



**VIRTUAL EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER  
2020 RULES & REGULATIONS  
YOUTH DIVISION**

**PURPOSE:**

The Mustang Heritage Foundation is dedicated to facilitating successful placements for America's excess wild mustangs and burros through innovative programs, events, and education.

In keeping with this mission, the Extreme Mustang Makeover event is now available virtually to promote adoption by showcasing the trainability, versatility and talent of the American Mustang.

**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 pick up are eligible to participate in this competition.
- Selected trainers will pick up the assigned Mustang in **Ridgecrest, CA, July 17-18, 2020**.
- 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 randomly pre-assigned to the trainers by MHF prior to pick-up. This information will be released when the trainer is on site for pick up.
- Trainers must meet all requirements listed on the following pages for hauling and stabling their mustang.
- Trainers will have approximately 100 days to prepare their mustangs for the virtual competition.
- This Extreme Mustang Makeover event will be held virtually. All competing trainers are required to submit 3 total videos by October 30: Handling Class, Trail Class, and Freestyle run. Competition results will be posted November 11-14.
- During the virtual competition mustangs and trainers will be judged by a panel of two accomplished horsemen and/or - women and one equipment and rule judge.
- **\$3,000** 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 MHF will not facilitate an adoption for the youths' Mustangs. Adopters may reassign their Mustang to a new adopter after the event.
- Incentive Awards will also be presented to the trainer with the highest overall scores in the following categories: Juniors (trainers 8-12 years old) and Seniors (trainers 13 years of age or older). Trainers are only eligible for one incentive award per event.
- In the case that a trainer is no longer interested in moving forward with the competition, an email officially withdrawing must be submitted to the Event Coordinator.

**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. 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 **March 1, 2020**. 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 USD/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 at time of pick up.
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.mustangheritagefoundation.org/join](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org/join). 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. MHF and BLM staff members (full or part-time) along with their immediate family are ineligible to compete. Additionally, anyone who actively works for the BLM either directly or indirectly is ineligible 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.** Head shot photo 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. Expenses incurred during the training period and competition **will not** be reimbursed.
17. Trainers are **required** to complete and submit 7-day, 45-day, 65-day, and 90-day progress reports during the training period. Progress forms and supplemental information will be provided prior to pick-up with detailed due dates. **All four progress reports are required by the indicated due dates.**
18. In the case of serious injury or death of your mustang, trainers are required to notify the **MHF Equine Director, Stormy Mullins at 940- 445-9773** and their BLM OOJ within 24 hours of the occurrence. MHF will also immediately relay this information on to the appropriate BLM staff.
19. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the mustang to his/her nearest BLM facility if he/she is unable to complete the training and participate in the competition. Participation is subject to review if an individual has a history of frequently returning EMM or MHF program horses before completing the training or participating in the competition.
20. **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.
21. **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.

22. **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 virtual event. Trainers will not be required to wear event shirts during the actual competition, but are encouraged to wear these shirts during the filming of any and all class or auction videos.
- b. Trainers will be restricted from wearing apparel or equine products during the virtual competition that have logos that are larger than 4 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
- c. Trainers may promote personal businesses/sponsors on props used during the freestyle performance of the finals competition, however the promotion logo/statement must be no larger than 12 inches by 24 inches.
- d. 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:**

***All written rules will supersede anything previously discussed or implied. Any additional clarification of the existing rules must be obtained in writing. In the event that there are any questions or confusion involving a written rule, the MHF events team will be available to share written clarification upon request.***

1. **JUDGES:** The Mustang Heritage Foundation will designate two judges and one equipment/ rule judge to support the efforts of show officials, and review all video submissions to ensure all rules are being followed.
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. **ILLEGAL equipment that will result in automatic disqualification from the class in which equipment was used in (regardless of discipline) includes:** Stud chains. Use of any equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed and will result in disqualification from the class in which it was used.

The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane.

