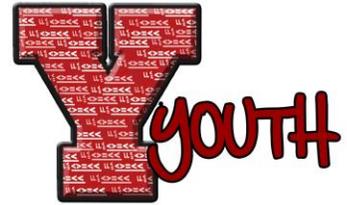


RULES & REGULATIONS



Teens and Oregon Mustangs Youth & Yearling Mustang Challenge

August 23, 2014 Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds;
McMinnville, OR

PURPOSE:

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of BLM-housed American Mustangs through innovative gentling (training) competitions and awareness programs. In keeping with this mission, the Youth & Yearling Mustang Challenge program has been created to place yearling Mustangs in adoptive homes. These events involve youth (10-18 years of age) in the training and adoption of yearling Mustangs. 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:

This Youth & Yearling Mustang Challenge is a cooperative effort between the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Trainer Incentive Program and the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program and will be hosted and managed by Erica Fitzgerald and Teens and Oregon Mustangs.

- Youth trainers ages 10-18 will be accepted to adopt a yearling for this competition.
- Interested youth trainers must complete and submit the trainer application with parent/guardian signatures and deliver by **April 25th** to Fitzgerald Farms, 8490 NW Moores Valley Rd., Yamhill, OR 97148. Applications must be delivered by mail / email / fax by **April 25th** to be considered.
- Families of youth trainers accepted into the program will be eligible to adopt one yearling Mustang. The youth trainer is then required to condition and train the yearling Mustang for approximately 98 days and compete with his/her trained Mustang during the Youth & Yearling Mustang Challenge on August 23rd, 2014 in Yamhill, OR at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds, for prizes and awards.
- Selected youth trainers accepted will receive \$200 from the Mustang Heritage Foundation (to be disbursed through the event manager) to offset horse care expenses and hauling costs.

- Yearling Mustangs will be as comparable in size and age as possible, with current vaccinations, health papers, and hooves trimmed.
- Yearlings will be scored on body condition and at least one other class (an in-hand trail competition, showmanship pattern, horsemanship, etc.).
- Trainers have the choice of keeping their Mustang following the competition or placing their Mustang up for adoption/transfer by the public through a bidding process. Trainers choosing to place their Mustang up for adoption/transfer will receive all adoption proceeds over the \$25 adoption fee.

REGULATIONS:

1. *Participation in this event is by selection only. Therefore the Mustang Heritage Foundation and / or Teens and Oregon Mustangs Committee have the unqualified right to determine eligibility and can, at any time, remove an applicant or contestant from a program and/or competition for any reason or for no reason.*
2. All interested youth trainers must complete and submit a trainer application with parent/guardian signatures and delivered by **April 25th** to Fitzgerald Farms, 8490 NW Moores Valley Rd., Yamhill, OR 97148. Completed applications must be delivered / email / fax by **April 25th** to be considered. The event manager has the right to extend the application deadline if he/she deems necessary.
3. Facility requirements: Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (for example 20 feet x 20 feet or 10 feet x 40 feet) and at least 5 feet high. Facility must be sturdy and constructed of materials such as poles, pipes, or planks (minimum 1.5 inch thickness) without dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large-mesh woven, stranded and electric materials are unacceptable for fencing.

Trainers should not release the Mustang into a large open area, such as a pasture, since they may not be able to recapture the animal for training or to provide veterinary care. However, once the animal is gentled, trainers may release it into a pasture or similar area.

Shelter for the Mustang must be provided from inclement weather and temperature extremes. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well drained, adequately ventilated, and accessible to the Mustang. The two sides should block prevailing winds and protect the major body parts of the horse. Tarps are not acceptable. Contact the administering BLM office for shelter requirements in the area.

4. Trailer requirements: You must provide transportation for your Mustang. 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.
5. Trainer selection will be made based on experience, reference, and fulfillment of BLM requirements. Trainers must be experienced with horses and have the desire to tame and train a yearling horse for competition. Teens and Oregon Mustangs utilize a rubric to score the trainers applications.

