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## Survey Results: Equestrian Center Use

 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of Orange County Fair & Event Center to the FlashVote community for OC Fair Neighbors, CA.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

# 826

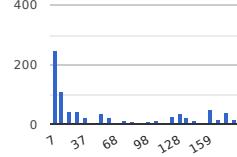
**Total Participants**

133 of 251 initially invited (53%)  
693 others  
Margin of error: ± 8%

Applied Filter:  
**All Responses**

Participants for filter:  
**826**

Response Time (hours)



Started:

**Apr 29, 2021 10:09am PDT**

Ended:

**May 7, 2021 12:08am PDT**

Target Participants:

**All OC Fair Neighbors**

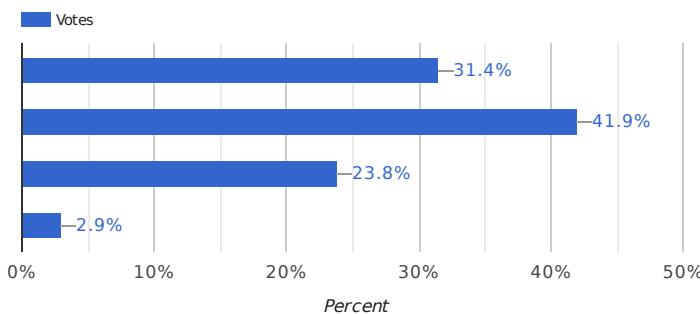
**Q1**

The OC Fair & Event Center Board of Directors is looking at current and future uses of the fairgrounds' equestrian center, which has facilities for boarding horses, taking riding lessons from trainers and more. Your input will inform upcoming discussions and decisions.

Prior to reading this, which of the following best describes your experience with the equestrian center at the OC Fair & Event Center?

(824 responses)

Options	Votes (824)
I didn't know it was there	31.4% (259)
I knew it was there, but have never visited	41.9% (345)
I've visited	23.8% (196)
Not sure	2.9% (24)



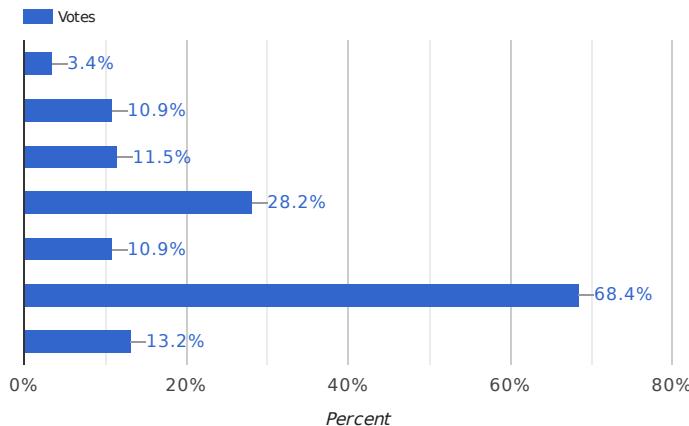
**Q2**

What have you done at the equestrian center? (Choose all that apply)

(174 responses)

Options	Votes (174)
Boarded a horse	3.4% (6)
Rode someone else's horse	10.9% (19)
Took a riding lesson	11.5% (20)
Watched someone take a lesson or ride their horse	28.2% (49)

Options	Votes (174)
Attended a camp or other activity	10.9% (19)
Walked around and explored it	68.4% (119)
Other:	13.2% (23)



Worked w/ them on a City/Fairground after school program collaboration.

Attended horse shows when they were allowed

My children were able to ride the horse with the Ranch progra

I know it is used to house evacuated horses

Watch horse show

Watched horse show

My daughter took writing lessons there

Was able to bond feed the horses several years ago. It was so heart warming.

Never been... it's only available for private lessons

None

Fair

Have lesson for my grandchildren

Never attended

Got an opportunity to help groom a horse

Rodeo at fair

Attended horse shows when they were allowed

Never attended the equestrian center

Swap meet

Take my kids there to watch the horses

I am a professional equine masseuse and this facility is a cruel place to board a horse!!!

