

The scholarship I received from the Youth Dressage Festival was used to attend the non-mandatory boot camp at Riding Right Farm. Hollie McNeil, my instructor and owner of the barn, taught the camp. We had three days of boot camp, and in those three days we rode, studied, and groomed.

The first day we started with balimo. Balimo is a way to strengthen your balance and movements on the horse using exercises and stretching. Hollie showed us a video of her doing balimo, and we followed along. Then I had a 45 minute private lesson with Gayle, a professional judge, where she helped me with the size and shape of my circles. We also focused on keeping my horse forward. Gayle then helped me with my diagonals and center lines. Then I had a grooming session with Denise. I clipped Lydia, my horse, and also pulled her mane. After that I studied Q&A with Janet Foy for the rest of the day.

The second day we started with balimo again. Then I studied until it was time for equitation with Hollie. In equitation we rode a basic equitation class. Hollie acted as the judge and gave us tips and scores to help us at D4K. After that I just studied some more.

On the third day we started out with balimo. Then we had a group ride where we focused on walks, trots, canters, and position. After our ride we studied for the rest of the day until it was time to make stall cards and halter holders.

Thank you for making this possible, I love boot camp.

Isabel Solano