



BLM and University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development Partner for Weanling/Yearling Wild Horse Training Program

Purpose:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development are partnering to offer an educational opportunity and fundraiser for Idaho 4-H Horse Clubs. The purpose of this partnership program is twofold; to increase awareness and promote successful adoptions of mustangs and to build horsemanship and life training skills for 4-H youth. 4-H members will complete an application for the privilege of training an animal. Approved 4-H members will then work with weanling or yearling mustangs to gentle and train (halter break) them.

Summary:

Weanling and yearling mustangs, on average, are easier to train than mature horses. Approved youth applicants will be paired with a weanling wild horse (between the ages of 4 months to 8 months), or a yearling wild horse (between the ages of 12 months to 18 months), condition and train it for approximately 60 days. At the end of the training period, selected 4-H members will be able to showcase their work during a trail challenge course. 4-H participants must be at least 12 years of age to train a weanling or 14 years to train a yearling (as of January 1, 2017).

Qualified participants will show their projects at a Trail Challenge/arena/booth display at the **Idaho Horse Expo**. During the **Idaho Horse Expo**, the mustang will be offered for adoption through a competitive bidding system. If 4-H trainers are interested in adopting the animal they trained, they will participate in the bidding process. The 4-H club will receive a portion of the proceeds raised from the adoption of that animal.

Overview:

A tour of the BLM facility and pick - up of these horses will begin at **9:30 a.m. on Saturday 25, 2017**. The public is welcome to attend even if they do not wish to foster a mustang. Once a horse is selected, 4-H members will then gentle and train the weanlings/yearlings (ages 4 months to 18 months) in preparation for a future adoption event. The mustangs will be vaccinated and dewormed prior to the start of the project.

An application for the project must be completed by the Horse 4-H Organizational or project leader and interested 4-H members who belong to a chartered 4-H horse club. Those clubs selected to participate in this project will choose their project horse on **Saturday 25, 2017**, beginning immediately after the **corral tour at 10 a.m.** A draw may be used to select animals, if needed. Only one horse per club will be available unless otherwise advertised prior to the event.

On **Saturday April 1, 2017**, the 4-H clubs/members will show the mustang in a "Trail Challenge" at the **BLM Wild Horse Corrals beginning at 10 a.m.** Horses will be on display at the **Idaho Horse Expo on April 21, 22 and 23rd**. All horses must be available at the **Idaho Horse Expo on Sunday, April 23rd** for the adoption process. Transportation of said horses is the responsibility of the Horse 4-H Leader.



Rules & Requirements:

Youth interested in participating in this project will need to work with their 4-H club leader (either organizational and/or project leader -- whomever works with the horse project) to complete the application. The applications will be reviewed by both BLM and University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development personnel.

1. All potential participants/clubs must complete and **submit their application by mail** to BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program, 3948 Development Ave. Boise, ID 83705; postmarked no later than **February 15** (10 days prior to pick up). Late applications will not be accepted. Trailer and facility photos must be included with application.
2. 4-H participants must be at least 12 years of age to train a weanling and 14 years of age to train a yearling (as of January 1).
3. All participants (4-H club/group) must complete and submit one BLM Wild Horse and Burro adoption application with their 4-H/BLM application. This does not mean that participants are obligated in any way to adopt the mustang they are working with, but the application must be on file. This file documents the location of the animal. Download the application at http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Planning_and_Renewable_Resources/wild_horses_and_burros/adoption_application.Par.32707.File.dat/BLM_4710-010.pdf
4. Any applicant or selected individual 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.
5. Trainer selection will be made based on experience and content of his/her application. Clubs must fulfill all requirements related to training and participation during the promotion/adoption event to be allowed future participation.
6. Trailer requirements. **TRAILER PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.** You must provide transportation from the Boise BLM Wild Horse Corrals 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 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 BLM to work out alternative transportation of the animal.
7. Facility requirements. **FACILITY PHOTOS SHOULD 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, or makeshift pens are unacceptable for fencing. BLM reserves the right to inspect the pen before or after pick-up.
8. Trainers should not release the mustang into a large open area, such as a pasture, since you may not be able to recapture the animal. Also, do not release the mustang out with other horses as the other horses can run the younger horse into or over a fence.
9. You must provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your mustang, if you live in higher elevations (example: Boise County). Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well drained, ventilated and accessible to the mustang.

Appropriate Handling:

1. Safety is our priority! Horses can be unpredictable, always use your best judgment. Set you and your mustang up to succeed! It's important to remember to tie your horse properly, wear gloves while training, appropriate closed toe footwear (no flip-flops), no lawn chairs that can easily catch a leg; watch your space in front of and behind your animal. Startling in the front can cause any horse to strike and startling from behind will cause any horse to kick. Always expect the unexpected. Be aware of your surroundings.
2. Only the 4-H participants and/or 4-H volunteer leader may be permitted to house and handle the mustang. No substitution or replacement of approved 4-H training individuals will be allowed. The individuals accepted must be the individuals that train/house the animal.
3. Mustang training must be humane and compassionate. Only "least resistance" techniques are allowed. Any leader or 4-H trainer seen using too much pressure on the horse or inhumane techniques (hitting, forcefully using a lead rope, dally and drag, ear

twisting, etc.) will be removed from the competition. Any affiliate assisting with training using such techniques can disqualify a club from further participation.