6. The event manager, Teens and Oregon Mustangs Committee, will be responsible for assigning one yearling to each selected youth trainer via lottery draw.
7. All trainers' parents/guardians must adopt the assigned yearling before taking possession of it. To adopt a yearling, complete and submit a BLM adoption application, sign a Private Maintenance and Care Agreement (PMACA), and provide the responsible BLM office with a personal check in the amount of \$25 made out to USDI/BLM (or the event manager may issue a single check to BLM on behalf of the adopters – Teens does this). Trainers have the opportunity to place the yearling up for adoption / transfer by the public at the conclusion of the event.
8. The event manager will hold a “pick up” at which selected trainers can pick up their yearling.
9. Youth trainers are responsible for all care-related costs from the day the Mustangs are picked up through the conclusion of the competition, including all feed, board, and veterinary care.
10. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. “Least resistance” techniques are encouraged. And a Mustang Heritage Foundation Humane Treatment policy sheet will be reviewed and signed by the trainer.
11. By participating in the Challenge, youth trainers agree that all photos and filming become the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation and Teens and Oregon Mustangs to be used to promote the event and Foundation.
12. Conduct: Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and humane in the treatment of Mustangs, and in keeping with positively promoting 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 Event logos on / off the show grounds; and includes the conduct of all individuals traveling with trainers, parents, spectators or event managers and all other persons 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. Any applicant or selected individual may be removed from the selection process or this competition at any time if found to have any alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans.

NO coaching / advice is allowed from the sidelines once the event starts. We reserve the right to remove ANYONE who has been asked to discontinue coaching, advising, heckling, or disrupting the event and continues to do so or if their behavior is deemed inappropriate by the Teens and Oregon Mustangs Committee.

13. Sponsorships: The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that trainers honor those sponsorships. 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.
14. Winners will be announced immediately following the competition.

15. Families of youth trainers may choose to keep their Mustang following the competition or place their Mustang up for adoption/transfer to the public through a bidding process. The trainer must notify the event manager prior to 8 PM August 16, 2014 if they plan to keep their Mustang or offer it for adoption/transfer prior to the date of the competition.
16. The adoption of Mustangs to be made available for adoption/transfer to the public will be held immediately following the competition. Youth trainers are required to stay with their yearling until the Mustang is adopted. Trainers are asked to work with potential adopters by answering questions and honestly representing the Mustang they trained. The trainer will receive all proceeds of the adoption less the \$25 adoption (transfer) fee.
17. It is the responsibility of the youth trainer and the event manager to secure an adopter if the yearling is not adopted / transferred during the adoption.

RULES:

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Youth (ages 10-18) are eligible to participate. **Parents/guardians must sign all appropriate applications and Mustang adoption forms and must ultimately be responsible for the care of horses. *Children may NOT receive assistance while in the arena competing.***
3. No substitution or replacement of the 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, but may NOT have assistance during the competition.
4. Youth trainers MUST be present the entire competition day, if they leave the showgrounds it is grounds for disqualification.
5. Youth trainers will receive \$200 from the Mustang Heritage Foundation (to be disbursed through the event manager) to offset horse care and travel expenses. The money must be returned to the MHF (through the event manager) if the yearling is returned to the BLM or the event manager for any reason or the trainer withdraws from the competition for any reason other than injury to self or horse. If a trainer must withdraw from the competition due to injury, he or she must supply a doctor or veterinarian note to the event manager describing the injury and / or reason why the trainer or Mustang will not be able to compete in order to receive the \$200 reimbursement .
6. Mustangs may be exhibited in English, Western or other appropriate equine styles. *Silver on your equipment or sequins on your shirts will not earn you any extra points.*
7. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses shown without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
8. *Youth trainers are not allowed to ride their yearlings at any time prior to or during the competition. **In addition to NO riding on the back of the horse (traditional definition), also you MAY NOT ride in any type of cart or pulled device behind your horse.***