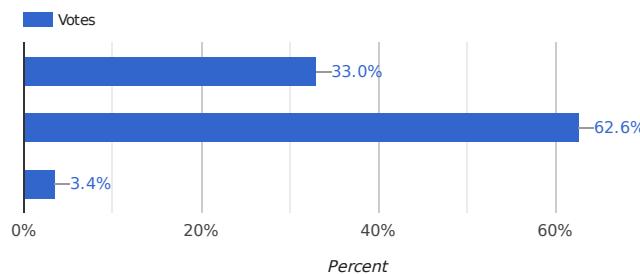
None

Help clean and rebuild it

### Q3 How would you rate your overall experience with the equestrian center?

(179 responses)

Options	Votes (179)
Exceeded expectations	33.0% (59)
Met expectations	62.6% (112)
Below expectations, because:	3.4% (6)



It's closed to the public, it's not like anyone can walk about it like the farm.

I'd love to see a show ring!

NA

The horses have nowhere to go that's natural! Arena and small stalls are crippling to these horses!

It's too expensive for most of the public to do anything besides walk around or watch riders..

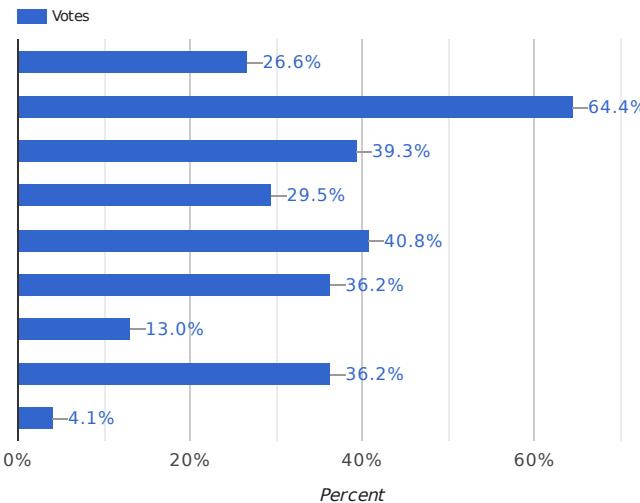
### Q4 The Board of Directors of the OC Fair & Event Center would like to provide more opportunities for the general public to use the equestrian center.

Which of the following things would you be likely to do, if any? (Choose all that apply, if any)

(610 responses)

Options	Votes (610)
Attend educational events and demonstrations there during Imaginology	26.6% (162)
See exhibits and horse-related activities during the annual OC Fair	64.4% (393)
Take a tour or attend an open house to learn more about horses and equestrian activities	39.3% (240)

Options	Votes (610)
Have my child participate in a school field trip there	29.5% (180)
Take riding lessons or rent the use of a horse for riding there	40.8% (249)
Attend a horse show or riding competition there	36.2% (221)
Participate in horsemanship or equine classes	13.0% (79)
Support the use of the equestrian center for nonprofit or therapeutic activities	36.2% (221)
I would be likely to:	4.1% (25)



### Pony rides during OC fair

Go with friends or on a date to ride if it's not too expensive. Just want an experience

to attend a Clydesdale horses event only for graduates of El Toro high school

None of the above

Use the facility if it was something other than an equestrian center

Can space be rented for overnight camping (RV or trailer)?

None of the above.

Please do NOT BE STUPID and remove this facility!!!

Petting cows

Just be around horses...

love to see the Equestrian Center be prevalent in CM & prolific for those with special needs!!!!!!

watch the horses. As a child enjoyed going with the family to see the Kellogg School horses show o

Want to see horse shows and horse events with horse clothing for sale. Please do a horse event or sh

Just to add on, I would love to see the center offer a program for special needs individuals.

Not visit the equestrian center

Sorry, we would not be able to attend or participate in any of these events.

Not interested

rent a ride

do none of the above

CLOSE IT DOWN ALL TOGETHER!!!

My friend travels to HB right now for her adult autistic son to ride, but she lives right here.

not participate

Bring a special needs adult to see the horses, pet or feed them if possible

None of the participation suggestions

Not use it

**Q5** Any other comments or suggestions about the equestrian center at the OC Fair & Event Center?

(83 responses)

It is very important to the local horse community to maintain access to the Fair stables and events.

