



Great Escape Mustang Collaborative 2024 Youth Trainer Challenge Overview

Youth trainers will be selected to foster and train a 1-2 year old mustang. Youth Trainer Applications may be submitted as a team or individually. The Mustang in Training will be boarded by the youth trainers with boarding costs, vet care, farrier care, trailering, and any private trainer support covered by the youth trainer. Hay and farrier care will need to be arranged by participants with farrier receipts shared with Great Escape Mustangs as verification of services. Facilities used for boarding will need to meet requirements for housing mustangs. Please see [Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Requirements \(blm.gov\)](#).

- Youth trainers, age 10-17, will be accepted to work individually or in pairs with a 1-2 year old mustang.
- Youth trainers can apply to work individually, request to be paired, or apply as a pair.
- All Youth will be required to wear an appropriate/approved helmet at all times while working with the GEMs horses.
- The program will run May 19th-Sept. 20th-22nd, 2024 with the option to compete in an additional challenge in Fort Collins, Colorado August 25th. (17 weeks)
- The purpose of these events is to showcase the talent and train-ability of equines and to provide an opportunity for trainers and horses to engage in safe competition for prize money and awards.
 - IN-HAND: Youth trainers will be expected to be able to walk, trot, stop, back up, pick-up all 4 feet, brush horse on both sides, load and unload from a trailer. Move throughout the obstacle course.
 - CONDITIONING: The horse will be judged in two areas: appropriate weight/muscling and overall appearance of the horse.
- Youth trainers will work with a mustang that was acquired by Great Escape from the Bloomfield, New Mexico Forest Service holding pens partnership. The mustangs are up to date on all vaccines, farrier and coggins.
- All youth trainers are to compete In Hand at the Four Corners Mustang Challenge on September 20th-22nd.
- All youth trainers' will be offered up for adoption at the Four Corners Mustang Challenge (provided they meet training requirements and are sound and safe) NO EXCEPTIONS. The youth trainers will have the option to adopt their Mustang.
- Twice a month, each youth trainer will have the opportunity to schedule a 1-hour virtual training session with a trainer from the Great Escape training team. Youth trainers will also have access to Great Escape trainers via text.
- Youth trainer applications for the Great Escape Youth Trainer Challenge are due no later than May 3rd, 2024.
- In addition, to covering all costs for your Mustang, all youth trainer's will receive their own fundraising campaign page via Great Escape Mustang Collaborative and are expected to advocate for Great Escape Mustangs and actively fundraise during their Youth Training. The fundraising goal is \$1000/youth trainer. If Youth Trainers raise funds above the \$1,000 goal requirement, they will have the option to use additional funds raised to offset the costs they incurred while the Mustang in Training was in their care. These funds will be granted back to the youth trainer after they complete the competition(s). Fundraising for youth trainers can be done in the name of Great Escape Mustangs with Great Escape logo. Great Escape is also actively seeking grants and support to defray the cost of participation. Any awarded grants via Great Escape will be distributed as scholarship.

OPTIONAL

- (Optional) All horses can be showcased In Hand in the Wild Rose + Great Escape Mustang Show on August 25, 2024 at the CSU Temple Grandin Equine Center in Fort Collins, Colorado. Youth trainers will compete for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize money.