



## RULES & REGULATIONS

Diné College – Navajo Nation – Tsaile, AZ  
August 12-14, 2011

### 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 Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation on August 12-14, 2011 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 1, 2011**. The Trainer Application can be found online at [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com).
- Selected trainers will pick up their Mustang at the Diné College Rodeo Arena in Tsaile, Arizona on May 20-21, 2011.
- 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 randomly 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 Mustangs and trainers will be assessed in four areas – (1) handling and conditioning, (2) an in-hand obstacle course in the arena, (3) a rural trail challenge in open country, (4) a trail challenge in the arena, and (5) a freestyle finals event for the top ten highest combined scores. A panel of accomplished horsemen and women will determine winners.
- An ESTIMATED \$7,500 in cash plus prizes will be awarded. Prize money amount is determined by number of trainers entered.
- Incentive Awards will also be presented to the trainer with the highest combined preliminary scores in the following categories: Rookie (trainers who have never previously competed in an Extreme Mustang Makeover event), Young Gun (trainers 18-21 years old) and Silver Bullet (trainers 50 years old or older).
- The competing Mustangs will be up for adoption by the public through a live bid process on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- 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 and 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 1, 2011**.
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 or 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 September 30, 2011.
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. Stalls or pens will be provided for competing Mustangs at the Extreme Mustang Makeover.
20. An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.
21. Competition schedule to be announced.
22. Winners will be announced following the competition.
23. Trainers are asked to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption on the final day of the event.
24. **Conduct:** Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and **humane in the treatment of Mustangs**, such as to promote the implementation of the event and 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 form of misconduct, such as illegal, indecent or profane, and **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.

25. **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 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 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:

- Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
- 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.*
- 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.**
- 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.
- 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.
- In case of ties a tiebreaker judge may 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 the Mustang’s performance or appearance at the event is prohibited. ***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 the 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 a Mustang to the BLM should the adopter wish to return the adopted Mustang.
- CONDITIONING:** **Prior to the first competition class, the level of the horse’s conditioning will be assessed in a pass/fail scenario.** There will be no points associated with the conditioning level, however all Mustangs must be healthy and carrying an appropriate amount of weight for the size and type of horse. ***Any Mustang to be found in poor condition (too thin, poor hair coat, injuries or illness) will not be allowed to compete.*** Decisions will be made by judges as to the condition of horses and management will determine permission to compete. 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.

9. **Classes:** Trainers and Mustangs will be judged in 4 preliminary classes – (1) Handling & Conditioning, (2) an In-Hand obstacle course in the arena, (3) a Rural Trail course in open country, and (4) a Riding obstacle course in the arena. One judge will assess the Handling & Mannerisms component, two or more judges will assess the arena obstacle courses, and one judge per obstacle will assess the rural trail course.

**A. Handling & Conditioning – 10 Points**

The trainer will bring the horse into a small pen and the Handling 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 or a designated individual will then approach the horse and re-halter. During this process the horse will be judged on handling and mannerisms using the following guidelines:

- Trainer/Horse demeanor in pen (5 points).
- Trainer/Horse responsiveness/communication/relationship during re-haltering process (5 points).

**B. In-Hand Obstacle Course (in arena) – 30 points from each judge**

After completing the Handling & Mannerisms component, trainers will be asked to lead their Mustang into the arena to address a course of basic obstacles and maneuvers that may include but are not limited to:

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

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

**C. Rural Trail – 100 total points**

At the completion of the In-Hand work in the arena, trainers will bridle their Mustang and depart on horseback to ride to the trail head of the Rural Trail. Trainers and Mustangs will be scored on obstacles on the trail which may include but are not limited to:

- Negotiating rocks
- Maneuvering up and down steep hills
- Dismounting and mounting on the trail
- Crossing draws and bridges
- Walk, trot and lope or canter

