



**2020 RULES & REGULATIONS  
YOUTH DIVISION  
FORT WORTH, TX – JANUARY 23-25**

**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 feature a youth and mustang competition at locations across the United States. Participating youth help promote the adoption of these national treasures by showcasing the Mustang's value and trainability. The program is also designed to help youth build and improve their horsemanship skills and life skills 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.

- Youth trainers ages 8-17 at time of entry are eligible to participate in this competition.
- Interested youth trainers must complete and submit the Trainer Application with parent/guardian signatures on or before **July 1, 2019**. The trainer application can be found online at [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com).
- Accepted youth trainers will pick up their mustang September 13 or September 14 at one of the following BLM locations: Palomino Valley, NV; Ewing, IL; or Paul's Valley, OK. These are the only dates and locations available. *Youth trainers are required to adopt the assigned Mustang at time of pick-up. **The adopter (parent, guardian, or other adult 18-years-old or older) will be required to finalize adoption paperwork at time of pick-up.***
- The youth trainer will condition and train the Mustang and compete at the **Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, TX January 23-25, 2020** for prizes and awards.
- Mustangs will be as uniform in size and age (12-24 months old) as possible. Mustangs will have current vaccinations, a current Coggins and hooves trimmed.
- Mustangs will be pre-assigned to the trainer randomly prior to pick-up.
- Youth trainers must meet all requirements listed on the following page for hauling and stabling their Mustang.
- During the event Mustangs and youth trainers will be assessed by a panel of accomplished horsemen and women. Classes will consist of Handling & Conditioning, In-Hand Trail and a Freestyle. The highest combined scores from these three classes will determine the winner.
- **\$9,000** in cash plus prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 competitors.
- All youth trainers competing in the event will receive \$100.
- The assigned Mustang will be adopted at pick-up, therefore a public adoption will not be facilitated for the youths' Mustangs at the event. Adopters may reassign their Mustang to a new adopter after the event, however printed materials advertising the Mustang for reassignment will not be allowed during the event.

**Not adhering to the Regulations and Competition Rules listed in this document may result in disqualification from current and/or future Mustang Heritage Foundation competitions and programs.**

## **REGULATIONS:**

***Participation in this event is by invitation only; therefore the Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees 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 and postmark to P.O. Box 979, Georgetown, TX, 78627 or fax date to (512) 869-3229 by **July 1, 2019**. Applications can be found online at [www.extrememustangmakeover.com](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com). MHF is not responsible for any lost/misdirected applications.
2. All youth trainers' parents/guardians must adopt the assigned Mustang before taking possession of it. This includes completing a BLM Adoption Application, signing a Private Maintenance and Care Agreement, and providing a personal or cashier's check in the amount of \$25 made out to USDI/BLM. Youth trainers may reassign their Mustang to a new adopter after the competition if they need to do so, however they may not SELL the Mustang until they receive title of ownership following the 12 month adoption period.
3. Youth trainers must be 8-17 years of age or older as of entry deadline.
- 4 Trainers are required to be registered members of the Mustang Heritage Foundation in order to compete. Mustang Heritage Foundation membership applications can be found online at [www.mustangheritagefoundationstore.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundationstore.org). The minimum membership fee is \$35 annually. Membership supports Mustang adoption and awareness and provides a membership card, a member's only bumper sticker and event ticket and merchandise discounts.
5. No substitution or replacement of approved youth trainer will be allowed. The youth trainer who is accepted must be the individual that trains and competes. Youth trainers may receive help in the training and conditioning of their yearling.
6. 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 Mustang.
7. BLM and MHF employees (full or part-time) and their immediate family are not eligible to compete.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Mustangs used in Extreme Mustang Makeover competitions will be as uniform in size and age as possible. Age of horse is determined by freeze mark and BLM health papers and will comply with the industry standard of changing age on January 1.
11. **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.
12. **Facility requirements:** Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (i.e. 20' x 20' or 10' x 40', etc.) and have fences 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 minimum two sides need to block the prevailing winds and need to protect the major part of the bodies of the horse. Tarps are not acceptable. Contact your administering BLM office for shelter requirements in your area.

13. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged. At all times, the humane care and best interest of the horse are paramount. For Extreme Mustang Makeover events and Mustang Heritage Foundation programs, the trainer is responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any Mustang entrusted to their care. Contact Mustang Heritage Foundation staff or management to report any health issues with your horse. Any suspected inhumane treatment of horses should be reported to management immediately with potential consequences as outlined in our Humane Treatment Policy.
14. Trainers are required to submit a signed release with their application so that all photos and filming may be used to promote the event and will be the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation.
15. **Trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications – applications received without photos or bios will not be considered. Photos may be emailed to [photos@mustangheritagefoundation.org](mailto:photos@mustangheritagefoundation.org). The photo and bio will be used for promotional purposes and will be viewable by the public.**
16. Trainers are responsible for all care-related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through the competition. Training/care expenses will not be reimbursed.
17. Trainers are required to complete and submit a 7-day, 45-day and 90-day progress report during the training period. Progress forms and supplemental information will be provided prior to pick-up.
18. In the case of serious injury or death of your mustang, trainers are required to notify the MHF Event Director, Stormy Mullins at [\(940\) 445-9773](tel:9404459773) within 24 hours of the occurrence. MHF will immediately relay this information on to the appropriate BLM staff.
19. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for either finding a new adopter or returning the Mustang to his/her nearest BLM facility if the trainer is unable to complete the training and participate in the competition.
20. The purpose of this event is to showcase the talent and trainability of Mustangs and to provide an opportunity for trainers and horses to engage in safe competition for prize money and awards. Therefore, all horses entered into the competition should be gentle and safe to maneuver through the show grounds. Upon entry onto the show grounds, should a Mustang be deemed unsafe by MHF and/or BLM that horse may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition and adoption. The goal is for all trainers and horses to participate in the event as long as the horse is safe to do so. If there is a concern regarding the horse's training status please contact Event Director Stormy Mullins at (940) 445-9773.
21. Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing Mustangs' freeze marks will be verified by a BLM or MHF representative to determine the horse's eligibility. For legibility reasons, the trainer may need to shave the hair around the freeze mark ahead of time.
22. Upon entry onto the show grounds, all trainers must provide a current Health Certificate and Coggins paperwork for all competing horses.
23. Upon entry onto the show grounds, competing Mustangs will be examined by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual to determine the health and condition of the horse. Should a Mustang be deemed in poor condition by a veterinarian or knowledgeable individual that Mustang may be excused or uninvited to participate in the competition.

24. At least one bag of shavings and one stall per competing Mustang will be provided free of charge. One shared tack stall will also be provided free of charge (tack stall may be shared with up to three other individuals). All Mustangs will be stalled together according to the division in which they are competing (Youth Division, EMM, Open, etc.). Trainers are not allowed to place locks on stalls.

25. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing all tack, feed and supplies needed during the competition.

26. An arena will be available for warm up and scheduled practices.

27. Competition schedule to be announced.

28. Winners will be announced following the competition.

29. **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.

### 30. Mustang Heritage Foundation Humane Treatment Policy

Every Mustang and all animals shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Any participant using abusive or excessive training techniques or being inhumane to a Mustang in his/her care (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. If a participant's horse enters the contest or if the trainer/participant at any time presents a horse with questionable training/care related injuries (determined excessive or abusive by a panel assigned by the Mustang Heritage Foundation and consisting of a panel of licensed equine veterinarian(s) and/or respected horse industry professionals) the participant may be removed from the contest and/or all future contests and training programs. **This policy is in addition to our event rules which are stated above. All trainers must agree to, sign and return the Humane Treatment Policy included in the Trainer Application.** The following list, while in no way exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior and training techniques:

- No horse which appears to be emaciated, drawn or injured may be exhibited.
- Use of inhumane training techniques or methods such as striking horse with objects, excessive spurring and/or excessive jerking of reins.
- Any inhumane treatment which results in wounds.

31. **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 have small banners and brochures or small printed materials at their horse's stall ONLY to promote their training business and their sponsors during the event. Exhibitors may not hang banners of any size in the common event areas promoting sponsors.
- d. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle class, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
- e. Trainers may purchase EMM/MHF logoed merchandise (t-shirts, banners, caps, etc.) from the Mustang Heritage Foundation but may not reproduce EMM/MHF logos in any way on apparel, banners or other posted materials.