I love it having right by my house.

You need to keep the equestrian center, make it larger and more accessible to the general public.

If it is to stay, please make sure it is made more available/open to the public. That non-profit companies are provided space to provide therapeutic services.

I DEFINITELY support the use of the center for therapeutic purposes.

Please keep the Ranch program for all future elementary students. My children were blessed with the opportunity. Maybe open up to different programs for future veterinarians.

The equine center needs to stay, especially for emergency evacuations from fires and/or floods

It's always been done well.

Offer it also to kids and adults with disabilities

I love all the ideas that were suggested! I am excited to learn more about the equestrian center at the Fair! Thank you!

SO NICE TO HAVE THIS IN A CITY PLEASE KEEP HERE.....

Having fair and reasonable pricing would increase attendance for events, riding etc.

Please don't get rid of it!

It would be great if there was a covering structure over the picnic tables and have it have pea gravel at picnic area or cemented in to be more presentable and less dusty and muddy

I think it is a fantastic and unique place where horse crazy kids and adults can explore their passions and healthy outdoor sport right in our neighborhood

The equestrian center is an amazing asset to our city and county. It needs to be back to their original size.

The equestrian center was better utilized with boarding and numerous horse shows and the facility was better maintained when it was run and maintained by the OC Fair & Event Center staff

Equestrian Center is only used by one special interest group. It should be made into an addition of the property that belongs to the ENTIRE community

Pony rides for kids, interactive field trips for kids (would gladly sign a waiver for mine), demos that intertwine with the oxen and other animals at Centennial Farm, offer discounts for Costa Mesa residents.

Keep it open, supported and publicized for kids that don't get to see the equine world.

Awesome facility!

It could be an amazing addition to the fair and imaginology

No.

Please do not use any horses for display, transportation or entertainment. It should simply be a safe place for horses to rest and if people want to visit them (from a distance) and learn about horses, that's cool too.

The center provides much needed guidance to youth ie how to take care of animals empathy work skills and this is not available in our schools

Make better use of that space.

Needs to be more accessible to the public. It seems like only used by a more affluent community. If on public property, more information should be shared about budget, activities, and participation. They shouldn't have to pick and chose what they want to participate in and if public funds help support the center, then participating in educational endeavors by the OC Fair should be a given.

Miss seeing the equestrian shows there.

Advertise it better and work with local schools to introduce horses to young schoolchildren.

love it ☺

We can do so much more to support a horse loving culture!

It's important to provide a reasonably priced place where regular people can board their horses.

WE NEED IT! IT BELONGS AT THE OC FAIR & EVENT CENTER.

I love that they take horses during emergencies

I think to have visitors it may be a little overwhelming for the horses.

I think it should be torn down and made into a parking structure or something more useful to all. I also think their rent is way too cheap and underpriced compared to the market rate of commercial square footage in Costa Mesa. I have thought about starting a protest because their low rent is that upsetting to me. Other small businesses don't get that kind of kickback. Including non profits. It's not fair.

I appreciate your willingness to include the community to expand the equestrian center. Always looking for local outdoor activities for my children/family.

enhancing the Equestrian Center is a great idea. It brings a happy glow to many in the community. It has been nicely decorated with bike paths and greenbelt. It has created a comfort to know it is there, and have it near the parks and fairgrounds. It is a necessary staple

I think it is an amazing opportunity that keeps kids out of trouble and gives them an outlet from all the stress around them.

It's blocked to the public. When we have tried to visit, the people are rude. Seems like all of that space could be put to better use year round and especially during the fair - more parking for example.

It's a beautiful hidden gem!

**DO NOT REMOVE THIS FACILITY FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS**

I love the fact that the center is available. It gives a hometown feel to CM!

I have a special needs child. I would love to see a program that will let her be around the horses and learn about them, maybe even riding.

This is a jewel which has been kept out of view for far too long. Most people raised in the city don't have a clue as to how these gentle giants can help with all type of behaviors. Important to get the word out.

Many people will enjoy this if made available to everyone.

It is wonderful to have this facility available for families to visit.

