



## 2023 RULES & REGULATIONS

### Sacramento TIP Challenge

June 9-11, 2023  
Murieta Equestrian Center in Rancho Murieta, CA  
Hosted by Isidro & Amber Espinoza

#### PURPOSE:

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation is to increase the adoption of BLM-housed American Mustangs and burros through innovative gentling (training) competitions and awareness programs. In keeping with this mission, the TIP Challenge has been created to place mustangs and burros in adoptive homes. These challenges involve youth (8-17 years of age) and adults (ages 18 and up) in the adoption and training of Mustangs and burros. Participants help promote the adoption of these national treasures by showcasing the animal's value and trainability.

#### OVERVIEW:

This TIP 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 Isidro & Amber Espinoza.

- Youth ages 8-17 and/or adults ages 18 and up will be accepted to adopt one Mustang or burro for this competition.
- Interested adopters must complete and submit the 2023 TC Adopters Application (with parent/guardian signatures if applicable) and postmark by **February 3, 2023** to PO Box 2996 Snowflake, AZ 85937. Applications must be postmarked or email/fax dated by **February 3, 2023** to be considered.
- The adopter will be required to condition and train the Mustang/burro for approximately 100 days and compete with his/her trained Mustang/burro during the TIP Challenge on June 9-11, 2023 for prizes and awards.
- Accepted adopters will receive \$200 from the Mustang Heritage Foundation (to be disbursed through the event manager) following the competition to offset horse/burro care expenses and hauling costs.
- Mustangs/burros will be as comparable in size and age as possible, with current vaccinations, health papers, and hooves trimmed.
- Mustangs/burros will be scored on body condition and at least one other class (an in-hand trail competition, showmanship pattern, horsemanship, etc.). All competition classes will be conducted in-hand.
- This program is intended to facilitate the adoption of Mustang horses and/or burros. Youth will work with animals ages 12-24 months old. Youth competitors must have an adopter sponsor (parent/guardian or other sponsor who is 18 years old or older). This adopter sponsor is required to complete all necessary adoption paperwork for their assigned Mustang/burro at pick-up.

#### REGULATIONS:

1. *Participation in this event is by selection only. Therefore the Mustang Heritage Foundation has 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 adopters must complete and submit the TC Adopter Application (with parent/guardian signatures if applicable) and postmark by **February 3, 2023** to PO Box 2996 Snowflake, AZ 85937. Applications must be postmarked or email/fax dated by **February 3, 2023** 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 for mustangs 12-18 months old and burros, or at least 6 feet high for mustangs over 18 months old. 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 animals 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 animal 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 animal. The two sides should block prevailing winds and protect the major body parts of the animal. 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/burro. 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. Adopter selection will be made based on experience, reference, and fulfillment of BLM requirements. Adopters must be experienced with horses/burros and have the desire to tame and train a Mustang horse or burro for competition.
6. The event manager will be responsible for assigning one animal to each accepted adopter.
7. All adopters (or in the case of a youth, the parent/guardian/sponsor) must adopt the assigned Mustang or burro before taking possession of it by completing and submitting a BLM adoption application, signing a Private Maintenance and Care Agreement (PMACA), and providing the responsible BLM office with \$125 for adult adopters or \$25 for youth adopters.
8. The event manager may choose to either deliver Mustangs/burros to accepted adopters or hold a “pick up” at which accepted adopters can pick up their animal.
9. Adopters 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/burro training must be humane and compassionate. “Least resistance” techniques are encouraged.
11. By participating in the Challenge, adopters agree that all photos and filming become the property of the Mustang Heritage Foundation to be used to promote the event and Foundation.
12. Conduct: Conduct shall be orderly, responsible, sportsmanlike and humane in the treatment of Mustangs/burros, and in keeping with positively promoting the implementation of the event and fair competition. This includes, but is not limited to: conduct while adopters have Mustangs/burros 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, 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.

13. Sponsorships: The Mustang Heritage Foundation has entered into corporate sponsorship agreements with a variety of companies. The Foundation asks that adopters honor those sponsorships. Adopters 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. Per BLM adoption rules, adopted Mustangs/burros remain the property of the U.S. Government during the 12 month adoption period and cannot be sold during this time. Animals do not become personal property until the adopter applies for the ownership title following the 12 month adoption period and it has been approved and issued by BLM.
16. Some of the mustangs and burros in the TIP Challenge may be sale eligible, meaning they will be purchased rather than adopted. The BLM and/or your TIP Challenge host should notify you if any of the animals in the Challenge are sale eligible.
17. If the adopter is unable to keep their Mustang/burro after the competition, it is his/her responsibility to find a new adopter for the animal. The original adopter must sign appropriate BLM relinquishment paperwork and the new adopter must sign appropriate BLM adoption paperwork in order to reassign the animal.

## **RULES:**

1. Fulfill all requirements related to hauling, stable facilities, care and training.
2. Youth (ages 8-17) and/or adults (ages 18 and up) are eligible to participate. **Parents/guardians/sponsors of youth 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 accepted adopter will be allowed. The adopter who is accepted must be the individual that trains and competes. Youth adopters may receive help in the training and conditioning of their Mustang, but may NOT have assistance during the competition.
4. Adopters will receive \$200 from the Mustang Heritage Foundation at the conclusion of the event (to be disbursed through the event manager) to offset horse/burro care and travel expenses. If the adopter 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 adopter or animal will not be able to compete in order to receive the \$200 reimbursement.
5. 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.*
6. Training aides will not be restricted, although adopters should realize that horses/burros shown without the use of training aides may be scored higher.
7. **RIDING, SITTING, STANDING, and/or PULLING/Dragging:**
  - a. ***Adopters are not allowed to ride, sit or stand on their Mustangs or burros at any time prior to or during the competition while on the competition grounds. This competition is in-hand only.***
  - b. Horses under 3 years old are not allowed to pull any items (carts, sleds, etc.), however the exhibitor may pull an item while leading the horse.
  - c. Horses 3 years old or older may pull items (carts, sleds, etc.).

- d. Burros competing in any jumping, driving, log dragging, versatility or harness classes must be 3 years old or older.
8. A tie-breaker judge will be determined prior to the start of the competition in case of ties.
9. Drugs: No person shall administer drugs internally or externally to a Mustang or burro, 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/burro 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 RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DRUG TEST ANY MUSTANG IN THE COMPETITION.
10. 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. All classes will be conducted in-hand – riding will not be permitted at any time.

#### **AWARDS:**

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

If you have any questions, please contact the event manager:  
**Isidro & Amber Espinoza at 760-981-3018 & [sactipchallenge@gmail.com](mailto:sactipchallenge@gmail.com).**