

Working with Animals #1

Dog Stewardship Apprenticeship

Open to up to 6 students per cycle

Youth Connecting to Animals and Nature
Taught and led by letty chichitonyolotli martinez

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Students will meet once a week to go learn about how to work to help dogs socialize, exercise and train. Students will learn to improve behavior observations, read dog body language and work to be community educators.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

1. Students will learn to observe and describe observations of dog body language and behavior
2. Students will master identifying key dog body language and decode body language displays
3. Students will learn basic obedience training foundations and build communication skills.

OBJECTIVES

1. To empower young people to feel safe and confident around dogs.
2. Improve connection to nature and animals as part of our larger ecosystem
3. Improve observation and communication skills

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Hiking shoes/boots or weather resistant comfortable footwear
2. Rain gear
3. Water bottle
4. Love of dogs

VERIFICATION

Steps to check for student understanding

1. Can Student identify key body language cues?
2. Can Student describe observation objectively?
3. Can Student confidently execute basic obedience commands?

ACTIVITY

Describe activity that will reinforce the lesson

Week 1 Students will meet dogs and observe dogs at play. Day 1-Students will work with instructor to learn basics in body language and on behavioral observation. We will work on group agreements and discuss safety and communication necessary for the following weeks.

Week 2 Students review previous week's lesson on body language Identification and will learn the foundations of communication building with dogs using positive reinforcement training methods. Students will observe dogs at play and practice body language identification

Week 3 Building on previous week's' lessons, students will learn to build on communication through work and play with dogs. Communication building will also work towards relationship building and behavior observations and building on positive reinforcement theory.

Week 4 Group Hike- students will accompany instructor and a pack of dogs on a hike at Sandy River Delta Dog Park with working dogs and hike for 2 hours. This is an exercise in behavior observations, body language and will test student skills on recall and basic commands mastery. Potluck and certificate of completion awarded.

Working with Animals #1 Application

Dog Stewardship Apprenticeship

This program is designed to introduce youth to interact safely and confidently with dog companions- new, and familiar. This program is open to youth 10-15 years of age. Students who participate must be comfortable around dogs. No previous dog exposure needed but the student may not participate if they have a fear of dogs to work through first. If there is a student who would like to participate but needs to work on dog fear please consider our How To Greet a Dog course as an option before applying to participate in this program.

This program is offered for 4 weeks in a row and requires that students be both indoors and outdoors. Sometime we will meet at Fur-Ever Is A Promise, LLC headquarters and sometimes we will meet at other locations. Student/Guardian are responsible for bringing student to meet up locations.

There is homework and we do have suggested study material with handouts. Students are encouraged to have a binder or folder for handout materials.

There is only space for 6 students in each class cycle. Students will work with one another and with dogs to hone skills and practice lessons. Applications are due 3 weeks before program start date and payment is due 1 week before the first day of class. Please make Check payable to letty martinez.

Tuition for 4 weeks is \$300. Scholarships and Sliding Scale is available based on need. Please email fureverisapromise@gmail.com for more information

Fur Ever Is a Promise, LLC welcomes youth of all backgrounds, abilities, and gender expressions. Our mission is to build community and find balance and harmony within it. We are invested not just in the lessons of animal companion stewardship, but in the larger impact our behaviors have on our ecosystem and our social communities.

**There are no refunds once payment you have accepted your placement in the program.*

Working with Animals #1 Application

Dog Stewardship Apprenticeship

Student Name

Parents/Guardian Name

Age of participant

Address

Phone

Email

Why are you interested in this program?

What would you like to learn in this program?

Can you commit to 4 Saturdays? Yes/No

If no, please explain why:

Do you have previous experience working with dogs? Yes/No

If yes, please explain:

Do you have any access needs? (examples, scent free space, ramps for stairs or wheelchair access etc...)

Are you open to carpooling?

What else should we know about you?