

WHAT'S UNDERNEATH A DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO CROWN?

Douglas County Royalty are young ladies who are leaders in their community and wish to extend that leadership role to promote agriculture and rodeo. They have a strong desire to preserve Douglas County's rich heritage by serving as an official representative of the Douglas County Fair & Rodeo. These young woman strive to achieve in their education and/or occupation without neglecting family and moral values. They have realistic goals and aspirations that complement their talents and abilities. They are well groomed, attractive and aware of what is fashionable and suitable western wear. They are well rounded in their social activities and are respected by their peers. They enjoy the company of others and have a demeanor that puts people at ease. Their personalities are distinctly genuine with a sense of humor, good character, common sense, good manners and friendliness. They think before they speak and speak clearly and loudly with a desirable tone. They use proper grammar and enunciate clearly. They are confident without being aggressive. Their balance, poise and posture are good. They present themselves in a gracious manner always aware that the public is watching. They are good horsewomen with basic horsemanship skills who look and feel comfortable while making appearances on horseback. These young ladies are mature for their age, intelligent, wise and imaginative. Most importantly they are servants to their community and to the sport of rodeo. A Douglas County Fair & Rodeo Queen/Princess title is not to be taken lightly. It is all about preserving a piece of history that is still in the making! This is a golden opportunity to play a part in community awareness activities that enrich everyone involved.

All pageant titles for each age group will carry through the year:

Every contestant must score a minimum of 70% of the total points to be awarded any title.

a) Queen

b) Queen Attendant

a) Princess

b) Princess Attendant

Miss Congeniality : This is not a scored division. The contestants themselves choose the recipient of this award. Each contestant will be asked to vote during the pageant event. Contestants should vote for the fellow competitor who has been the all-around friendliest, most courteous, helpful and kind. Only one congeniality award will be given among all age categories.

Pageant Judging

1. PERSONALITY: Projection of personality, self-confidence, showmanship (in horsemanship), conversational ability, sense of humor, gracious manners and lady-like behavior, interest in others, response to audience/judges, overall personality (interview, horsemanship competition and pageant).

2. RESPONSES (PERSONAL INTERVIEW): Conversational ability, sense of humor/outlook, intelligence, education. Knowledge of content of contestant's own application information, use of manners, use of correct grammar, speaks clearly/enunciates properly.

3. RESPONSES (IMPROMPTU QUESTION and SPEECH): Conversation ability, sense of humor/outlook, intelligence, knowledge of subject, delivery, voice projection, use of manners, use of correct grammar, speaks clearly/enunciates properly, conciseness of answer, overall response.

a. Contestant will answer "two questions" on stage during the modeling and speech portion of judging. This requires a contestant to think on their feet showing maturity, intelligence, wisdom and imagination.

b. Queen/Princess Questions could be personal or about the sport of rodeo or the Douglas County Fair & Rodeo.

c. Queen/Princess: .ALL contestants will give a short, 1 and ½ minute to 2 minute speech. They will be judged on content, delivery.

4. Queen/Princess HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS: Coordination, mount/dismount, control, balance, ability, position, horse/rider combination, knowledge of correctness of leads and patterns, stops, hands, feet, seat, overall horsemanship qualities and answers to floor questions from the judges.

5. Queen/Princess HORSE and RODEO AWARENESS QUIZ: Informational quiz on Douglas County Fair & Rodeo events (found on the website douglascountyfairandrodeo.com). The outside accountant will score the tests, add the scores into the overall score and provide the score information to the judges.

Judges are well qualified for this pageant. They thoroughly understand the scoring system, the pageant rules, and are aware of proper, current style of western clothing. Scoring is by points per category and even the judges themselves do not know the winners until the Auditor totals the scores. All score sheets go directly to the Auditor from each judging event. Judges for this pageant are people just like you! They were your age once. THEY WILL MAKE YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE AND AT EASE. They are looking for the type of girl the Douglas County Fair & Rodeo seeks exemplifying: a) Sincerity b) Integrity c) Maturity d) Intelligence e) Moral standards f) Public speaking g) Horsemanship. There will be a personal interview for each contestant. For convenience and ease in conversation, judges have been supplied with a copy of the contestant's

application prior to the date of the pageant events. In each category during the interview, questions will be serious, sometimes funny and always thought provoking. Questions will be in depth so that the judges may determine the character and knowledge of each contestant. Questions are on the Fair & Rodeo, sport of rodeo, related rodeo activities, current events, or taken from the personal application information. Each interview is private with the judges, members of the committee will be on location to see that the interviews run smoothly and the time limit is not exceeded. Parents will not be permitted to be present during the interviews. It does take time for the interviews, so please be prepared to be patient and relaxed while waiting. As a matter of courtesy and professionalism, do not discuss your questions and interview experience with fellow contestants.

DRESS CODE FOR EVENTS

All Practices: Western jeans of your choice, western shirt with long sleeves, any color or print style, shirt tucked in, western hat, boots, belt.

Queen/Princess Interviews, modeling, speech, impromptu questions:
Western fashion forward style dress (long sleeve) Dress or skirt can be full/ankle length or knee length, no shorter. Western boots, belt, cowboy hat and accessories of any color. No strapless/spaghetti types unless covered by a jacket. All clothing must reflect a western image (no prom dresses), be modest and cannot be sheer.

Queen/Princess Horsemanship: Pants of any color or denim preferably Wrangler brand, long sleeved collared shirt of any color, any color hat, boots, belt. Appropriate accessories.

Judges will observe how clothing fits and suits each contestant's personality and body type. Though this is not a fashion contest, contestants are expected to present themselves in a fashionable manner-clothing should fit well and be suited to your body type. Attention will be given to color coordination and enhancement and appeal of color combinations, as well as how hat size, crease and shape fit each contestant's face shape. It is important that contestants have NO visible body piercings, other than earrings in moderation and NO visible body art. This will be left to the discretion of the judges. Posture, balance, poise/lady-like behavior, suitability of clothing, color choices, figure, photogenic quality, meticulous care in general grooming/neatness, and over all appearance are essential at all times throughout the pageant.