## **COMPETITION RULES:**

1. STEWARDS: The Mustang Heritage Foundation may (at any event) designate one or more individuals as a Steward to support the efforts of show officials and the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Board of Trustees. The Steward's responsibilities may include but are not limited to: 1) Monitor show grounds for inhumane treatment of horses and unsportsmanlike conduct; 2) Investigate complaints and issue warnings; and 3) Assist show officials and trustees in any capacity.
2. Trainers must fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
3. Youth (ages 8-17 at time of application) are eligible to participate. **Parents/guardians must sign all appropriate applications and Mustang adoption forms and must ultimately be responsible for the care of the horse. Children may not receive assistance while in the arena competing.**
4. 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 discipline. *Silver on your equipment or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.*
5. Training aides (whips, sticks, treats, the tail end of lead rope, etc.) will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown with the use of training aides will be judged accordingly. Any excessive use of a training aid (including striking the horse) will result in an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge in that class.
6. Excessive jerking on the lead line during the competition will result in an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge off of the overall class score.
7. Stud chains along with any other equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed and will result in disqualification from the class in which it was used.
8. **Youth trainers are not allowed to ride, sit or stand on their 12-24-month-old Mustang at any time prior to or during the competition and will result in disqualification. This includes in the stall/warm-up areas at the event and during the competition itself.**
9. 12-24-month-old horses are not allowed to pull **ANY** items (carts, sleds, etc.), however the exhibitor may pull an item while leading the horse. **This includes in the stall/warm-up areas at the event and during the competition itself.**
10. 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. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited during the preliminary competition and will result in an automatic 10 point deduction from each judge off the overall class score. Costume-related tail/mane decorations will be allowed during the finals freestyle performance. Alteration of tail function (tail blocking, dead tails, etc.) is prohibited at any and all points during the competition and will result in disqualification.
11. **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 or enhance 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 DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.*** Positive tests will result in removal from the event and removal of prizes and prize money. In regard to herbal/natural supplements, trainers are cautioned against the use of medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes and products of any kind, the ingredients and quantitative analysis of which are not specifically known, as many of them may contain a forbidden substance.
12. 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.
13. Class awards will be presented. Any class ties will be broken by the score from a predetermined element in the class. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.

14. Ties will be broken by the trail class to determine overall winners. If a tie exists between trail class scores, the score from a predetermined element in the trail class will break the tie. The tiebreaker element will be determined prior to the start of the event. In case of further ties, a tiebreaker judge may be used. The tiebreaker judge will be appointed prior to the start of the event.
15. **Competition Classes:** Youth trainers and 12-24-month-old Mustangs will be judged in three (3) classes: Handling & Conditioning, In-Hand Trail and Freestyle. The highest combined scores from these classes will determine the winner.

**1. Handling and Conditioning Class – 40 points from each judge**

During this class, the trainer will lead the horse into a small pen inside the arena, un-halter and release the horse in the pen. The trainer will exit the pen. The horse's conditioning will be scored at this time. The trainer will then be allowed back into the pen. Upon re-entering the pen, the trainer will re-halter the horse and lead the horse out of the pen to complete a set of handling maneuvers in the arena. This class will be judged on the following:

**Handling – 30 points** – Judges will assess the horse's demeanor and responsiveness during the haltering process, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer through the completion of additional handling maneuvers including but not limited to the following:

- Walk
- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick-up feet
- Load and unload from trailer

**Conditioning – 10 points** - The horse's condition will be judged in two areas:

- Appropriate weight/muscling (5 points).
- Overall Appearance – this score will reflect hair coat, feet condition, etc. (5 points).

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, hoof polish, or in any other manner. Trainers may clip/trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural. Use of false tails or extensions on the mane or tail are prohibited. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails. The score will not reflect conformation. To learn more about appropriate weight/conditioning for a horse please visit

<http://www.gerlltd.org/Education/Equine%20Body%20Condition%20Score%20Presentation.pdf>.

- 2. Leading Trail Class – 40 points per judge:** This class is intended to show the horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal day. Exhibitors will be asked to lead the horse through a course of obstacles. Obstacles **may include but are not limited to** the following:

- 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 and unload from stock trailer

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

- 3. Freestyle – 40 points per judge:** During this class exhibitors are encouraged to choose musical scores, costumes and props that permit them to show the athletic abilities of their horses in a crowd appealing way.