***It is the trainer's responsibility to contact MHF event staff to obtain written approval regarding any questionable equipment, or to clarify if a certain type of equipment is deemed humane and allowable. Said request and approval/ disapproval must be conducted via email in writing.***

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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. **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.
13. Trainers will be provided with the class patterns after pick up in both digital and physical form. Each pattern will include instructions on how to set up, film, and upload the class submissions. There will not be any walk throughs for these classes since the event is being conducted virtually.
14. Class awards will be mailed out post event. 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.
15. 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.
16. **Competition Classes:** Youth trainers and 12-24-month-old Mustangs will be judged in three (3) classes: Handling, In-Hand Trail, and Freestyle. The highest combined scores from these classes will determine the winner.

#### **PRELIMINARY CLASS DESCRIPTION, INSTRUCTIONS & SCORING:**

Each competing trainer is required to record and upload a total of 3 videos: Handling Class, Trail Class, and Freestyle run. These three videos are due by Friday, October 30 at 5 p.m. Instructions on how to upload these videos will be sent out post pick up.

Editing is not allowed – trainers are given the option (for Freestyle only) to lay their music over the video. Any other class runs that are edited will result in a 2-point deduction per judge in that specific class. The trainer and horse are required to be in frame during the recorded submission. A 2-point deduction will be applied per judge if the trainer and horse go out of frame.

Additional video submission tips will be sent out with each pattern. This will include recommendations on lighting, attire, etc.

**A. Handling Class – 40 points from each judge:**

The trainer will be instructed per the pattern to complete certain tasks in hand. This class will be judged on the following:

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

- No person shall alter, change or attempt to hide the natural marking and/or rubbed or raw skin of a horse by surgery, dye, hoof polish, powder or in any other manner– doing so will result in a 10-point deduction per judge.
- The use of stud chains is prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification of the class.
- 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.

**B. 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 their horse through a course of generic obstacles and maneuvers. Exhibitors may be penalized if the course is set up incorrectly, or certain obstacles are left out (for example, 2-point deduction per judge if a bridge is left out)

Leading elements obstacles/maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- 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.*

**If the trainer does not have certain trail obstacles on hand at their facility, it is their responsibility to contact the MHF event staff to coordinate and receive written approval for an acceptable replacement.**

**C. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Props of pyrotechnic nature i.e. fireworks, flares, sparklers, firecrackers, etc. are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. All freestyle music and themes should be in good taste and family-friendly. The purpose of the Extreme Mustang Makeover is to highlight the Mustang Heritage Foundation's mission to place more mustangs in private care. Therefore, the code of conduct will be strictly enforced and music containing profanity and controversial or disparaging themes or props are strictly prohibited. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Directors reserves the right to disqualify and remove from competition any trainer that violates this rule for any reason or no reason. The Mustang Heritage Foundation Board of Directors decision will be final. If clarification is needed, contact the MHF event staff.
- J. Other animals (dogs, additional horses, cattle, etc.) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the performance for any reason and will result in a 10-point deduction per judge.
- K. Other people (including children) will NOT be allowed in the arena during the 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). Other people are NOT allowed to act as props, ride or come in contact with the horse at any point during the performance. Other people may hand props to the trainer from outside the arena.
- L. Youth can NOT drive or operate any vehicle, including open cab vehicles like golf cart, 4 wheelers, etc.
- M. 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.
- N. Mustangs should not be cued by their trainer to perform unsafe tricks at any time. These include, but are not limited to: rearing, bucking, kicking, etc. Any such cue and trick will result in a 10 point deduction from each judge.
- O. Trainers must wear appropriate footwear during the freestyle performance – bare feet are not allowed and will result in disqualification.
- P. The freestyle portion is worth a total of 40 points and will be scored in the following areas:

**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, serpentines, circles with variance in size and speed, stops, etc.*

**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. INCENTIVE AWARDS** will be presented to the trainers with the highest combined overall scores. The Junior and Senior buckles will be awarded to the highest scoring trainers eligible for the designated incentive. One incentive buckle will be awarded in each category. Incentive award categories are:

- Junior – Ages 8-12
- Senior – Ages 13 and older

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

Champion - \$1,000 and A Cut Above Belt Buckle  
Reserve Champion - \$1,000  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$1,000

**4.** 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.**