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR & RODEO HISTORY:

Douglas County Fair & Rodeo – A Glance at History

One glance around Douglas County and it's no secret the area has changed from a rural, agricultural-based community to a suburban bedroom community for a major metropolitan hub over the past 35 years. Yet there are reminders of the area's roots – sometimes hidden – in every corner of the County. The Pikes Peak Grange in Franktown, the remains of the Castlewood Canyon Dam, Parker's 20-Mile House, Cherokee Ranch, the Highlands Ranch Mansion, handfuls of cattle still roaming Highlands Ranch, or a broken-down piece of old farm equipment outside of Sedalia all offer a glimpse into the past.

Before the turn of the 20th century, the pioneers of the area decided to host an event to celebrate their farming and ranching efforts. Fair-related activities from the 1880's through 1917 were sporadically scheduled, sometimes missing several consecutive years due to lack of moisture resulting in poor dry-farming yields, economic hard times, or internal personnel problems involving a changing cast of the managing Association composed of businessmen, farmers and ranchers. The Douglas County Fair Commissioners purchased the Geradehand estate in Castle Rock from John Hilburger. This remains the site of the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

While always staying true to its agricultural heritage, the Fair has evolved over the years. In the early days, competitions included Best Stallion, Best Gents' Laundered Linen, Horse and Chariot Races, Best and Largest Potato, Best Lump of Ranch Butter and the Handsomest Lady at the Fair (for which the prize, appropriately, was a mirror). Now, the Fair boasts a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Rodeo which is part of the Playoff Series, a carnival, Mutton Bustin' and competitions for youth in such categories as computer science, visual arts, rocketry, and shooting sports, showcasing the talents of 4-H, FFA and CALF. As expected, some competitions have stood the test of time, such as best livestock in a variety of species, rodeo, baking, quilting and canning fruit. Generations of family return to the Fair each year to attend their favorite events, enter competitions and to support the youth and products of our County.

Did you ever stop to think what a large scope the activities of a County Fair cover? You cannot mention an idea that is for the mental, moral or spiritual development that is not in accord with the Fair. As a County we need to get together to keep pace with progress being made. Started as a splendid means of advertising the county, and a source of much enjoyment to those who have attended, the Fair has grown into much more.

In 1918 – when the Fair was born – The Journal wrote, "It has been proposed to place the management of the fair in the hands of a committee, and quite extensive improvements are contemplated in the near future." It's unlikely that the men and women who first took on the task of those extensive improvements could have imagined what the Fair has developed into today. What was written then should give each of us cause to say "Thank You" to past and present Association, Fair Board, Staff and County Commissioners for their contributions and dedication.

Changes continued in 2012 as operations of the Fair were officially moved under the County with the Fair managed by a Commissioner appointed, volunteer Board of Directors, The Douglas County Fair Association then became the Douglas County Fair Foundation with a mission to provide financial support to enhance the Fair.

Time marches on while the Fair continues to be an invaluable way for the families of Douglas County to come together, compete and celebrate as a community, the accomplishments of our great County, its youth and families. The Directors of the Douglas County Fair Foundation, a group of volunteers – many who are past and present Fair Board members – are dedicated to continuing the rural heritage of our County, to grow, enhance and celebrate this century old tradition.

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Philp S. Miller – Thank you, Sir!

Who was the man whose name adorns not only our town library, but also the indoor/outdoor recreation complex?

Philip S. Miller started his humble beginnings in Peoria, Illinois in 1895. Shortly thereafter, his father, a butcher by trade, moved the family to Denver to open his own meat market. Following in his father's footsteps, Philip worked as a butcher for several years and helped expand his family's business with the assistance of some business partners. Eventually they were able to open shops in both Kiowa and Castle Rock.

After a falling out with his partners, he consolidated the markets into one and moved with his new wife, 'Jerry' Stewart, to the 'big town' of Castle Rock. There, he operated his butcher shop, and later changed the name to the 'Castle Rock Meat Market.' Wanting a change, they sold the market to enter into the coal and feed business. This was short-lived, and the Millers bought back the meat business, but sold it again as they entered The Great Depression.

Miller was an active member of the town's original Board of Trustees. During this time, he was instrumental in implementing a sewer system and municipal electricity system for the residents of Castle Rock. He later retired from politics, but used his connections with investors to help open the town's first bank: The Bank of Douglas County. Shortly after, the Millers decided to purchase a ranch for cattle, and also an insurance business. Today, our town can thank the success of both of these businesses for their legacy and continued generosity.

It is hard to measure their numerous philanthropic generosity for Castle Rock. Not only did the Miller's bank greatly help the community by providing loans for local businesses, they also went on to donate the water rights of 204 acres of their ranch, a gift that provides nearly 100 million gallons of water for the town. And through their living trust, their continued support can be seen for the Town of Castle Rock, the Douglas County Fair and Rodeo, and the Douglas County Library System for years to come.

So next time you hear or see the name Philip S. Miller, think a note of 'thanks' for the Miller's contributions to helping make the Town of Castle Rock the awesome place we live.

ABOUT THE PRCA

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA), headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., is the oldest and biggest rodeo-sanctioning body in the world. The recognized leader in professional rodeo, the PRCA is committed to maintaining the highest standards in the industry in every area, from improving working conditions for contestants and monitoring livestock welfare to boosting entertainment value and promoting sponsors. The PRCA also proudly supports youth rodeo with educational camps and financial assistance to young standouts preparing to enter the professional ranks, as well as supporting allied organizations such as Tough Enough to Wear Pink, Miss Rodeo America, the American Quarter Horse Association and the ProRodeo Hall of Fame. Annually, the PRCA sanctions about 650 top-of-the-line multiple-event rodeos on the continent, in about 38 states and three or four Canadian provinces – the cream of the crop among thousands of rodeo-related events that take place each year in North America. As a membership-driven organization, the PRCA works to ensure that every event it sanctions is managed with fairness and competence and that the livestock used is healthy and cared for to the highest standards. Here are some key facts about participants in ProRodeo and the PRCA:

Fans . More than 43 million people identify themselves as fans of ProRodeo. Many of them attend PRCA-sanctioned rodeos around the country annually. According to the Sports Business Daily, rodeo is seventh in overall attendance for major sporting events, ahead of golf and tennis. Fans can follow professional rodeo all year long through the PRCA's television coverage on The Cowboy Channel, PRCA on Cowboy Channel Plus App, the PRCA's ProRodeo Sports News magazine and ProRodeo.com, as well as other rodeo-related media outlets.