- A. **All trainers are required to show their Mustang in-hand** – riding is not an option and doing so will result in disqualification.
- B. Exhibitors are not allowed to sit or stand on 12-24-month-old Mustangs and doing so will result in disqualification.

- C. Horses are not allowed to pull any items (doing so will result in disqualification), however the exhibitor may pull an item while leading the horse.
- D. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up and tear down - it is the trainer's responsibility to make sure all props are cleared from the arena immediately following the conclusion of the freestyle performance, including hay, confetti, etc. Not completely clearing the arena of debris will result in a no score for the freestyle.
- E. All props must be freestanding. Nothing may be driven into the ground (i.e. rebar, stakes, etc.), and doing so will result in a no score for the freestyle.
- F. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
- G. Props of pyrotechnic nature i.e. fireworks, flares, sparklers, firecrackers, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- H. Wearing guns (real or toy) in any arena or during the competition, as well as shooting guns and/or blanks is not allowed during the competition or anywhere on the grounds and will result in an automatic disqualification.
- I. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes prior to their performance to stage or set the arena.
- J. Trainers will have 3 minutes to complete their freestyle performance. The music and time will start simultaneously when the trainer or horse enters the arena, whichever comes first. It is the trainers responsibility to ensure EMM staff is aware of which is entering first (horse or rider), so that the time and music can be started appropriately. Failure to do so will result in a no score for the freestyle.
- K. Live "voice-overs" and/or commentary from the trainer and/or trainer representative are not allowed during the performance and will result in disqualification.
- L. Lighting and/or spotlights cannot be manipulated or altered for any of the trainer freestyle performances.
- M. Music is a required component of the freestyle performance – if the trainer does not turn in music during the finalists' meeting at the event, management may select music for him/her. Music must be submitted as one single track (MHF staff will not transition from one track to another during the performance or merge music files for a competitor) either on a CD or as an mp3 file. Music will not be played from a phone or any other device. The music file will be downloaded into our music system. All music is subject to review and approval by MHF staff. **If the trainer does not pick up their cd or flash drive following the freestyle, MHF will discard it at the end of the event.**
- N. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason and will result in disqualification.
- O. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the finals performance for any reason other than to drive a vehicle to be used during the performance. If someone other than the trainer is driving a vehicle in the performance **none of the occupants** of the vehicle will be allowed to exit the vehicle while in the arena and the windows must be rolled up at all times (the vehicle, if driven by someone other than the trainer, must be closed-cab; gators, golf carts, ATV's, etc. will not be allowed and will result in disqualification). Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the horse at any point during the performance and will result in disqualification. Other people may hand props to the trainer from outside the arena.
- P. Mustangs are not allowed to walk, trot or lope onto/into any *moving* vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification. Mustangs are not allowed to trot or lope onto/into any *covered* vehicles or trailers of any kind and doing so will result in disqualification.
- Q. Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance – bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- R. Judges and/or MHF staff may stop any performance deemed unsafe, dangerous or otherwise inappropriate.

S. **All items/props are subject to final review and approval by MHF staff.**

T. The freestyle portion is worth a total of 40 points and will be scored in the following areas:

A. **Overall Horsemanship - 20 points:**

- The communication and partnership between horse and rider, and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers correctly in a controlled, relaxed and confident manner, (10 points).
- Incorporation of a variety of maneuvers and their degree of difficulty (10 points). These maneuvers would include but are not limited to: *sidepass, pulling or dragging, serpentine, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.*

B. **Entertainment Value - 20 points:**

- Components of Choreography – the composition and arrangement of the exhibition in relation to the music and its rhythm. (10 points)
- Creativity – the use of themes, maneuvers, costumes, and/or props to enhance the performance and overall originality. (10 points).

**AWARDS:**

1. **ALL YOUTH TRAINERS competing in the event will receive \$100.** No receipt or paperwork submission will be necessary.

2. **9,000 in CASH plus PRIZES will be awarded to the Top 3 Finalists:**

Champion - \$3,000 and A Cut Above Belt Buckle

Reserve Champion - \$3,000

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$3,000

3. Payment of all earned money will be issued within 10 business days of the event conclusion.

**For more information on Extreme Mustang Makeover events, please call (512) 869-3225.**