



Introduction:

The curriculum was created with the intent to help alleviate the loss of cultural identity that a majority of Native American youth face. The creation of program curriculum for 4-H youth that encompasses content knowledge and passion for horses in conjunction with traditional stories and cultural significance of the Dine' (Navajo) people may lead to future cultural retention. Along with adding in the cultural significance of the horse, the Dine' language was also integrated throughout the curriculum.

Need for Project:

Currently the Navajo Nation has an over population of free ranging and feral horses that cause overgrazing on the land, as well as other economic hardships facing many farmers and ranchers. This has been a significant topic for decades with no simple solution. Arizona 4-H can utilize the created project curriculum to teach the youth at a young age the responsibilities and impacts of horse ownership. In the long term, youth will become informed horse owners and not contribute to the current problems on the Navajo Nation and develop skills needed to work together to solve future problems. By providing our youth with a constructed curriculum that incorporates both modern horse

information and bridges that knowledge with the Dine' culture, learning can occur that shapes the next generation of horses owners and preserving the Dine' culture.

Project Components:

The project was broken down into six lesson plans that will be delivered over the course of a three month period with one hour sessions. This period can be increased or decreased based on program needs. Each session will be a specific lesson taught by a group leader with application activities at the end of each lesson. All lessons have Dine' cultural significance components and language applications integrated throughout the lesson.

Lessons:

- Introduction of the Horse
- Horse Behavior and Safety
- Horse Nutrition
- Horse Body and Hoof Cre
- Horse Proper Tack Fitting
- Horse Riding

Assessment:

A pre and posttest will be distributed to all participating youth to evaluate the impact of the program.