Competition . Unlike most other professional sports, where contestants are paid salaries regardless of how well they do at a particular competition, cowboys generally pay to enter each rodeo. If they place high enough to win money, they probably make a profit, but if they don't, they've lost their entry fee and any travel expenses, so every entry is a gamble pitting the chance for loss and physical injury against the chance for financial windfall and athletic glory. Also unlike most sanctioned professional sports, the hundreds of "playing fields" – rodeo arenas – of PRCA sanctioned rodeos vary widely. The size, shape, perimeter of an arena, as well as the chute configuration and whether it's indoors or outdoors, all significantly affect times for timed events and, to a lesser extent, scores for rough stock events. The differences are so significant that some timed event cowboys own different horses for different types of arenas. For that reason, the fairest way to measure cowboys' success in competition across the varied settings is by earnings. Since 1986 the PRCA has paid out more than \$1 billion in prize money to its contestants.

Cowboys . The PRCA's membership includes roughly 6000 cowboys (including permit holders), who comprise the majority of the association's roster, as well as 1,241 contract

personnel (performers and workers). The largest membership segment includes a full range of contestants, from cowboys who compete in professional rodeo for a living, crisscrossing the country with their own horses or equipment, as well as those who work at other jobs during the week and compete in nearby rodeos on the weekends.

Permit system. Cowboys who want to apply for membership in the PRCA must first obtain a permit card and then earn at least \$1,000 at PRCA-sanctioned rodeos; there is no time limit to “fill” the permit. Money won under a permit card counts toward circuit standings, but not toward world standings or rookie standings. (A rookie is a cowboy in his first year as a PRCA card-holding contestant.)

World champions . “World champion” is the most coveted title in ProRodeo. The sport’s world champions are crowned at the conclusion of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo presented by Polaris RANGER, based on total season earnings at PRCA rodeos across the continent, including monies earned at the Wrangler NFR. The PRCA crowns eight world titlists; each receives a gold buckle and a specially crafted trophy saddle.

Stock contractors . All PRCA rodeo events involve livestock, and the care of those animals falls to the stock contractors who buy or breed them, raise them, feed them, watch over them, provide medical care when necessary and transport them safely between rodeos and their home pastures. PRCA stock contractors agree to follow more than 60 rules providing for the care and humane treatment of livestock – the toughest standards in the industry – and constantly look for ways to improve their husbandry, knowing that best practices produce top-performing livestock.

Judges . There are at least two judges at every PRCA rodeo who have attended judging seminars and are trained to ensure that all results of competition and livestock welfare are followed. During the timed events, each judge has a different role; during the rough stock events, the judges are on opposite sides of the cowboy and animal, watching for the cowboy’s control of the ride and how well his timing is synced with the animal’s bucking motion, among other scored aspects of a ride that can be different on the two sides.

Contract personnel . The non-contestant personnel working a rodeo include the bullfighters, who help bull riders escape from powerful rodeo bulls; the barrelmen, clowns and specialty acts, who entertain the crowds; pickup men, who help bareback and saddle bronc riders dismount, then prepare and assist bucking stock to leave the arena; announcers, who call the action; arena secretaries, who handle extensive administrative duties; and timers, who operate the clocks for the timed and rough stock events.

Committees . Local rodeo committees organize the PRCA-sanctioned rodeos held across the continent. Most are run by dedicated groups of volunteers who make the rodeos work from behind the scenes, procuring local sponsors for events, awards and programs; setting up safe facilities; staffing various functions and making the

contestants and attendees feel at home. Many PRCA rodeos are broadly involved in their communities in both service and fund-raising areas.

Charities . PRCA-sanctioned rodeos annually raise more than \$16 million for local and national charities, from college scholarships for local students to the Tough Enough to Wear Pink campaign against breast cancer.

Sponsors . The PRCA's loyal national sponsors support all aspects of rodeo, from entire events like the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo; the RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo; the Wrangler Tour; and Justin Finale; to the Montana Silversmiths gold buckles awarded to world champions each year. Sponsors also help defray the costs of producing rodeos and support contestants in their efforts to climb the ranks of ProRodeo.

Demographics . The PRCA's loyal rodeo attendees across the U.S. are about 52% male and 48% female; More than 12.5 million fans earn an income of \$75,000 and 18% own their own business. ProRodeo fans come from all walks of life, but as a group, they are demographically similar to NASCAR fans, and are likely to also enjoy hunting, fishing and camping.

ProRodeo.com . The PRCA maintains a website with the latest news stories, cowboy blogs, world standings, rodeo results, cowboy and livestock bios, and tons of other information.