Although we are not part of the equestrian community, I walk down Arlington nearly every morning and love knowing that it is there. If there is current consideration that the land could be "better used", my voice says "Please, No!" It sets Costa Mesa apart from so many other communities that we have set aside this space. Let's not be like everyone else.

I think the Equestrian Center is a gem and aligns with the history of the property. There are so few places for kids to see animals and interact with them anymore. For people with special needs, horses are wonderful therapists. I see very little marketing done around it. As a neighbor, I don't support the idea of repurposing the area as an RV rental park.

It should be part of the OC Fair when it takes place with ongoing activities. Other livestock exhibitors can maybe use and park trailers in the area.

More activities for kids

Ok

I would like to ride a Horse.

I love the cows

Should definitely remain at the location

Please keep this venue.

I am allergic to horses.

OPEN THE SWAP MEET!

The equestrian center is a sanctuary from the busy and hectic life. It would be great if we could make it bigger and prettier. So it can really shine and we could hold horse shows again which would be amazing for the community/

Live in Mesa Del mar for 28 years and have never had a complaint about Equestrian center.

Make it at one of the center stage events for the fair this year, not tucked into a corner

From a former Art Instructor, Please enlarge and use it like hell! Use it for education, health, enjoyment and our stunning community that will be even more worthwhile to live in and/or take part in for the POSITIVE!!!! It is what ALL OF US need!! Thank All Of You!!!! We have a pandemic baby boom that will so very much need this Center!!!! Eileen Levinson

I have a cousin who is a Veteran. He lives near Rockford, Illinois. He attends a classes with a horse. His wife says he really has enjoyed it & has helped him with his illness & feelings better.

It is important for urban areas to have farm and animal-connected areas for the residents and especially the children to, at the very least, observe even if just casually as in driving by, or for easier local access for hand-on participation. Please allow such a wonderful center to stay at OUR fair grounds for future generations.

Make it better known, I grew up on a 20 acre horse ranch my family owned.., Saddleback boarding stables & arena until 1981, in the 60s & 70's we rode horses up the riverbed from 1st st in SA to HB.. not as many ranches these days near OCFair if any, use to be tho.. a few SoUth OC ranches are still around yet they don't get info or are they are unaware that you have live events there.

Why are masks required if we are social distancing and we are outside?

The equestrian area has always been so private, glad to see that the Fairgrounds are looking into including the public.

if masks are required we will not attend

I think it would be super great if the Equestrian Center was more open to the public.

When I was in middle school in the 70's this facility burnt twice!!! Once killing 3 of my friends horses!!! This place is awful, unsafe and a horror for horses! I am a professional equine masseuse and I've seen how this place effects the minds of the poor horses there! There's no nature for them to even see and nowhere to run! Arena turnouts next to the freeway is NOT a relaxing experience for a plains animal that travels 10 to 12 miles a day in the wild! I have LONG sought to have this turned into a parking lot! If you want horse property nearby, reestablish the Irvine Equestrian Center and shut this inhumane place down!!!

let the public know about events.

It is great they have an equestrian center at the oc fairgrounds. People love horses, and I so too.

I would love for the center to become more well known. I would take lessons or classes, but would love for the family to be able to go riding. I did long ago at a place at the end of Sunflower and we would ride along the river bed. I don't believe most people know you are there.

Accredited therapeutic riding programs are needed to serve the community & provide a good reason for taking up so much space.

Keep the center & property as is but expand opportunities for others that don't own or ride.

We LOVE that area and take the kids frequently. Would love to see it incorporated into the fair also.

Hope they keep up the good work

Something marijuana related

I love it and it is part of the OC fair charm. don't get rid of it.

Advertise on social media

The manager there at the stables is very knowledgeable when it comes to just about any questions or comments we asked her. The center offers an experience that is getting harder to find in Orange County with only a few stables left to enjoy equestrian exposure besides Huntington Beach or having to leave OC to find other centers. I used to board at Harris Stables on Warner and Harbor years ago and now the stables are gone and houses have taken it's place. The center needs to continue giving the chance to have a place for the community to get involved with the whole concept of what it takes to care for horses and what they have to contribute to the youth of today. The experience is going away....keep a place that the pleasure of these stables bring to the people that enjoy these stables.

I've always visited the center and love to view the horses.

Do not take it away.

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