

Rules and Regulations
2008 Western States Mustang Challenge
Western States Horse Expo June 6-8, 2008

Western States Mustang Challenge Overview:

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of Mustangs to good homes. In keeping with the mission of the Foundation, the Western States Mustang Challenge will occur at the Western States Horse Expo, which attracts thousands of horse enthusiasts and promotes horse ownership. The goal of the event is to promote adoption through showcasing Mustangs' value and trainability through competition.

Thirty wild Mustangs from Nevada will be brought to the Bureau of Land Management's facilities in California (location to be determined). The thirty Mustangs will be as uniform in size, age as possible. Mustangs will be between 3-4 year of age with current vaccinations and hooves trimmed.

Thirty approved horse trainers will come to the BLM equine facilities in California. Mustangs will be pre-assigned to the trainer by computer draw prior to pick-up so that appropriate health papers may be created for trainers' home states. **Trainers may pick up their Mustang at the California Facility (to be determined) March 6-8, 2008.** Trainers must meet all requirements listed below for hauling and stabling their Mustang. The trainers will then take the Mustang to their training facility where they will have until June 5, 2008 to return to Sacramento, CA, Western States Horse Expo. At that time the trainers will compete in three areas – conditioning, citizenship (ground work) and riding the "Horse Course" (trail riding with obstacles). A panel of three accomplished horse trainers will determine winners.

Approximately \$7,500 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

The competing Mustangs will then be up for adoption through a live bid process on Sunday, June 8, 2008 during the Western States Horse Expo. In addition to prize money, trainers will receive up to \$500 in reimbursement for reasonable training and veterinary expenses and 20% commission on horses adopted for \$200 or more. The Western States Horse Expo typically attracts more than 50,000 spectators during the weekend event and every effort will be made to promote participating trainers during the event.

Requirements:

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 application and submit by mail (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, TX, 78605) or fax (512) 355-2737 by January 25, 2008. **Applications must be postmarked or fax dated no later than January 25, 2008.**
2. Trainers must be 18 years of age or older.
3. No substitution or replacement of approved trainer will be allowed.
4. 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.

5. 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.
6. Trailer requirements. *TRAILER PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.* You must provide transportation for your Mustang from the Ewing, Illinois 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 rear swing gates to transport adopted animals. Drop ramp, divided two-horse trailers, and trucks with stock racks are not acceptable.
7. Facility requirements. *FACILITY PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.* 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.
8. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged.
9. Trainers are responsible for all care related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up March 6-8, 2008 through June 8, 2008. Trainers that complete the training and compete in the Mustang Makeover Contest will be reimbursed up to \$500 for veterinary, farrier, hauling or feeding costs. Receipts must be submitted in order to receive reimbursement no later than July 15, 2008.
10. Should the Mustang be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office no later than May 8, 2008 in order to be eligible for reimbursed expenses.
11. Trainers that notify the Mustang Heritage Foundation that they are not participating AFTER May 8, 2008 will not be eligible for expense reimbursement. If nonparticipation results from injury to trainer or Mustang the trainer may 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.
12. For any and all reasons, the trainer is responsible for returning the Mustang to the BLM facility nearest the trainer.
 13. *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.*
 14. Trainers may ONLY adopt their Mustang during the event through the public bid process on Sunday, June 8, 2008. Trainers must complete a separate BLM adoption application and be approved by the BLM prior to bidding on their Mustang.
 15. 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.
 16. Trainers are required to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves and short bio with their applications.

Rules:

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Trainer applications for the Western States Mustang Challenge must be received in the Mustang Heritage Foundation's office on or before January 25, 2008. Applications may be printed from www.mustangheritagefoundation.org and mailed (P. O. Box 703, Bertram, Texas, 78605) or faxed (512-355-2737). Applications must be postmarked by January 25, 2008 to be eligible.
3. Trainer selection will be made based on experience and geographic location. There will be 30 trainers selected. Alternate trainers will also be notified should one of the selected trainers be unable to pick up their Mustang.
4. BLM and Mustang Heritage Foundation employees and their spouses are not eligible to compete.
5. Trainers are responsible for hauling the Mustang from the California Facility (to be determined) to their training stable and from their training stable to the competition at the Western States Horse Expo, for the June 6-8, 2008 event. Mustangs should arrive at the facility on June 5, 2008.
6. Bedded stalls will be provided for Mustangs at the Western States Horse Expo.
7. Arenas will be available for warm up and scheduled practices – (schedule and location of arenas to be announced). Competition schedule to be announced but will be on Friday, June 6 and Saturday, Saturday, June 7 – with the adoption on Sunday, June 8, 2008.
8. Winners will be announced following the competition.
9. Trainers are asked to demonstrate their Mustangs during the adoption event on Sunday, June 8. Time to be determined.