2024 PRCA & WPRA World Champions:

All Around: Shad Mayfield

Bareback: Dean Thompson

Steer Wrestling: JD Struxness

Saddle Bronc: Ryder Wright

Team Roping Header: Tyler Wade Heeler & Wesley Thorp

Tie Down Roping: Riley Webb

Steer Roping: Cole Patterson

Bull Riding: Josh Frost

Barrel Racing: Kassie Mowry

BreakAway Roping: Kelsie Domer

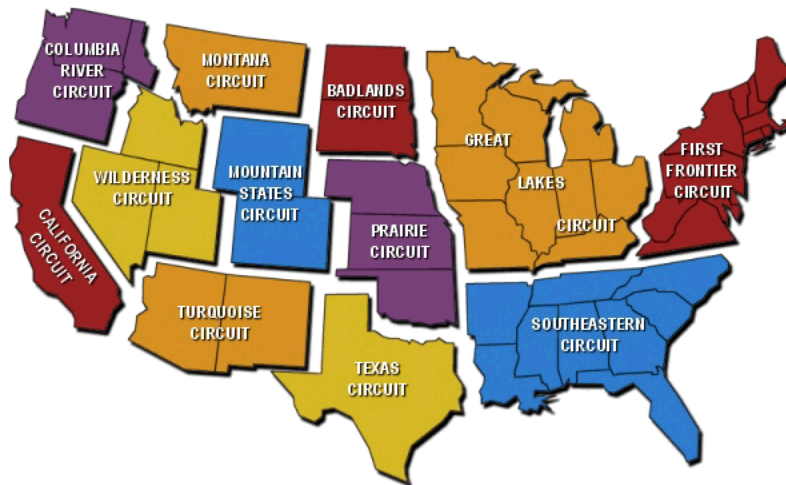
Women's Professional Rodeo Association

The Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) is the oldest women's sports organization in the country. The Association started in 1948 with a group of Texas ranch women who wanted to add a little color and femininity to the rough-and-tumble sport of rodeo. A major move at the time, 38 women met in a hotel in San Angelo, Texas, on February 28, 1948, to change the way they were being treated in the male dominated world of rodeo. These women banded together to create the very first professional sports association created solely for women by women – the Girls Rodeo Association (GRA). The GRA began with 74 original members with 60 approved contests with a total payout of \$29,000. In 1981, the GRA changed its name to the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA). Today, the association boasts more than 3,000 members, over 1,500 events and payouts totaling over \$5 million. The WPRA, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., provides opportunities for women across the United States and Canada to compete in the timed events of barrel racing, team roping, breakaway roping, and tie-down roping.

THE CIRCUIT SYSTEM:

The circuit system is an integral part of the association. Every PRCA contestant belongs to a circuit and has an opportunity to advance to a national championship in the multimillion-dollar arm of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. It affords opportunities to cowboys who may not have the circumstances that allow them to be on the road for thousands of miles a year. But make no mistake, these cowboys are as good as they come. They also make up the majority of the PRCA's membership. In 1975, the PRCA created a system that breaks up the United States into 12 circuits. The circuits include as few as one state, such as the California, Texas, and Montana circuits, to as many as 13 – such as the First Frontier Circuit in the northeastern part of the country. In 1987, the National Circuit Finals Rodeo was incorporated, and Dodge became the title sponsor of all 12 circuit finals rodeos and the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo. In 2010, the Dodge brand rodeo initiative went to the RAM Truck division of the Chrysler Group. RAM still has the title sponsorship of all 12 U.S. PRCA Circuit Finals Rodeos and the National Circuit Finals Rodeo. In 2018, the PRCA expanded the circuit system to 13 by welcoming Canada as the Maple Leaf Circuit. This was in cooperation with the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association. The Maple Leaf Circuit debuted at the 2020 RAM NCFR. As the regular season ends, top competitors from each event qualify to compete at their circuit finals rodeos. Champions from those rodeos, as well as the overall year-end winners from each circuit are then invited to vie for RAM NCFR championships. Each contestant can compete in and out of his circuit throughout the year, but only the points they earn within the circuit they designate at the beginning of the season are applied in the circuit standings. Nonetheless, everything a contestant wins – in any circuit – is applied in the PRCA RAM World Standings. So, while most circuit contestants rodeo close to home, there is still opportunity for them to earn enough money to get to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. In October of 2021, the PRCA announced some changes with the National Circuit Finals Rodeo. The name of the rodeo was changed to the NFR Open beginning in 2022 and was hosted by the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, July 8-12, 2025 in Colorado Springs, Colo. The NCFR had been in Kissimmee, Fla. The inaugural NFR Open powered by RAM, was one of the biggest rodeos of the 2023 PRORODEO season with \$1 million in payouts to contestants, livestock and other PRCA members. The NFR Open, formerly titled the RAM National Circuit Finals Rodeo, is the most prestigious rodeo under the PRCA circuit system and will feature two contestants in each event from each of the 12 U.S. circuits, plus Canada, bringing more than 200 contestants to the Norris-Penrose Event Center for five competition rounds over the four days. The event culminated with a semifinals and finals on Saturday, July 12, when the national circuit champions are crowned. This event was also one of the highest-paying events in PRORODEO and will be a key ingredient for cowboys and cowgirls shooting to qualify for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas taking place later in the year.

The 2025 NFR Open is taking place July 8-12 in Colorado Springs. The tournament-style NFR Open determines the national circuit champions in each event. The competition produces exciting challenges for the athletes and vivid entertainment for the fans. All 26 qualifiers from the 13 circuits compete in the two preliminary rounds of the rodeo. The top eight contestants overall (from each event) advance to the semifinal round, with all previous scores and times thrown out. The top four move on to the final round– a sudden-death competition that determines the national circuit champion in each event. Because the top four contestants begin with a clean slate in the final round, each one has an equal opportunity to claim a NFR Open title. In additions to their winnings, NFR Open event winners receive a \$20,000 voucher for a new RAM vehicle, a Polaris RANGER UTV, a trophy saddle from Cactus Saddlery, and a Montana Silversmiths buckle. The National Circuit Finals Steer Roping is a similar event with 35 contestants that determines the national champion in a separate event, steer roping. The NCFSR has been held in Torrington, Wyo., the past 15 years.



