



RULES & REGULATIONS

Lincoln, NE
September 24-26, 2010

PURPOSE:

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of BLM-housed American Mustangs through innovative gentling competitions and awareness programs. In keeping with this mission, the Extreme Mustang Makeover event will visit the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, NE, September 24-26, 2010 in order to promote adoption by showcasing the Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

OVERVIEW:

The Extreme Mustang Makeover is produced by the Mustang Heritage Foundation with the support of the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse & Burro Program.

- Interested trainers must complete and submit the Trainer Application on or before **April 15, 2010**. The Trainer Application can be found online at www.extrememustangmakeover.com.
- Selected trainers will pick up their Mustang at one of the following BLM facilities on June 11-12, 2010: Palomino Valley, Nevada; Pauls Valley, Oklahoma; Elm Creek, Nebraska, and Piney Woods, Mississippi.
- The Mustangs will be as uniform in size and age as possible. Mustangs will have current vaccinations and hooves trimmed.
- Mustangs will be pre-assigned to the trainer by computer draw prior to pick-up.
- Trainers must meet all requirements listed below for hauling and stabling their Mustang.
- Trainers will have from the day they pick up their Mustang until the day they arrive at the event to train and work with their Mustang.
- During the event trainers will compete in four areas – handling, conditioning, an in-hand obstacle course and riding the “Horse Course” obstacle course, with courses designed by Craig Cameron. A panel of accomplished horsemen and women will determine winners.
- An ESTIMATED \$25,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. Prize money amount is determined by number of trainers entered.
- The competing Mustangs will be up for adoption by the public through a live bid process on Sunday, September 26th.
- In addition to prize money, trainers competing in the event will receive up to \$700 in reimbursed expenses for reasonable training and veterinary costs and 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption & processing fee) on horses adopted for \$200 or more.

REGULATIONS:

Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore The Board of Trustees of the Mustang Heritage Foundation has the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a Mustang Heritage Foundation program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.

1. All trainers must complete the application and postmark to P. O. Box 979, Georgetown, TX, 78626 or fax date to (512) 869-3229 by **April 15, 2010**.
2. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older.
3. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.
4. Trainer selection will be made based on experience, references and facility approval. Alternate trainers will also be notified should one of the selected trainers be unable to pick up their Mustang.
5. BLM and MHF employees and their spouses are not eligible to compete.
6. Any applicant or selected trainer may be removed from the selection process or competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans. Applicants must meet all BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Requirements. Removal of any trainer from the application process or competitions is at the discretion of the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees.
7. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees may at any time conduct a criminal background check on applicants and remove any applicant from the process for any reason or for no reason.
8. **Trailer requirements:** You must provide transportation for your Mustang from the BLM facility to your facility. While someone else may transport the animal, all trailers must meet these minimum standards: covered top, sturdy walls/floors, and a smooth interior free from any sharp protrusions; ample head room; removable partitions or compartments to separate animals by size and sex, if necessary; floor covered with a non-skid material; and, adequate ventilation. The BLM requires stock-type trailers with a rear swing gate to transport animals. Drop ramp, divided two-horse trailers, and trucks with stock racks are not acceptable.
9. **Facility requirements:** Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) and at least 6 feet high. Facility must be sturdy and constructed of materials such as poles, pipes, or planks (minimum 1.5 inch thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are unacceptable for fencing. You should not release the Mustang into a large open area, such as a pasture, since you may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary care. However, once the animal is gentled, you may release it into a pasture or similar area. You must provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your Mustang. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well drained, adequately ventilated, and accessible to the Mustang. The two sides need to block the prevailing winds and need to protect the major part of the bodies of the horse or burro. Tarps are not acceptable. Contact your administering BLM office for shelter requirements in your area.
10. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.
11. Trainers are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through the competition. Trainers that complete the training and compete in the Extreme Mustang Makeover will be

reimbursed up to \$700 for veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. Receipts must be submitted in order to receive reimbursement no later than October 31, 2010.