10. Conduct:

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.

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 is 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.

11. Sponsorships

The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships.

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

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 it 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 DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.

13. Trainers will receive 20% commission of the adoption price if the Mustang they trained is adopted for \$200 or more. Commissions will be mailed with reimbursed expenses.

Competition Rules:

1. **Twenty (20%) of the overall score will be based on conditioning.** Conditioning – weight, muscling, conditioning, hair coat, overall presentation.
 - a. Trainers may clip or trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural.
 - b. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails.
 - c. The score will not reflect confirmation.

2. **Thirty (30%) of the overall score will be based on groundwork and manners.** Trainers will be asked to present their horses in-hand or haltered. If showing in English attire the Mustang may be shown in the bridle.

a. Trainers will be asked to maneuver Mustangs through a series of obstacles in the arena. Mustangs will be scored on their ability to be responsive to leading, turning, walking, trotting, and picking up their feet, loading and unloading out of a stock trailer, and stepping over obstacles.

b. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides might be scored higher.

c. Trainers will be given a specific competition course. Trainers will be shown a demonstration of the course and be able to “walk through” the course without their Mustang prior to the competition.

d. Trainers will be given 3 minutes to complete the competition course. Tasks within the course will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Walk and Trot
2. Stop and Back
3. Lead Mustang over poles/logs
4. Pick up feet
5. Load and unload from stock trailer

e. In case of ties a tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the event.

2. **Fifty (50%) of the overall score will be based on the Mustang Horse Course.** A course will be set in the arena that will represent basic challenges faced while riding.

a. Mustangs will be asked to exhibit three gaits (walk, trot and canter or lope) within the course. In addition no more than four obstacles present will require skills that include stopping, backing, turning, circles to the right and left and lead change.

b. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine style or 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.*

c. Trainers will be given a specific competition course. Trainers will be shown a demonstration of the course and be able to “walk through” the course without their Mustang prior to the competition.

d. Trainers will be given 3 minutes to perform the required tasks. Trainers will then be given an additional 2 minutes to show their Mustang “at their best” with no required maneuvers in a designated area. The area will be approximately one-third of the arena. During those 2 minutes, Mustangs may be show astride or in-hand. Props, shooting, jumps, mechanical devises, etc. are not allowed during this part of the competition.

e. Any bit or equipment determined severe by the judges will not be allowed. Tie downs and mechanical hackamores are discouraged.

f. Mustangs may be shown with two hands.

g. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides may be scored higher.

- h. In case of ties a tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the event.

Finals

1. The top ten Mustangs (no more than 15 with ties) with the combined highest total scores will return for a finals performance.
2. Competitors will come into the finals with a “clean slate”. No previous scores will be counted toward the final placing.
3. Trainers will have four minutes to perform during the finals.
4. Trainers will have four minutes prior to their performance to stage or set the arena
5. Finals will require the following maneuvers to be incorporate into the performance.
 - a. Walk, trot and lope or canter
 - b. Stop and back
 - c. Lope or canter circle to the left or right – then simple or flying lead change and lope or canter circle in the opposite direction.
 - d. Pivot or spin 360 degrees to the right and left.
6. Trainers will be scored on required maneuvers and receive a score on artistic/creative performance and overall athletic ability.
7. Trainers are encouraged to use music and theatrics during their final performance. The event planners will provide sound system and operator for finals music.
8. Trainers must provide their own props and assistance for arena set up.
9. One cow will be available for those finalists requesting one.

Awards:

1. All trainers competing in the event will be eligible for \$500 in reimbursed expenses and 20% commission on the adoption fees of the Mustang they trained if the adoption amount in \$200 or more.
2. **OVERALL WINNERS**
The trainer scoring the highest points in the overall competition will be awarded \$3,000; the reserve (second place) trainer will receive \$2,000; third place will receive \$1,000; \$500 to fourth place and \$500 to fifth place.
\$100 will be awarded to each finalist placing 5th – 10th.
3. **TRAINER SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS**
These awards will be determined by trainer voting.
Non Pro Mustang Trainer of the Event Award - \$250
Professional Mustang Trainer of the Event Award - \$250

Sunday, June 8, 2008 - 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 on horses that adopt for more than \$200.

For more information on the event, please contact the Mustang Heritage Foundation at 512-355-3225 or email Kali Mullins at kalimullins@yahoo.com.