4. Short imprint training sessions with bareback pads and light saddles are allowed under adult supervision. However, putting any weight into the saddle, mounting the weanling or yearling, or putting a small rider on the horse with or without a saddle **is not allowed** and can disqualify a club from the competition.
5. Helmets are a 4-H State requirement. If a 4-H trainer is riding another horse while working with their mustang project, 4-H members and leaders must wear a ASTM/SEI equestrian-approved helmet while mounted.
6. 4-H participants are responsible for all 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 BLM.
7. Be sure you bring different sized halters on pickup day so your mustang is sent home with a properly fitting halter. Loose halters can easily catch a leg and cause an injury. A halter that is too tight will hold a horse's jaw closed so they cannot eat properly. Once your mustang is easy to catch and handle, we encourage you to leave your halter off to reduce the risk of a possible injury.

Adoption Events:

1. 4-H Clubs are responsible for hauling their horse from Boise (Wild Horse Corrals) to their training facility and to and from the events as needed. BLM will provide stalls, bedding, water containers and hay at the adoption event.
2. Participants are responsible for feeding and watering, cleaning the pen and area, providing manure fork, manure container, brushes, hay bag (optional) and any other horse grooming items. Pen displays are also encouraged.
3. BLM will provide one leader and each ACTIVE 4-H trainer a daily pass to attend the adoption event. Leaders, be sure to let us know if you have any kids that are signed up but are no longer participating so we can save program funds.
4. 4-H participants will work at the BLM booth to promote the program and market their animal.
5. Participants are responsible for their own personal effects. The BLM booth area needs to be kept tidy and professional.
6. All participants must be dressed appropriately during the promotion event, at the BLM table, stalls and during the trail challenge displays. Appropriate attire consists of: boots, belt, jeans, show shirt or club t-shirt or BLM/4-H t-shirt. You are a 4-H and BLM ambassador, if you are not dressed appropriately you will be asked to change and/or will not be allowed to show in the trail challenge or participate at the BLM booth.
7. 4-H participants are asked to inform potential adopters by answering questions honestly and representing the mustang they trained. Do not discourage a potential adopter from bidding on a horse if you personally know someone who wants to adopt it. All bidders have the right to bid. If your horse has a bad habit or something that still needs addressed in training, you must disclose that issue for the safety of the potential adopter. If you are not able to answer a question about the Wild Horse and Burro adoption program, ask a BLM representative at the booth to assist you.
8. No cell phones while you are in the booth and marketing your animal! You are there to talk to the public and represent the program.
9. Participant's conduct shall be orderly, responsible, and sportsmanlike, (no drama allowed!). Participants must abide by all expectations of the BLM staff and 4-H leaders. Any alleged unsportsmanlike or irresponsible forms of conduct (such as illegal, indecent or profane, or inhumane treatment of horses) are prohibited and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against offending individuals. Event management may immediately expel offenders from the competition or show grounds in order to preserve the decorum of the show.
10. No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a mustang, either before or during the competition or adoption. No medication, drug, mechanical device or artificial appliance, which is of such character as could affect its performance or appearance at the event is allowed. If a mustang is receiving medication for therapeutic purposes, the trainer must submit a letter from their veterinarian to the event organizer and BLM.
11. Should the mustang be deemed untrainable, the trainer must notify BLM as soon as possible.
12. 4-H clubs with participants who train horses will receive all adoption fees in excess of \$25.00 for the adoption of their mustang. (Example: horse is adopted for \$150, BLM receives \$25 and the club receives \$125). 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.

Competition Rules (For Trail Challenge and Show):

1. 40 % of the overall score will be based on conditioning. Conformation 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.
2. 60% of the overall score will be based on groundwork and manners.
 - a. 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 lead, turn, walk, trot, pick up their feet, load and unload out of a stock trailer, and step over obstacles.
 - b. Training aides will not be restricted, although trainers should realize that horses maneuvered without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
 - c. 4-H participant will be given a specific competition course which will be demonstrated before the competition. The participant will also be able to “walk through” the course without their mustang prior to the competition.
 - d. 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 feet
 - v. Load and unload from stock trailer
 - e. 4-H participant showing the mustang in the class must be designated by the 4-H club, appropriately dressed and ready to show at gate call.
 - f. In case of a tie, a tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the event.
 - g. The judges will announce the top three winners and all participants will receive a ribbon. The first place winner will receive a trophy sponsored by BLM.

I agree with the above rules and regulations and understand I have a 4-H member and/or club who is applying for the University of Idaho 4-H and Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse Training Program.

4-H Participant Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

4-H Volunteer Leader Signature

Date

County Extension 4-H Staff Member Signature

Date

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