



BLM and Utah 4-H Youth Mustang Challenge

Purpose:

The purpose of this event is to increase the adoption of mustangs to good homes. The goal is to promote adoption through showcasing mustangs; and as a tool to build life training skills for 4-H youth. 4-H volunteer leaders will complete an application, on behalf of their club, for the privilege of training an animal. 4-H members will be working with yearling mustangs to gentle and train (halter break) them.

Summary:

Yearlings, on average, are easier to train than mature horses. Youth will be able to receive a yearling wild horse, condition and train it for approximately 100 days and then will be able to showcase their work.

To apply, applications for the project are available on www.ut.4honline.com and must be completed by the clubs Horse 4-H Volunteer Leader no later than May 15, 2018. Clubs with larger numbers may apply for more than one animal. Separate applications must be filled out for each animal. A State Selection Committee will review the applications and select 10-12 qualified clubs for Mustang placement.

Selected participants will compete at a Trail Challenge held on September 8, 2018 at the Utah State Fair. After the trail challenge, the yearlings will be available for adoption through an auction system. 4-Hers will be able to either adopt the animal they worked with or the 4-H club will receive part of the money raised through the auction of that animal.

Overview:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Utah 4-H are partnering to offer an educational opportunity and fundraiser for the Utah 4-H Horse Clubs. Pick-ups of these horses will be on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at the Legacy Events Center. This will be held in conjunction with Wild Horse and Burro Festival. A Mandatory meeting/training will be held with a Mustang expert as part of the horse pick up on Saturday. The animals will be vaccinated and de-wormed prior to the start of the project.

An application for the project will be available on www.ut.4honline.com and must be completed by the club's Horse 4-H volunteer leader. Horse selection for the participants is determined by a draw to be held on June 9, 2018. Participants will first draw for placement one through twelve. In the order determined by the first draw participants will then draw a neck tag number.

On September 8, 2018, the 4-H clubs/members will show the yearlings in a "Trail Challenge" at the Utah State Fair. All horses must be available at the Utah State Fair on September 9th for the adoption process. Transportation of said horses is the responsibility of the Horse 4-H leaders.



Requirements:

Youth interested in this project will need to work with their Horse 4-H club leaders to complete the application. The applications will be reviewed by both BLM and Utah 4-H personnel.

1. All potential participants/clubs must complete and submit their applications through 4-H Online no later than May 15, 2018.
2. Selected participants will be announced no later than May 19, 2018.
3. Participants must be at least 4-H age (as of October 1, 2018) to work with the yearlings.
4. All participants (4-H club) must complete and submit a BLM Wild Horse and Burro adoption application with their 4-H/BLM application and upload the document to 4-H online.
5. No substitution or replacement of approved individual will be allowed. The individuals accepted must be the individuals that train the animal.
6. Any applicant or selected individual may be removed from the selection process or competition at any time if found to have an alleged history of cruelty to animals or humans. Applicant must meet all BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Requirements.
7. **Trailer requirements: TRAILER PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.** You must provide transportation from Legacy Events Center (Farmington, UT) 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 compartment to separate animals by sex and size 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. If you do not have a suitable trailer, notify Josh Dallin (Utah State University State 4-H Specialist) or Kim Christensen to work out an alternative transport of the yearling.
8. **Facility Requirements: FACILITY PHOTOS MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BLM APPLICATION.** Facility can consist of a corral/paddock/stall/round pen. Facility must be a minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet by 20 feet) and at least 5 feet high. Facility must be constructed of materials such as poles, pipes, or wood 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, if you live in higher elevations. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well drained, ventilated and accessible to the Mustang.
9. **Required Photo submissions:** Regular photo submissions are mandatory throughout the 100-day period to document the Mustangs journey and provide tools for the BLM to use as part of their advertising efforts. Failure to comply may lead to forfeiture of a portion of the \$200.00 reimbursement. Photos should be submitted to Kim Christensen kbchristensen1@msn.com and are due by the following dates.
 - a. **June 23, 2018**
 - b. **July 7, 2018**
 - c. **July 21, 2018**
 - d. **August 18, 2018**
 - e. **September 1, 2018**



10. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. "Least resistance" techniques are encouraged. Riding, and/or sitting on or unreasonable amounts of weight placed onto the backs of the yearlings is strictly forbidden. In hand work is the only acceptable methods to be applied.
11. Only the 4-H participants and/or 4-H volunteer leader may be permitted to house and handle the yearling.
12. BLM will provide \$200.00 for feed and care. 4-H participants are responsible for all additional day-to-day care related costs (halter, lead rope, and hay) from the day the Mustang is picked up. Any supplemental needs will be furnished by the BLM.
13. After a two-week's trial period, should the Mustang be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify Kim Christensen 801-349-8917 for evaluation.
14. 4-H Horse Clubs are encouraged to work at the BLM booth during a current equine event such as county fair.
15. The BLM is responsible for the Mustangs until they have officially been adopted and titled. No outside arrangements for adoptions will be honored. Please direct any interested buyers to the auction on September 8, 2018 where the BLM will be on site to answer any questions and prepare the necessary documentation following the auction.
16. Reimbursements: All reimbursements will take place following the competition and adoption on September 8, 2018. The BLM will provide the feed reimbursement of \$200 and coordinate the adoption payments (anything above \$25) from the buyer to the youth. Do not leave the facility until all transactions have taken place.

Rules:

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. 4-H club selection will be made based on experience and content of applications.
3. 4-H Clubs/4-H Horse Volunteer Leaders are responsible for hauling their horse from Legacy Events Center (Farmington, UT) to their training facility.
4. 4-H participants are asked to work with potential adopters by answering questions honestly and representing the Mustang they trained.
5. Attire: The day of competition, 4-Hers are expected to dress in appropriate Western attire including; button down long sleeve western shirt, belt, boots and a 4-H patch.
6. 4-H clubs that have participants, who train horses, will receive all adoption fees in excess of \$25.00 for the adoption of their Mustang. (Example: horse auctions off for \$150, BLM receives \$25.00 and the club received \$125.00). BLM will adopt the horse for a reduced fee of \$25, any money above the adoption fee of \$25 will be a donation toward the 4-H club.
7. **OR** Clubs can opt for the YAM/MHF Option (Example: \$200 pay out for feed, \$300 for participating in trail competition, additional monies paid out for trail competition placings, a competition shirt for each competitor on show day, plus monies over \$25 adoption fee, **adoption required.**) Note: If horse is returned to the BLM before being reassigned, the \$200 pay out for feed will have to be returned to the MHF/event coordinator.



Competition Rules (For Trail Challenge):

The overall score will be based on groundwork, manners, and conditioning. Confirmation will not be judged.

- a. Weight, muscling, hair coat, overall presentation.
- b. 4-H participant may clip or trim horses, or leave mane, tail, ears, muzzle and fetlocks natural.
- c. No points will be deducted for short or rubbed out manes or tails.
- d. 4-H participant 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, picking up their feet, loading and unloading out of a stock trailer and stepping over obstacles.
- e. Training aids will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
- f. 4-H participant will be given a specific competition course, will be shown a demonstration of the course and be able to “walk through” the course without their Mustang prior to the competition.
- g. 4-H participant will be given a time limit to complete the competition course. Tasks within the course will include but not be limited to the following:
 - I. Walk and Trot
 - II. Stop and Back
 - III. Lead Mustang over poles/logs
 - IV. Pick up feed
 - V. Load and unload from stock trailer
 - VI. In case of tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the event.

Competition Rules (Freestyle):

The overall score will be based on the following categories; Degree of Difficulty, Courage, Eye Appeal, Partnership, Creativity, Showmanship, Practicality.

This portion of the competition is provided as an opportunity for the youth to highlight their Mustangs strengths to potential buyers. Youth are encouraged to be creative and may include music and safe obstacles. The focus should weigh heavily on horsemanship fundamentals and the partnerships formed to show potential adopters that the Mustang is a gentle willing companion with a solid foundation prepared for the next phase of training.

- I. Freestyle routines are limited to 4 minutes or less.
- II. Obstacles, if desired, must be set up in under 2 minutes.
- III. Safety for the youth and Mustangs is a priority.
- IV. No costumes
- V. Freestyle music selections are due to Kim Christensen no later than September 4, 2017.



I agree with the above rules and regulations and understand I have a 4-H club who is applying for the Utah 4-H Youth Mustang Challenge.

4-H Volunteer Leader Signature Date

4-H Member Signature Date