12. Should the Mustang be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office no later than 30 days after the Mustang is picked up by the trainer in order to be eligible for reimbursed expenses.
13. Trainers that notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation that they are not participating in the event as a result of an injury to trainer or Mustang will be eligible for reimbursed expenses. The trainer must submit a letter from a physician and/or veterinarian stating the injury in order to be considered for reimbursement of expenses. **TRAINERS THAT DROP OUT OF THE EVENT FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN INJURY TO SELF OR HORSE WILL NOT RECEIVE THE \$700 REIMBURSEMENT.**
14. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Mustang to the BLM facility nearest the trainer.
15. *The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of Mustangs; therefore the goal is for all trainers to participate in the event and adoption.*
16. Trainers may **ONLY** adopt their Mustang during the event through the public bid process during the adoption. Trainers must complete a separate BLM adoption application and be approved by the BLM prior to bidding.
17. Trainers are required to sign releases so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.
18. Trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications.
19. Bedded stalls will be provided for competing Mustangs at the Extreme Mustang Makeover. Additional shavings may be purchased at the event.
20. Arenas will be available for warm up and scheduled practices – (schedule and location of arenas to be announced). Competition schedule to be announced.
21. Winners will be announced following the competition.
22. Trainers are asked to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption on the final day of the event.
23. **Conduct:** Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and **humane in the treatment of Mustangs**, such as to promote the implementation of the event and promote fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while trainers have Mustangs in their possession; conduct on the show grounds; conduct while trainers are wearing Extreme Mustang Makeover logo wear off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of individuals traveling with trainers, spectators or event managers and all other person being present on show grounds. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible conduct or any other form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and the **inhumane treatment of horses are prohibited** and shall be grounds for the disciplinary action against offending individuals. Further, event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.
24. **Sponsorships:** The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships.

- a. The Mustang Heritage Foundation may supply shirts with sponsor logos for trainers to wear during the event. Trainers will not be required to wear Mustang Heritage Foundation event shirts during the actual competition, but may be required to wear shirts during promotional and adoption events.
- b. Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the competition that have logos that are larger than 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
- c. Trainers may not hang banners of any size in the stall area promoting any sponsors. Trainers may have brochures or small printed materials available in their stall areas to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. Exhibitors are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear, which reflects the style of their riding. *Silver on your saddles or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.*
3. Mustangs may be shown with two hands.
4. Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed. Tie downs, mechanical hackamores, spade and high port bits are strongly discouraged. Judges may deduct points for what they feel is discouraged or severe equipment. National Snaffle Bit Association and American Quarter Horse Association rules are resources for preferred equipment. **JUDGES MAY CHECK EQUIPMENT.**
5. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides will be scored higher than those that use training aides.
6. Trainers will be given specific competition courses. Trainers will have an opportunity to “walk through” the course with the judges, *without their Mustang*, prior to the competition.
7. In case of ties a tiebreaker judge will be used to determine the top 10 finalists. The tie breaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.
8. **Drugs:** No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during the Extreme Mustang Makeover competition or adoption, any medication, drug mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as, could affect its performance or appearance at the event. ***If a Mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the Extreme Mustang Makeover event manager as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount. THE EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RANDOMLY OR DIRECTLY DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.*** Positive tests may result in removal from the event, removal of reimbursement and prize money, refund of adoption fees paid by an adopter and return of Mustang to the BLM should the adopter wish to return the adopted Mustang.
9. **Classes:** In each division, trainers and their Mustangs will be judged in three classes – a combined Handling & Conditioning class worth 30 total points, an In-Hand class worth 40 points per judge, and a Horse Course class worth 60 points per judge. One judge will assess the Handling/Conditioning class and two or more judges will assess the In-Hand class and the Horse Course class.

10. **Overview of Divisions:** Divisions will be titled **Idols and Legends** with maneuvers and obstacles becoming more challenging as you move from an Idol to a Legend. Trainers enter a division prior to pick-up of Mustang. Between the time of pick up and September 1, 2010 at 12:00 PM CST trainers may move up in division – BUT TRAINERS MAY NEVER MOVE DOWN. Division changes must be faxed or emailed and will not be accepted by phone. The Mustang Heritage Foundation staff or Trustees will NOT INFORM ANYONE of how many trainers are in each division until September 2, 2010.

a. **IDOLS:** The Idols division is overall less challenging than the Legends division. Trainers at the Idols Level will be judged on the following:

1. Handling – 10 points

The trainer will bring the horse into a small pen inside the arena and the Handling and Conditioning components will be judged during this time. During the Handling portion, the trainer will un-halter and release the horse in the pen. The trainer will then approach the horse and re-halter. During this process the horse will be judged on handling and mannerisms using the following guidelines:

- Horse's overall level of nervousness
- Horse's level of respect for trainer when released/approached/haltered (does the horse shy away, act aggressive or bolt or does the horse stand quietly and wait for the trainer)

2. Conditioning – 20 points

The horse will be judged on weight, muscling, finish, hair coat & overall presentation.

- No person shall alter, change, or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder or in any other manner.
- Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural.
- No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails.
- The score will not reflect conformation.