PRCA LIVESTOCK WELFARE RULES:

The PRCA has more than 60 rules to ensure the proper care and treatment of rodeo animals included in its official rules and regulations. While the rules and regulations are too numerous to list here, several of the safeguards for the proper treatment of animals in the rules and regulations are listed below. A veterinarian must be on-site at all PRCA-sanctioned rodeos. All animals are inspected and evaluated for illness, weight, eyesight and injury prior to the rodeo, and no animals that are sore, lame, sick or injured are allowed to participate in the event. Acceptable spurs must be dull. Standard electric prods may be used only when necessary and may only touch the animal on the hip or shoulder area. Stimulants and hypnotics may not be given to any animal to improve performance. Any PRCA member caught using unnecessary roughness or abusing an animal may be immediately disqualified from the rodeo and fined. This holds true whether it is in the competitive arena or elsewhere on the rodeo grounds. Weight limitations are set for both calves (between 220 and 280 pounds) and steers (450-650 pounds). The flank straps for horses are fleece- or neoprene-lined and those for bulls are made of soft cotton rope and may be lined with fleece or neoprene. Steers used in team and steer roping have a protective covering placed around their horns. The use of prods and similar devices is prohibited in the riding events unless an animal is stalled in the chute. A no-jerk-down rule provides for fines if a contestant jerks a calf over backwards in tie-down roping. All rodeos must have a conveyance available to humanely transport any injured animal. Chutes must be constructed with the safety of the animals in mind.

RODEO 101

Professional rodeo action consists of two types of competitions - - rough stock events and timed events - - and an all-around cowboy crown. In the rough stock events bareback riding, saddle bronc riding and bull riding a contestant's score is equally dependent upon his performance and the animal's performance. To earn a qualified score, the cowboy, while using only one hand, must stay aboard a bucking horse or bull for eight seconds. If the rider touches the animal, himself or any of his equipment with his free hand, he is disqualified. In saddle bronc and bareback riding, a cowboy must "mark out" his horse; that is, he must exit the chute with his spurs set above the horse's shoulders and hold them there until the horse's front feet hit the ground after the initial jump out of the chute. Failing to do so results in disqualification. During the regular season, two judges each score a cowboy's qualified ride by awarding 0 to 25 points for the rider's performance and 0 to 25 points for the animal's effort. The judges' scores are then combined to determine the contestant's score. A perfect score is 100 points. In timed events steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping, barrel racing and steer roping; cowboys and cowgirls at "the other end of the arena" compete against the clock, as well as against each other. A contestant's goal is to post the fastest time in his or her event. In steer wrestling and the roping events, calves and steers are allowed a head start. The competitor, on horseback, starts in a three-sided fenced area called a box. The fourth side opens into the arena. A rope barrier is stretched across that opening and is tied to the calf or steer with a breakaway loop. Once the calf or steer reaches the head-start point - - predetermined by the size of the arena - - the barrier is automatically released. If a cowboy breaks that barrier, a 10-second penalty is added.

ALL-AROUND:

The PRCA world all-around champion is considered by many the most talented and versatile cowboy in the sport. The PRCA Cowboy who wins the most prize money in a year while competing in at least two events, earning a minimum of \$3,000 in each event, wins the world all-around championship.

BAREBACK RIDING:

Bareback riders endure more abuse, suffer more injuries and carry away more long-term damage than all other rodeo cowboys. To stay aboard the horse, a bareback rider uses a rigging made of leather and constructed to meet PRCA safety specifications. The rigging, which resembles a suitcase handle on a strap, is placed atop the horse's withers and secured with a cinch. Bareback riding has been compared to riding a jackhammer with one hand. As the bronc and rider burst from the chute, the rider must have both spurs touching the horse's shoulders until the horse's feet hit the ground after the initial move from the chute. This is called "marking out." If the cowboy fails to do this, he is

disqualified. As the bronc bucks, the rider pulls his knees up, rolling his spurs up the horse's shoulders. As the horse descends, the cowboy straightens his legs, returning his spurs over the point of the horse's shoulders in anticipation of the next jump. Making a qualified ride and earning a money-winning score requires more than just strength. A bareback rider is judged on his spurring technique, the degree to which his toes remain turned out while he is spurring and his willingness to take whatever might come during his ride. It's a tough way to make a living, all right. But, according to bareback riders, it's the cowboy way.

STEER WRESTLING:

Speed and strength are the name of the game in steer wrestling. In fact, with a world record sitting at 2.4 seconds, steer wrestling is the quickest event in rodeo. The objective of the steer wrestler, who is also known as a "bulldogger," is to use strength and technique to wrestle a steer to the ground as quickly as possible. That sounds simple enough. Here's the catch: the steer generally weighs more than twice as much as the cowboy and, at the time the two come together, they're both often traveling at 30 miles per hour. Speed and precision, the two most important ingredients in steer wrestling, make bulldogging one of rodeo's most challenging events. As with tie-down and team ropers, the bulldogger starts on horseback in a box. A breakaway rope barrier is attached to the steer and stretched across the open end of the box. The steer gets a head start that is determined by the size of the arena. When the steer reaches the advantage point, the barrier is released and the bulldogger takes off in pursuit. If the bulldogger breaks the barrier before the steer reaches his head start, a 10 second penalty is assessed. A perfect combination of strength, timing and technique are necessary for success in the lightning-quick event of steer wrestling. In addition to strength, two other skills critical to success in steer wrestling are timing and balance. When the cowboy reaches the steer, he slides down and off the right side of his galloping horse, hooks his right arm around the steer's right horn, grasps the left horn with his left hand and, using strength and leverage, slows the animal and wrestles it to the ground. His work isn't complete until the steer is on its side with all four feet pointing the same direction. That's still not all there is to it. To catch the sprinting steer, the cowboy uses a "hazer," who is another mounted cowboy who gallops his horse along the right side of the steer and keeps it from veering away from the bulldogger. The efforts of the hazer can be nearly as important as those of the steer wrestler. For that reason, and the fact that he sometimes supplies the bulldogger with a horse, the hazer often receives a fourth of the payoff.

