



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CENTRAL ARIZONA
PARTNERS WITH NATURE NINOS, PRESCOTT, AZ
CONNECTING CHILDREN & FAMILIES TO NATURE



City Park Rangers and Community Partners lead child-centered, nature play events at a different trail/park the first Saturday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Nature Ninos was formed in 2021 for children aged 0 -8, and their families, in helping them access nature and healthy outdoor time.

At every Nature Ninos event, there are take-home freebies, guided nature activities, community, healthy snacks and little lessons on healthy choices and Leave No Trace principles.

February 2025, BCHCAZ members began bringing two equines to the events, for the children and their families to have an up close, personal experience of being around a horse, mule or mini horses. Having two people per equine, for safety reasons - one at the head and one at the tail - as well as mounting blocks and brush buckets, children get to touch, brush, hug and stare in awe at our majestic horses/mules/minis. We also have a table, with an attending volunteer, to answer questions and give handouts.

Most of these children and their families are "city folk," and have not ever had the opportunity to be close to an equine. Their wide eyes, smiles, giggles & laughs warm our hearts beyond words. We are now seeing some of the same children returning each month to be around the horses.

The horses are absolutely loving the attention, as well. It is still fascinating to watch how gentle horses are with children.

"The average child in America has 4-7 minutes of unstructured outdoor time per day."

"The average child in America spends 44 hours every week in front of a screen."

"Why parks, trails & nature? It's an evidence-based solution improving cognitive well-being; physical well-being; academic success; belonging & purpose. 90% of your brain growth occurs during the first five years of your life."

BCHCAZ is proud to be part of this outdoor, nature program for children & their families.

