

Annual Meeting Youth Break-Out Minutes  
January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Members Present: Laura Benson, Heidi Benson, Susan Peters, Deb Cook, Laurie Prestine, Morgan Venable, Gabriele Meyer, Ayla Green, Madison Prestine, Alexandra Venable.

1. Deb Cook reported that she has had a problem in getting enough kids for a youth camp.

Suggestions:

- Start small and build it up. Have a low minimum i.e. 4 kids and go from there.
  - The success of the NY youth camp was due to an enthusiastic team of coordinators who planned and advertised well in advance.
  - Have an ongoing curriculum. Badge program is a good stepping stone program.
2. Madison Prestine wants to see more variety of activities at camps. Horse activities are the best (duh!) but bonding and interaction is often accomplished through other activities as well.

Suggestions:

- FEIF strongly suggested having the youth camp focus on American culture and history so that the kids can have a unique experience with each hosting country.
  - Laura mentioned that each group at the FEIF Youth Camp will have to research a famous horse in US history and make a skit about it at the end of the camp. This should be a fun activity for the kids as well as educational.
  - We should save information from the FEIF camp (and any other camps!) and keep it as a template for camps in the future – guideline for holding the camp. Maybe have a suggested camp curriculum on the USIHC website for different types of camps. Anyone could submit their camp agendas to be approved by the youth committee.
3. Laurie Prestine suggested we create a youth drill team (within regional clubs).

Suggestions:

- Drill teams offer a great opportunity for team work, precision in riding, loads of fun and great promotion for the horse!
- Have the Youth leader of the Regional Club be head coordinator but designate one youth to be the drill leader.
- Compile drill patterns to be posted on the web for access. Laura will work on this.

- Use the youth drill team capabilities as a way of spreading out to other events.

4. Laura suggested having a yearly youth calendar with monthly themes

Suggestions:

- Bring a friend, drill team, gymkhana/games on horseback, Focus on trail, Fitness and conditioning for horse & rider, community service, etc.
- Create some sort of “badge” award for each activity (similar to girls scouts) to be handed out for each “theme” completed.
- Incorporate into the PRP program.
- Organise specific days within the month for the kids to perform theme activities together.
- Bring a Friend Theme: Have each kid bring a friend to try their horse with an instructor. Could also be incorporated to kids with other breeds with the possibility of a breed swap.
- Exploration Theme: Kids like exploring, going somewhere new, visiting other farms or new trails. Geocaching might be a good choice. Camping could also be an option. Trekking, swimming with horses.
- Research Theme: Learn about a famous horse or farm in Icelandic History. Could be a group project.
- International Theme: Become pen pals with international youth riders, Cultural exchange programs, working students, youth exchange program. Create a list of farms who would be interested in having a working student.

5. Different promotional opportunities were discussed, such as: County fairs, fun shows, rodeos, all breed shows, trail rides sponsored by other horse associations.

Suggestions:

- We shouldn't be afraid of showing our horses in other environments.
- Key is organization – whether friend day, camps, drill teams, practices, etc.
- Have several Calendar of Events “scouts” in your area (Regional Club) who research and post ongoing promotional events, shows and opportunities.
- Promote the Icelandic Horse outside of the Icelandic Horse Circle.