TEAM ROPING:

Team roping, the only true team event in ProRodeo, requires close cooperation and timing between two highly skilled ropers—a header and a heeler—and their horses. The event originated on ranches when cowboys needed to treat or brand large steers and the task proved too difficult for one man. The key to success? Hard work and endless practice. Team roping partners must perfect their timing, both as a team and with their respective horses. Similar to tie-down ropers and steer wrestlers, team ropers start from the boxes on each side of the chute from which the steer enters the arena. The steer gets a head start determined by the length of the arena. One end of a breakaway barrier is attached to the steer and stretched across the open end of the header's box. When the steer reaches his advantage point, the barrier is released, and the header takes off in pursuit, with the heeler trailing slightly further behind. The ropers are assessed a 10 second penalty if the header breaks the barrier before the steer completes his head start. Some rodeos use heeler barriers too. The header ropes first and must make one of three legal catches on the steer; around both horns, around one horn and the head or around the neck. Any other catch by the header is considered illegal and the team is disqualified. After the header makes his catch, he turns the steer to the left and exposes the steer's hind legs to the heeler. The heeler then attempts to rope both hind legs. If he catches only one foot, the team is assessed a five second penalty. After the cowboys catch the steer, the clock is stopped when there is no slack in their ropes and their horses face one another. Another important aspect to the event is the type of horses used by the ropers. The American quarter horse is the most popular among all timed- event competitors, particularly team ropers. Heading horses generally are taller and heavier because they need the power to turn the steer after it is roped. Heeling horses are quick and agile, enabling them to better follow the steer and react to its moves.

SADDLE BRONC RIDING:

Saddle bronc riding is rodeo's classic event, both a complement and contrast to the wilder spectacles of bareback riding and bull riding. This event requires strength to be sure, but the event also demands style, grace and precise timing. Saddle bronc riding evolved from the task of breaking and training horses to work the cattle ranches of the Old West. Many cowboys claim riding saddle broncs is the toughest rodeo event to master because of the technical skills necessary for success. Every move the bronc rider makes must be synchronized with the movement of the horse. The cowboy's objective is a fluid ride, somewhat in contrast to the wilder and less-controlled rides of bareback riders. One of the similarities shared by saddle bronc and bareback riding is the rule that riders in both events must mark out their horses on the first jump from the chute. To properly mark out his horse, the saddle bronc rider must have both heels touching the animal above the point of its shoulders when it makes its first jump from the chute. If the rider misses his mark, he receives no score. While a bareback rider has a rigging to hold onto, the saddle bronc rider has only a thick rein attached to his horse's halter.

Using one hand, the cowboy tries to stay securely seated in his saddle. If he touches any part of the horse or his own body with his free hand, he is disqualified. Judges score the horse's bucking action, the cowboy's control of the horse and the cowboy's spurring action. While striving to keep his toes turned outward, the rider spurs from the points of the horse's shoulders to the back of the saddle. To score well, the rider must maintain that action throughout the eight-second ride. While the bucking ability of the horse is quite naturally built into the scoring system, a smooth, rhythmic ride is sure to score better than a wild, uncontrolled effort.

TIE-DOWN ROPING:

As with saddle bronc riding and team roping, the roots of tie-down roping can be traced back to the working ranches of the Old West. When calves were sick or injured, cowboys had to rope and immobilize them quickly for veterinary treatment. Ranch hands prided themselves on the speed with which they could rope and tie calves, and they soon turned their work into informal contests. As the event matured, being a good horseman and a fast sprinter became as important to the competitive tie-down roper as being quick and accurate with a rope. Today, the mounted cowboy starts from a box, a three-sided fenced area adjacent to the chute holding the calf. The fourth side of the box opens into the arena. A cowboy's success in tie-down roping depends in large part on the precise teamwork between him and his horse. The calf receives a head start that is determined by the length of the arena. One end of a breakaway rope barrier is looped around the calf's neck and stretched across the open end of the box. When the calf reaches its advantage point, the barrier is released. If the roper breaks the barrier before the calf reaches its head start, the cowboy is assessed a 10-second penalty. The horse is trained to come to a stop as soon as the cowboy throws his loop and catches the calf. The cowboy then dismounts, sprints to the calf and throws it by hand, a maneuver called flanking. If the calf is not standing when the cowboy reaches it, he must allow the calf to get back on its feet before flanking it. After the calf is flanked, the roper ties any three legs together with a pigging string—a short, looped rope he clenches in his teeth during the run. While the contestant is accomplishing all of that, his horse must pull back hard enough to eliminate any slack in the rope, but not so hard as to drag the calf. When the roper finishes tying the calf, he throws his hands in the air as a signal that the run is completed. The roper then remounts his horse, rides forward to create slack in the rope and waits six seconds to see if the calf remains tied. If the calf kicks free, the roper receives no time.

BULL RIDING:

Rodeo competition, in the beginning, was a natural extension of the daily challenges cowboys confronted on the ranch roping calves and breaking broncs into saddle horses. Bull riding, which is intentionally climbing on the back of a 2,000 pound bull, emerged from the fearless and possibly fool-hardy nature of the cowboy. The risks are obvious. Serious injury is always a possibility for those fearless enough to sit astride an animal that literally weighs a ton and is usually equipped with dangerous horns. Regardless, cowboys do it, fans love it and bull riding ranks as one of rodeo's most popular events. Bull riding is dangerous and predictably exciting, demanding intense physical prowess, supreme mental toughness and courage. Like bareback and saddle bronc riders, the bull rider may use only one hand to stay aboard during the eight- second ride. If he touches the bull or himself with his free hand, he receives no score. But unlike the other rough stock contestants, bull riders are not required to mark out their animals. While spurring a bull can add to the cowboy's score, riders are commonly judged solely on their ability to stay aboard the twisting, bucking mass of muscle. Size, agility and power create a danger that makes bull riding a crowd favorite everywhere. Balance, flexibility, coordination, quick reflexes and, perhaps above all, a strong mental attitude are the stuff of which good bull riders are made. To stay aboard the bull, a rider grasps a flat braided rope, which is wrapped around the bull's chest just behind the front legs and over its withers. One end of the bull rope, called the tail, is threaded through a loop on the other end and tightened around the bull. The rider then wraps the tail around his hand, sometimes weaving it through his fingers to further secure his grip. Then he nods his head, the chute gate swings open, and he and the bull explode into the arena. Every bull is unique in its bucking habits. A bull may dart to the left, then to the right, then rear back. Some spin or continuously circle in one spot in the arena. Others add jumps or kicks to their spins, while others might jump and kick in a straight line or move side to side while bucking.

