



RULES & REGULATIONS

Extreme Mustang Makeover
YEARLING EDITION
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 *YEARLING EDITION* event will visit the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, NE, September 24-26, 2010 in order to promote youth training and horsemanship skills and yearling adoption by showcasing the Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

OVERVIEW:

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

- Interested youth 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 youth trainers will pick up one yearling Mustang on June 11-12, 2010 in Elm Creek, Nebraska.
- The yearling Mustangs will be as uniform in size and age as possible, with current vaccinations and hooves trimmed. Colts will be gelded.
- Yearling Mustangs will be pre-assigned to the trainer by computer draw prior to pick-up.
- Youth trainers must meet all requirements listed below for hauling and stabling their yearling Mustang.
- Youth trainers will have from the day they pick up their yearling Mustang until the day they arrive at the event to train and work with their Mustang.
- During the event youth trainers will compete in four areas – handling, conditioning, showmanship, and an in-hand obstacle course designed by Craig Cameron. A panel of accomplished horsemen and/or women will determine winners.
- An ESTIMATED \$5,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. Prize money amount is determined by number of trainers entered.
- The parents/guardians of youth trainers have the option of 1) adopting the yearling Mustang or 2) placing the Mustang up for adoption through a live bid process on Sunday, September 26th following the competition.
- In addition to prize money, youth trainers competing in the event will receive up to \$200 in reimbursed expenses for reasonable training and veterinary costs and, if the yearling Mustang is placed up for adoption, 50% commission (over the \$125 adoption fee) on horses adopted for \$125 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 youth trainers must complete the application with parent/guardian signatures and postmark to P. O. Box 979, Georgetown, TX, 78626 or fax date to (512) 869-3229 by **April 15, 2010**.
2. Youth trainers must be 8-18 years of age at the time of application. **Parents/guardians must sign all appropriate applications and must ultimately be responsible for the care of the horse.**
3. No substitution or replacement of approved youth trainer will be allowed. Youth trainers may receive help in the training and conditioning of their yearling. ***Youth trainers may not receive assistance while competing in the arena.***
4. Youth trainer selection will be made based on experience, references and facility approval. Alternate youth trainers will also be notified should one of the selected trainers be unable to pick up their yearling Mustang.
5. Any youth applicant or selected youth 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. Parents/guardians of youth applicants must meet all BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Requirements. Removal of any youth trainer from the application process or competition is at the discretion of the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees.
6. 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.
7. **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.
8. **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 5 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.
9. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.

10. Youth trainers and their parents/guardians are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through the competition. Youth trainers that complete the training and compete in the Extreme Mustang Makeover *YEARLING EDITION* will be reimbursed up to \$200 for veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. Receipts totaling \$200 must be submitted by October 31, 2010 in order to receive reimbursement.
11. Should the yearling Mustang be deemed untrainable, the youth trainer must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office no later than 30 days after the Mustang is picked up by the youth trainer in order to be eligible for reimbursed expenses.
12. Youth 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 youth trainer must submit a letter from a physician and/or veterinarian stating the injury in order to be considered for reimbursement of expenses. **YOUTH TRAINERS THAT DROP OUT OF THE EVENT FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN INJURY WILL NOT RECEIVE THE \$200 REIMBURSEMENT.**
13. For any and all reasons, the parents/guardian of the youth trainer is responsible for returning the yearling Mustang to the BLM facility nearest the trainer if they are unable to continue with the program.
14. *The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of yearling Mustangs; therefore the goal is for all youth trainers to participate in the event.*
15. The parents/guardians of youth trainers may adopt their yearling Mustang during the event or place the yearling Mustang up for adoption by public bid. In order to adopt the yearling Mustang, the parents/guardians of the youth trainers must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation of this choice prior to the competition, complete a separate BLM adoption application, be approved by the BLM and pay a \$125 adoption fee.
16. Youth trainers are required to sign releases so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and become the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.
17. Youth trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications.
18. Bedded stalls will be provided for competing yearling Mustangs at the Extreme Mustang Makeover *YEARLING EDITION*. Additional shavings may be purchased at the event.
19. Arenas will be available for warm up and scheduled practices – (schedule and location of arenas to be announced). Competition schedule to be announced.
20. Winners will be announced following the competition.
21. If placing the yearling Mustang up for adoption, youth trainers are asked to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption on the final day of the event.
22. **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.