**D. Riding Obstacle Course (in arena) – 30 points from each judge**

Trainers will be asked to ride their Mustangs in the arena to address a course of basic obstacles and maneuvers 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 or complex chute
  - Pick up object and carry from barrel to barrel
  - Dragging items specified length
  - Walk/trot over bridge
  - Trot over elevated obstacle
  - Pivot/spin 360 degrees to the left & right
  - Side pass
  - Open gate
  - Ride past live animal
  - Walk over tarp or other foreign ground (i.e. pebbles, etc.)
  - “At Best” – Trainers will be given 90 seconds 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. Trainers may use obstacles already incorporated into the riding course but obstacles may not be moved. Trainers may use any piece of tack and/or equipment that is essential to their riding discipline (rope, gun, etc.). All items subject to review and approval by MHF staff.
- \*Additional elements may be added such as brush, artificial foliage, rain slickers, etc.*

**10. Finals (Compulsory Maneuvers & Freestyle Performance):** The top ten Mustangs with the highest combined total scores will return for a freestyle finals performance. 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 enter the arena and complete the 10 compulsory maneuvers. Trainers will have 90 seconds maximum to complete the maneuvers. Time will be called at 90 seconds. At that time trainers will return to the start cone.
- E. Once at the cone, music and time will start. Trainers will have 3.5 minutes to complete the freestyle performance.
- G. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, cattle, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason.
- H. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason other than to set up obstacles or hand obstacles to the exhibitor. Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the horse at any point during the performance.
- I. In case of ties a tiebreaker judge may be used. Management reserves the right to use a “ride off” as a tie breaker for 1<sup>st</sup> place.
- J. Finalists will be scored on the following:

**1. Execution of Compulsory Maneuvers – 40 points**

Contestants will be judged on the execution of 10 compulsory maneuvers. Each maneuver is worth 4 points each. This score will reflect completion of the maneuver as well as the horse’s level of willingness to execute the maneuvers in a relaxed and confident manner. Contestants may perform the following in any order (pattern will be provided to finalists at the event):

1. Walk a minimum of 6 steps
2. Trot a minimum of 6 strides
3. Lope/canter a minimum of 6 strides

4. Stop
5. Back a minimum of 6 steps
6. Lope/canter 1 full circle to the Right
7. Lope/canter 1 full circle to the Left
8. Simple or flying lead change
9. Pivot or spin 360 degrees to the Right
10. Pivot or spin 360 degrees to the Left

## 2. Freestyle Performance – 60 points

The freestyle portion is worth a total of 60 points and will be scored in the following areas:

### A. Overall Horsemanship – 40 points

Contestants will be judged on overall horsemanship. This score will include the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers in a relaxed and confident manner as well as the noticeable communication between horse and rider and the display of partnership between horse and rider. This score will also reflect the incorporation of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty. These maneuvers would include but are not limited to: *side pass, two tracking either direction, pulling or dragging, jumping, serpentines, roll backs, roping, mounted shooting, lead changes, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.*

### B. Artistic Interpretation – 20 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. This score will reflect the way a contestant handles and approaches changes in the music's tempo, the flow of the ride over the arena and its entertainment value. The artistic evaluation will consider the following: Components of Choreography – the composition and arrangement of the ride in relation to the music and its rhythm, and Originality – the use of non-required maneuvers to enhance 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 if the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$200 or more.
2. **INCENTIVE AWARDS** will be presented to the trainers with the highest combined preliminary scores – finals scores do not count toward incentive awards. Incentive award categories are:
  - Rookies – first-time Extreme Mustang Makeover competitors.
  - Young Guns – trainers who are 18-21 years old as of application deadline.
  - Silver Bullets – trainers who are 50 years old and over as of application deadline.
3. **OVERALL WINNERS**  
The Top Ten trainers scoring the highest points in the overall competition will be awarded approximately \$7,500 in prize money (prize money based on number of entries). Prize money breakdown TBD.

**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 call (512) 869-3225.**