BARREL RACING:

Barrel racing is just that – a race against time in a cloverleaf pattern around three barrels set up in the arena. A rider can choose to begin the cloverleaf pattern to the right or left. The time begins when the horse and rider cross the predetermined start line and stops when they come back across the same line. Each run is timed to the hundredths of a second, making every fraction of a second count. (Starting in 2012, Canadian rodeos now time to the thousandth of a second.) Each tipped-over barrel adds a five-second penalty to the time. Although barrel racing is one of seven events common to many PRCA-sanctioned rodeos, it is administered by a separate organization, the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, which produces its own online media guide

WOMEN'S BREAKAWAY ROPING:

In 2017, the breakaway ropers of the WPRA began making efforts to introduce their event into Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) events in the Columbia River Circuit (that includes the states of Oregon and Washington). In 2020, the WPRA in partnership with the PRCA agreed to open it up to any sanctioned rodeo wanting to add breakaway roping to their list of events bringing a new spotlight to the event as never before. Don't blink or you may just miss the run. Breakaway roping is the event comparable to the men's tie-down roping on the cowboy side except the cowgirls are not required to dismount and tie the calf. In breakaway roping, the cowgirl has a flag tied close to the end of her rope and a nylon string tied from the rope to the saddle horn. Once the barrier is released and the calf leaves the roping chute, the cowgirl gives chase throwing the loop around the calf's neck. When the rope grows tight after the calf is roped, the string breaks away from the saddle horn and the flag goes flying, signaling the timer to stop the clock. The time in the breakaway roping can sometimes get as fast as 2.0 seconds and since it is a timed event, the fastest time wins. A broken barrier results in a 10-second penalty.

STEER ROPING:

Some PRCA rodeos include steer roping, which resembles tie-down roping but requires the cowboy to catch and control a large steer (about 450-600 lbs.). The mounted cowboy backs into the box and nods when he's ready; the steer gets a head start, just as the calf does in tie-down roping. The cowboy must catch the steer by first roping it around the horns, which are protected by horn wraps and reinforced with rebar. Then he tosses the rope over the steer's right hip and rides to the left, bringing the steer to the ground, a frontier technique modern ranch cowboys still use to bring down full-grown steers that need medical attention. When the steer is lying on its side and the rope is taut, the rider dismounts and runs to the steer, tying any three of its legs. As in tie-down roping, the steer's legs must remain tied for six seconds after the tie is complete and the roper remounts his horse.

ANIMAL WELFARE VS. ANIMAL RIGHTS:

The issues surrounding the philosophies of animal rights and animal welfare are very familiar to those who utilize animals in industry, entertainment, sport or recreation. As society has migrated from our agricultural roots to a more urban existence, the importance of distinguishing between animal rights and animal welfare becomes paramount. Animal Rights is a philosophical view that animals have rights similar or the same as humans. True animal rights proponents believe that humans do not have the right to use animals at all. Animal rights proponents wish to ban all use of animals by humans. Animal rights proponents support laws and regulations that would prohibit rodeos, horse racing, circuses, hunting, lifesaving medical research using animals, raising of livestock for food, petting zoos, marine parks, breeding of purebred pets and any use of animals for industry, entertainment, sport or recreation. Animal rights proponents believe that violence, misinformation and publicity stunts are valid uses of funding donated to their tax-exempt organizations for the purpose of helping animals. Arson, vandalism and assault are common tactics used by underground animal rights groups to further the animal rights cause. Groups such as the Animal Liberation Front, which have been classified as terrorist by the FBI, routinely use criminal activities to further their cause.

Animal Welfare, as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association, is a humane responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia. Animal welfare proponents seek to improve the treatment and well-being of animals. Animal welfare proponents believe that humans can interact with animals in entertainment, industry, sport and recreation, and industry, but that the interaction should include provisions for the proper care and management for all animals involved. Animal welfare proponents support self-regulation of animal sports, including rodeo, polo, three-day eventing, FFA competitions, horse racing, field trials and endurance riding. Animal welfare groups utilize scientific evidence to base animal care and handling guidelines

HALL OF FAME:

The colorful history and equally colorful legends of professional rodeo live on at the ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Since the Hall's opening in 1979, many people, animals and rodeo committees have been enshrined. More than 100 individuals are nominated each year, but only a few are selected. Each year thousands of visitors tour the Hall, which offers exhibits that detail the changes in saddles, chaps, hats and other rodeo equipment over the decades as well as separate exhibits for many of ProRodeo's luminaries. Hall of Fame guests start their tour in the Hall of Champions, which features exhibits on notable cowboys in each event, current world champions, famous stock contractors, rodeo queens, clowns, bullfighters and other rodeo personnel. They often finish their tour in the Hall's beautiful gardens, featuring bronze sculptures depicting rodeo events and champions. Guests touring the Hall during the summer can also visit retired rodeo roughstock who make their homes in the Zoetis Barn across from the Hall's sculpture gardens and adjacent to the Priefert-Ed Honen Arena. Located on a 13-acre site tucked against the foothills of Pikes Peak in Colorado Springs, the Hall of Fame is easily identifiable from Interstate 25 by a landmark bronze statue of former saddle bronc rider and Hall of Famer Casey Tibbs on the famous horse Necktie.

2025 Inductees include:

Stran Smith, Tie Down Roping

Jeff Collins, Bareback Riding

Steve Purcella, Team Roping

Mack Altizer, Rodeo Producer

Harley Tucker, Stock Contractor

Skipper Voss,-Contract Personnel

Tom Miller, Notable

Joyce Burk Loomis Kernek,-Barrel Racing

RTR Little Willy, Times Event Horse

Pam Minick, Notable

Red Steagall,-Ken Stemler Pioneer Award

RODEO CAMPS

Our mission is to provide a fun, positive rodeo experience. Camp curriculum includes an introduction to rough stock and timed events with an emphasis on safety, fundamentals, chute procedures, livestock safety, overview of riding equipment, injury prevention and management, fitness and nutrition, introduction to PRCA business and goal setting. Instructors deliver encouragement to participants as they pursue both their rodeo careers and scholastic endeavors.