23. **Sponsorships:** The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships.
- 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.
 - Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the competition that have personal sponsor logos that are larger than 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
 - Trainers may not hang banners of any size in the stall area promoting any personal sponsors. Trainers may have brochures or small printed materials available in their stall areas to promote their personal sponsors during the event.

COMPETITION RULES:

- Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
- Yearling Mustangs are not allowed to be ridden at any point inside or outside the show arena during the Extreme Mustang Makeover *YEARLING EDITION* competition/event.
- Youth trainers may exhibit in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles and equipment. *Sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.*
- Any equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed. Judges may deduct points for what they feel is use of discouraged or severe equipment.
- Training aides will not be restricted, although youth trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides will be scored higher than those that use training aides.
- Youth trainers will be given a specific Showmanship pattern and In-Hand obstacle course upon arrival at the event. The obstacle course will be designed by Craig Cameron. Youth trainers will have an opportunity to “walk through” the pattern and course with the judges, *without their Mustang*, prior to the competition.
- 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.
- 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:** Youth trainers and their yearling Mustangs will be judged in three classes – a combined Handling & Conditioning class worth 30 total points, a Showmanship class worth 40 points per judge, and an In-Hand Obstacle Course class worth 60 points per judge. One judge will assess the Handling/Conditioning class and two or more judges will assess the Showmanship class and the In-Hand Obstacle Course class. The following constitutes specific judging guidelines and requirements:

1. Handling – 10 points

The youth trainer will bring the horse into a small pen in the arena and the Handling and Conditioning components will be judged during this time. In the Handling portion, the youth trainer will un-halter and release the horse in the pen. The youth 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. Showmanship – 40 points

Youth trainers will be asked to lead their horse through an intermediate showmanship pattern consisting of maneuvers and situations that may include but are not limited to:

- Walk, trot, stop & back
- Turn/circle to the left and/or right
- Stand quietly during judge's inspection
- Answer industry-related question asked by the judge
- Line up with fellow youth trainers according to judge's instruction

4. In-Hand (Lead Line) Obstacle Course designed by Craig Cameron – 60 points

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

- Walk, trot, stop & back
- Walk over logs/poles
- Lounge line work – walk, trot, canter/lope.
- 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

10. **Finals:** The top ten Mustangs with the highest combined total scores will return for a freestyle finals performance. These top ten youth 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. Youth trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up.

- c. Youth trainers will have three minutes prior to their performance to stage or set the arena.
- d. Youth trainers will have three minutes to perform during the finals.
- e. 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
- b. Trot
- c. Stop
- d. Back
- e. Pivot or turn 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 youth trainer. 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 YOUTH TRAINERS** competing in the event will be eligible for \$200 in reimbursed expenses and, if the yearling Mustang is placed up for adoption by the public, 50% commission (over the \$125 adoption fee) of the adoption price if the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$125 or more.
- 2. **OVERALL WINNERS**
Approximately \$5,000 in prize money will be distributed among the Top Ten youth trainers scoring the highest points in the overall competition. The prize money amount is determined by the number of trainers entered.

ADOPTION DAY:

Parents/guardians of youth trainers may either 1) adopt the yearling Mustang for \$125 or 2) place the yearling Mustang up for adoption by the public through a live bidding process. If the yearling Mustang is placed up for adoption, youth trainers are asked to work with potential adopters prior to the adoption by answering questions and honestly representing the Mustang they trained. Youth trainers are **REQUIRED** to present their horse in the arena during the adoption. Youth trainers receive 50% commission (over the \$125 adoption fee) on horses that adopt for \$125 or more.

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