

What do Youth Teams at Best Friends participants say about the program?

The Students:

"It opened my eyes as to how important it is for people to spay and neuter their animals. Also buying a cat or dog is a lifelong commitment and something you just can't run out on. I just don't think I could express how much fun this trip was and how much I learned."

"The staff and everybody who gives to this place were interesting and loving. It didn't matter your race, background, income or language. You were loved for being the person you are. Thank you to you all. I love you."

"One thing that I have really found out is how much I love to help. I really love to do whatever I can to help someone else's life. When I see those animals with a missing leg or some other disability, my heart really opens up. I know that they deserve everything any other living thing does and I want to help them achieve that in any way possible."

The Teachers:

"As the activity progressed, I was very pleased to see the confidence and esteem levels rise in our youth. All were anxious to show me what their dog was learning, which I knew was a reflection of what they had learned....This type of activity is truly a 'win-win' for all!"

"I brought nine other people here, five being teenagers and have seen each person blossom and grow in two days. I have been amazed when they tell me how hard they worked and how tired they are, but then they say how much fun they had....I thank Best Friends for giving them, and me, the opportunity to come here and gain such an incredible and worthwhile experience."

**"Kindness to animals
builds a better world
for all of us."**

Best Friends Animal Society is working with you, and with shelters, rescue groups, and organizations nationwide, to bring about a time when there will be No More Homeless Pets.

Best Friends operates the nation's largest sanctuary for homeless animals; provides adoption, spay/neuter, and educational programs; and publishes *Best Friends*, the nation's largest general-interest animal magazine.



Best Friends
ANIMAL SOCIETY

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Youth Teams at Best Friends



**"Best Friends
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my eyes to
many things...."**

**Thanks
for giving
me this
experience."**



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ANIMAL SOCIETY



Tell me about Best Friends.

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is located on a 33,000-acre ranch in the majestic red-rock country of southern Utah, just outside the town of Kanab. It is the nation's largest sanctuary for abused and abandoned animals. Best Friends is home on any given day to roughly 1,500 creatures. About 1,200 of these are dogs and cats; the rest include birds, rabbits, horses, burros, goats and farm animals. Three out of four animals who come here find new homes. Those who aren't adopted will always have a loving home at the sanctuary.

What is the Youth Teams at Best Friends program?



The Youth Teams at Best Friends program welcomes groups of youth age 10–18 from around the country to the sanctuary to do service work. These students are from different programs – some come as part of a scout troop, religious or school group, others are from residential treatment cen-

ters and restitution programs.

Working at the sanctuary includes hands-on activities in the animal areas such as feeding, grooming, exercising, poop scooping, socializing and cleaning. Groups may also help with other projects designed to benefit the sanctuary, such as trail building and fence painting.



The animals at the sanctuary often have physical disabilities or have been abused. They teach us not to feel sorry for ourselves, to let go of past hurts and go on with our lives. Through service work, students also learn the joy of doing for others.

Great! We want to come. Now what?

Best Friends staff will design an educational experience based on the needs of the group and the sanctuary. The program may vary from day to day, so flexibility is a must. Group coun-



selors are responsible for supervising their students and responding to behavioral and disciplinary issues. Groups are also responsible for travel arrangements, lodging and meals.

Our sanctuary is open all year long. Some times of the year are more popular than others, and space is given on a first-come, first-served basis. The earlier you contact us the better. Groups can come for a day, a week, or longer.



For more information

Contact the Humane Education Department of Best Friends Animal Society at:

humane.ed@bestfriends.org
(435) 644-2001, ext. 317

Are there other options to help the animals?

Yes! If you and your group are unable to come to the sanctuary, there are many things you can do. Please contact our office for other ways to help animals and bring about a day when there are no more homeless pets.