Camps are geared at providing learning opportunities for cowboys just starting out that either have had little or no direction in rodeo or have been competing in rodeo and want to further learn about the fundamentals from PRCA champions.

This program has been made possible through the generous contributions of PRCA members and rodeo committees who have donated their time, talents and resources to this new program. Donations have included arenas, livestock, meals, and travel costs.

JUSTIN COWBOY CRISIS FUND:

A hand up not a hand out!

Because of the generosity of Justin Boots, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Assoc., and together with our Partners at the Justin Sportsmedicine Team, we are committed to supporting today's professional rodeo athletes.

With no guaranteed salaries or injured reserve provisions in the sport of rodeo, these professional athletes are often left with no place to turn when faced with serious, sidelining injuries and the accompanying financial hardship. Recognizing that serious injuries can be traumatic enough without the additional burden of financial worries, the Justin Boot Company formed a partnership with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) to establish the **Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund (JCCF)**. The Fund, incorporated in 1990, was granted 501-C3 status as a non-profit charity organization in 1991.

The **JCCF** lends a helping hand to professional rodeo athletes and their families in the event of serious injuries resulting from professional rodeo activities and fills the void of financial hardship when the inevitable serious injury interferes with the careers of those who have dedicated their lives to the sport.

- You **DO NOT** have to be a PRCA/WPRA member to receive assistance.

- JCCF had awarded nearly \$9.5 million in need-based financial assistance to almost 1,350+ injured rodeo athletes and their families.
- 100% of all proceeds go to the JCCF

Assistance awards are based on the severity of injury, the number of dependents and the applicant's financial situation. The Fund also takes into consideration the individual's involvement in and/or contribution to the sport of professional rodeo.

Unique among today's numerous charitable organizations, the **Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund** stands above the rest by dedicating 100% (+) of all contributions received for disbursement to eligible applicants. This uncommon practice for a charitable organization is made possible by the joint commitment of the Justin Boot Company and the PRCA, which underwrite all administrative costs associated with managing the **JCCF**, leaving all monies received through contributions (and as investment earnings) to serve their intended purpose.

MISS RODEO AMERICA

Callie Mueller

Callie Mueller was crowned Miss Rodeo America 2025 on Sunday, December 8, at the South Point Hotel and Casino. The 24-year-old from Florence, South Dakota, represented her home state at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant as the 2024 Miss Rodeo South Dakota, becoming the 6th woman from her state to win the prestigious national title.

Callie is a dedicated horsewoman and a rising leader in the equine industry. She holds two Bachelor of Education degrees and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. A member of the American Quarter Horse Association, Callie spends her days training and riding horses while inspiring others through her published writings. She is passionate about education and hopes to continue impacting both the equine and educational communities.

Beyond her work with horses, Callie is committed to promoting the western way of life and mentoring others. She is also determined to win an AQHA World Championship and works tirelessly to teach the next generation of equestrians. Her strong passion for helping others learn and grow defines both her professional and personal life.

In addition to her title as Miss Rodeo America, Callie was awarded the Appearance Award. The Landstrom's Black Hills Gold crown is accompanied by over \$20,000 in educational scholarships and prizes, including a wardrobe of Wrangler jeans and shirts, an assortment of Montana Silversmiths jewelry, and a selection of Justin Boots.

This year's national pageant, which ran throughout the week, featured twenty-nine contestants from across the country. The competition included a horsemanship contest, a written test on equine science and rodeo knowledge, extensive interviews, extemporaneous speaking, and a fashion show.

As Miss Rodeo America 2025, Callie will serve as the official representative of the PRCA. During her reign she will travel over 40,000 miles and appear at nearly 100 rodeo performances, as well as attend various schools, civic groups, and special events to educate the public about rodeo, its sponsors, and its opportunities. Additionally, Callie will serve as a spokesperson at promotional events and will model in commercial advertisements for western clothiers, publications, sponsors, and other service providers in the western industry.

MISS RODEO COLORADO



Sierra Southerland is the proud daughter of Kevin and Erin Southerland, and sister to Justin and Garret. She grew up immersed in the western lifestyle and now resides in Longmont, Colorado. She is a Colorado State University alumna, holding a Bachelor of Science in Equine Sciences with a minor in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Animal Sciences specializing in Breeding and Genetics. Her academic journey at CSU included involvement with the CSU Ag Council, Ranch Horse Team, Rodeo Team, and the Legends of Ranching Colt Starting Program, where she cultivated a deeper appreciation for Colorado's agricultural heritage and the professional sport of rodeo.

From an early age, Sierra developed a passion for connecting with others through her love of horses, agriculture, and advocacy for animal welfare. Growing up in a small horse town, she was surrounded by the western way of life, owning an abundance of animals and spending her youth riding and showing horses. She participated in events ranging from gymkhana, team sorting, barrel racing, and reining to western pleasure, and now enjoys training her personal barrel horses and dabbling in team roping and breakaway. Her experiences competing in the National High School Rodeo Association and holding Rodeo Queen titles in her youth ignited her passion for advocacy and solidified her dedication to representing the rodeo community.

As Miss Rodeo Colorado 2025, Sierra is dedicated to using her platform, "Clean Genes", to educate the public on the importance of responsible breeding practices and raising awareness about genetic issues in horses and rodeo livestock. With her background in Breeding and Genetics, she aims to highlight the consequences of poor breeding practices and advocate for sustainable solutions that ensure the health, longevity, and performance of the animals integral to the rodeo industry. Her mission is to inspire change and help preserve the traditions of rodeo and the western way of life for future generations.

Whether she is in the arena or engaging with the public, Sierra is passionate about connecting with people, promoting the professional sport of rodeo, and sharing the values of hard work and community that define Colorado's rich western heritage.