9. A tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the competition in case of ties.
10. Drugs: No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang, either before or during the competition or adoption. Any medication, drug mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character that it could affect performance or appearance at the event, is forbidden. ***If a Mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the event manager as to the reason for medication and the prescribed amount.*** THE MUSTANG HERITAGE FOUNDATION AND / OR TEENS AND OREGON MUSTANGS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.
11. Helmet or Western Hat are required while showing your yearling and highly recommended whenever handling your yearling.
12. No pyrotechnics, fire, or firearms are allowed to be used during the competition / event.
13. No animals beyond the Yearling mustang assigned to the competitor are allowed to be used by the competitor as part of their freestyle portion of the competition.
14. Proper flag etiquette is required and it can be considered grounds for disqualification if there is deemed disregard for the use of flag(s) by competitors as part of the competition / event, as determined by the Teens and Oregon Mustangs Committee. Reference: <http://www.usflag.org/flagetiquette.html>
15. Lateness: We expect trainers to be on time for everything we do for Teens and Oregon Mustangs including, but not limited to: Pick-up date, trainer meetings, trainer days, the event, and any other activities.
16. Donations: Teens and Oregon Mustangs (501c3) accept donations year round for the benefit of the general program. We encourage trainers to get additional donations to help offset their costs of caring for their yearlings (e.g. family, friends, feed, etc). It is acceptable to take donations directed to a specific trainer from the date of acceptance and dated through the date of the competition / event (MUST be directed through Teens and Oregon Mustangs Treasurer, if the donor wants a tax receipt). Before or after those dates donations received will go to the Teens and Oregon Mustangs general fund and will not be directed to an individual trainer. Trainers are responsible for ensuring that their donations get to the Teens and Oregon Mustangs Treasurer for dispersment and donor receipts. We expect that trainers will write thank you notes for any donations received by them.
17. Class Competition Rules:

The competition can be based on 2 or more components: Conditioning (required), an In-Hand Trail Course, Showmanship, Horsemanship, Freestyle, etc. The event manager will determine classes, scoring values, and judges. Trainers are not allowed to ride the yearling at any time.

 - A. Body Condition (required) – weight, muscling, conditioning, hair coat, overall presentation – **not** conformation.
 - 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 conformation.
 - B. In-Hand Trail Course – Trainers will be asked to present their Mustang in-hand in order to highlight groundwork and manners.

- a. Trainers will be asked to maneuver Mustangs through a series of obstacles that may include but are not 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 trailerMustangs will be scored on their responsiveness to these maneuvers.
- 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 a time limit to complete the course.

C. The components of other classes (Showmanship, Horsemanship, Freestyle, etc.) are at the discretion of the event manager.

AWARDS:

1. All youth trainers competing in the event will receive \$200 to help offset expenses related to horse care and travel.
2. Additional awards and prizes will be determined by the event manager.

ADOPTION:

Youth trainers are **REQUIRED** to present their horse during the adoption at the conclusion of the competition. Youth trainers are asked to stay near their stalls with their horses so they can answer questions prior to the adoption and then present their Mustang during the adoption. The adoption will be in a bidding format.

Should a trainer wish to keep their Mustang they may remove it following the competition after completion of all adoption paperwork, payment of the \$25 adoption fee, and the conclusion of the adoption presentation during the auction. If the trainer chooses to place the Mustang up for adoption by the public through competitive bid, the trainer will receive the adoption **price less the \$25 adoption fee**. For example, if the Mustang adopts for \$200 the trainer will receive \$175.

If the yearling is not adopted at the conclusion of the event it is the responsibility of the youth trainer and the event manager to secure an adopter.

If you have any questions, please contact the event manager: **Erica Fitzgerald, (503) 702-5359 or email ericafitzgerald77@yahoo.com.**

