4-H Horse Program. All 34 youth strongly agreed that they want to join or continue participating in a 4-H Horse Club. This included youth who were new to 4-H Horse programming, demonstrating the camp's potential as both an educational experience and an entry point into continued 4-H participation.

Knowledge and Skill Development

These results demonstrate that the camp effectively increased youth knowledge and confidence in practical horse-handling and equine-care skills.

The camp also strengthened participants' connection to the 4-H Horse Program. All 34 youth strongly agreed that they want to join or continue participating in a 4-H Horse Club. This included youth who were new to 4-H Horse programming, demonstrating the camp's potential as both an educational experience and an entry point into continued 4-H participation.

Youth Feedback

Youth identified a variety of experiences as favorite parts of camp, including Quiz Bowl, jumping, barrels, and the trail ride. Several youth specifically requested that the camp be made longer next year, indicating strong engagement and enthusiasm for the experience.

The combination of educational activities, riding opportunities, competition, trail experiences, and time with other youth contributed to a well-rounded camp experience that youth found both enjoyable and meaningful.

Demographics

The survey asked about gender, ethnicity and race. This information is collected for federal reporting. The following tables show the results.

Gender

Male	Female	No answer
14%	86%	0%

Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latinx	Not Hispanic/Latinx	No answer
	85%	15%

Race

Asian	Black/African American	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	White	Not listed/Other/ No answer
2%	2%	5%	85%	2%

Summary

During the 2025-26 program year, the 4-H Overnight Horse Camp reached 34 youth ages 6-16 from across Nevada, including participants from Clark and Lincoln Counties, the Pahrump area, and the White Pine County/Ely area. Twelve adult volunteers supported the program and helped provide youth with hands-on instruction and supervision throughout the overnight experience.

The camp provided youth with opportunities to develop practical horsemanship and equine-care skills while strengthening confidence, responsibility, communication, independence, teamwork, and leadership. Survey results demonstrate measurable gains in equine knowledge and handling skills, with 100% of participants strongly agreeing that they know more about caring for their horse because of camp and 100% agreeing or strongly agreeing that they can handle their horse through a variety of situations.

Perhaps most significantly, all 34 participants strongly agreed that they want to join or continue participating in a 4-H Horse Club, demonstrating the camp's ability to strengthen youth engagement and encourage continued participation in 4-H.

The overnight horse camp provides a unique contribution to the 4-H program by combining experiential equine education with opportunities for personal growth. Youth are challenged to care for their own animals, navigate new environments, live and work alongside peers, and build relationships with supportive adults and other young horse enthusiasts. Through riding, horse care, trail experiences, teamwork, and camp activities, youth develop skills that extend beyond horsemanship and into everyday life.

The continued growth and geographic reach of the program demonstrate the potential for the Nevada 4-H Horse Program to use overnight programming as a powerful tool for youth development, equine education, physical activity, leadership development, and community building across Nevada.

Why the Overnight Experience Matters

The camp's overnight format created learning opportunities that extend beyond traditional riding instruction. Youth were responsible for their horses' daily care while also managing cabin responsibilities, working with peers they may not have previously known, and navigating a new environment away from home.

Through this immersive experience, youth learned by doing—developing equine knowledge and practical skills while building confidence, independence, responsibility, communication, teamwork, and lasting relationships. The progression from foundation skills to application and challenge allowed youth to demonstrate measurable growth while experiencing the belonging and connection that are central to the 4-H experience.



Guided trail ride during the 2026 4-H Overnight Horse Camp.