3. In-Hand (Lead Line) Obstacle Course designed by Craig Cameron – 40 points

Trainers will be asked to lead their horse through a course of basic obstacles and maneuvers that may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, stop & back
- Walk over logs/poles
- Walk/trot between cones/obstacles
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute
- Pick up all four feet
- Brush horse once on each side
- Load & unload from stock trailer

4. Horse Course Obstacle Course designed by Craig Cameron – 60 points

Trainers will be asked to ride their horse through a course of basic maneuvers and obstacles that may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, canter/lope, stop & back
- Turns and circles to the left and right
- Walk over logs/poles
- Simple or flying lead change
- Walk over bridge
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a simple chute
- Pick up object and carry from barrel to barrel
- "At Best" - Trainers will be given 90 seconds during their Horse Course to show their Mustang with no restrictions or requirements. Mustangs may be shown astride or in-hand. Props, jumps, mechanical devices, etc. are not allowed during this portion of the competition.

b. **LEGENDS** – The Legends division is overall more challenging than the Idols division. Trainers at the Legends Level will be judged on the following:

1. Handling – 10 points

The trainer will bring the horse into a small pen inside the arena and the Handling and Conditioning components will be judged during this time. During the Handling portion, the trainer will un-halter and release the horse in the pen. A stranger will then approach the horse and re-halter. During this process the horse will be judged on handling and mannerisms using the following guidelines:

- Horse's overall level of nervousness
- Horse's level of respect for trainer when released/approached/haltered (does the horse shy away, act aggressive or bolt or does the horse stand quietly and wait for the trainer)

2. Conditioning – 20 points

The horse will be judged on weight, muscling, finish, hair coat & overall presentation.

- No person shall alter, change, or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, powder or in any other manner.
- Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural.
- No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails.
- The score will not reflect conformation.

3. Advanced In Hand (Lead Line) Obstacle Course designed by Craig Cameron – 40 points

Trainers will be asked to lead their horse through a course of challenging obstacles and maneuvers that may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, stop & back
- Walk/trot over elevated poles/logs
- Trot between cones/obstacles
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a complex chute
- Pick up all four feet
- Brush horse once on each side, place saddle blanket and blanket on horse
- Load & unload from stock trailer

**Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc.*

4. Advanced Horse Course Obstacle Course designed by Craig Cameron – 60 points

Trainers will be asked to ride their horse through a course of challenging maneuvers and obstacles that may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, canter/lope, stop & back
- Walk/trot over bridge
- Trot over elevated obstacle
- Maneuver forward and/or reverse through a complex chute
- Pivot/spin 360 degrees to the left & right
- Simple or flying lead change
- Side pass
- Open gate
- Ride past live animal
- Walk over tarp or other foreign ground (i.e. pebbles, etc.)
- Ride through cattle
- “At Best” - Trainers will be given 90 seconds during their Horse Course to show their Mustang with no restrictions or requirements. Mustangs may be shown astride or in-hand. Props, jumps, mechanical devices, etc. are not allowed during this portion of the competition.

**Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc.*

10. **Finals – (both divisions):** The top ten Mustangs with the highest combined total scores will return for a freestyle finals performance in each division. These top ten trainers are encouraged to choose musical scores, costumes and props which permit them to show the athletic abilities of their horse in a crowd-appealing way.
- a. Competitors will come into the finals with a “clean slate”. No previous scores will be counted toward the final placing.
 - b. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up.
 - c. Trainers will have four minutes prior to their performance to stage or set the arena.
 - d. Trainers will have four minutes to perform during the finals.
 - e. One cow will be available for those finalists requesting one.
 - f. Finalists will be scored on the following:
 1. **Technical Execution – 10 points**
Contestants will be judged on the execution and degree of difficulty of the following required maneuvers. Contestants may perform the following in any order:
 - a. Walk, trot, canter/lope, stop & back
 - b. Lope or canter circle to the left or right – then simple or flying lead change and lope or canter circle in the opposite direction.
 - c. Pivot or spin 360 degrees to the right and left.
 2. **Horsemanship – 10 points**
Contestants will be judged on the horses’ willingness to perform in partnership with the rider. This score will reflect the horses’ level of willingness to execute the required elements in a relaxed and confident manner.
 3. **Artistic Interpretation – 10 points**
Contestants will be judged on the “wow” factor of their performance. This score will reflect the level of style, creativity, artistic elements, choreography, use of props and overall originality in the performance.

AWARDS:

1. **ALL TRAINERS** competing in the event will be eligible for \$700 in reimbursed expenses and 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption & processing fee) of the adoption price of the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$200 or more.
2. **OVERALL WINNERS**
The Top Ten trainers scoring the highest points in the overall competition will be awarded prize money. Please refer to www.extrememustangmakeover.com for purse money amounts awarded in each Extreme Mustang Makeover event.

ADOPTION DAY:

Trainers are **REQUIRED** to present their horse during the adoption. We ask that trainers ride their horses into the adoption area and tell the audience about their horse. Trainers receive 20% commission (over the \$200 adoption & processing fee) on horses that adopt for \$200 or more.

For more information on this Extreme Mustang Makeover event, please contact Kyle Heine at kyleheine@hotmail.com or Randi Blasienz at rblasienz@gmail.com or call (512) 869-3225.