

That Rodeo Life

BY ABIGAIL BOATWRIGHT

The rodeo trail tantalizes competitors with cash prizes and offers spectators exciting opportunities to watch the best cowboys and cowgirls in the country chase their dreams. We've compiled a list of some of the sport's best rodeos to help you make plans to attend.

COACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Aspiring youth rodeo contestants can apply to attend one of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's nearly two dozen PRCA Youth Camps this summer. Campers will receive quality instruction on the basics of rodeo or further hone their skills with PRCA champions. The camp goal is to provide youth with a fun, positive rodeo experience. Funded by contributions from PRCA members, the camp is offered at no cost to participants.

"We do two different types of camp," Miriam Contreras from the PRCA says. "We do one called a 101, which is your introductory rodeo skills. It's meant for inner-city youth or kids who'd never been around a ranch. And then we have

the skills camp, and those are meant for kids who are already competing in rodeo, and they're trying to fine-tune their skills to get to the pro level."

Designed to introduce youth to the sport and encourage athletes for the future, the youth camps also work with local communities in conjunction with PRCA rodeos. The 101 camps are offered for children from 5 years old and up, usually until around 15 years old. The skills camps are geared toward youth ages 11-17.

"The biggest thing is they're always free for the youth to attend," Contreras says.

Most of the camps run for about four hours a day for varying amounts of days. Last year, there were 17 camps at 15 different locations. This

year, the organization is slated for 21 camps across the country. Each skills camp connects around 12 kids per instructor per skill in rough-stock and timed events.

"Last year, we had 7,500 participants in programs," Tracy Cobb, with PRCA, says. "The PRCA invested in our future with \$392,000 in youth camps, and they offer \$1,000 scholarships as well to camp participants."

One past youth camp participant is Jason Roper, who qualified and made his Wrangler National Finals Rodeo debut last year in bareback riding.

For more info on how to register, go to prorodeo.com/prca-rodeo-camps.

Reno Rodeo June 20-29, 2024

LIVESTOCK EVENT CENTER,
RENO, NEVADA

The 105th annual Reno Rodeo promises to be the biggest and best yet. The Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West is a PRCA-sanctioned sporting event and non-profit with more than 900 volunteers. Each year, more than 140,000 fans attend the fourth-richest PRCA tour rodeo and the third-best rodeo as recognized by USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice. The event impacts the Reno and Sparks, Nevada-area economy, with \$42 million going to hotels, casinos, restaurants and retail outlets.
renorodeo.com

National Junior High Finals Rodeo June 23-29, 2024

IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS, DES
MOINES, IOWA

Celebrating its 19th anniversary, the National Junior High Finals Rodeo is the pinnacle event for National High School Rodeo Association Junior High division members who qualify for this championship rodeo. The 1,300 competitors from across the globe compete for a world title in 15 different events. NHSRA national sponsors make it possible for over \$100,000 in scholarships to be awarded and more than \$150,000 in jackpot money. The Cowboy Channel is covering the in-arena action.
nhsra.com/juniorhighfinals

The NFR Open at the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo July 9-13, 2024

NORRIS PENROSE EVENT CENTER,
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

ProRodeo cowboys and cowgirls from the U.S. and Canadian Circuits, plus National Champs from Mexico, will ride for over \$1 million in payouts at the PPOBR. Arrive early to enjoy the fun outside the arena in the Fan Zone. PPOBR has been a local tradition since 1937, with proceeds helping to support local military and their families. Tickets are available now at PikesPeakorBust.org, the official website of the NFR Open at the PPOBR.
pikespeakorbust.org



BOTTOM RIGHT: PHOTO BY BRIAN GAUCK

National High School Finals Rodeo July 14-20, 2024

SWEETWATER EVENTS COMPLEX,
ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING

The 76th annual National High School Finals Rodeo is the premier event for National High School Rodeo Association High School Division members who qualify for the championship rodeo. There are around 1,800 contestants from 44 states, five Canadian provinces, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. NHSRA sponsors allow the event to pay more than \$250,000 in scholarships and more than \$500,000 in jackpot cash to contestants. Experience the event and outside-the-arena activities in person or live on the Cowboy Channel Plus. nhsra.com/nhsfr



Utah Days of '47 Rodeo July 19-20, 22-24, 2024

DAYS OF '47 ARENA AT UTAH STATE
FAIRPARK, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The Utah Days of '47 Rodeo takes pride in setting the gold standard in rodeo. The largest paying professional rodeo in Utah not only provides PRCA and Women's Professional Rodeo Association athletes a chance to walk away with a pocketful of cash, but they will also get the opportunity to win an Olympic-style gold, silver or bronze medal. This is the only Gold Medal Rodeo in the world.

utahdaysof47rodeo.com



Cheyenne Frontier Days July 19-28, 2024

FRONTIER PARK,
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Cheyenne Frontier Days — the world's largest outdoor rodeo and Western celebration — features nine days of PRCA rodeo, hundreds of vendors, a full carnival, Native American Indian Village and a great entertainment lineup, including the Turnpike Troubadours, Jason Aldean, Jelly Roll, Lainey Wilson and Thomas Rhett. This year, the rodeo is highlighting the spirit and strength of Western women throughout history. Their stories shape lives today, both in the arena and out in the world. Join the "Daddy of 'em All" in celebrating the Year of the Cowgirl cfdrodeo.com



PROFESSIONAL RODEO'S ONLY GOLD MEDAL RODEO



UTAH DAYS OF '47 RODEO

JULY 19-20 & 22-24

UTAHDAYSOFF47RODEO.COM

LIFE
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UTAH SPORTS
COMMISSION

Utah Department of
Cultural & Community
Engagement

Kit Carson County Fair & Rodeo July 22-27, 2024

KIT CARSON COUNTY FAIR-
GROUNDS,
BURLINGTON, COLORADO

Since 1917, the Kit Carson County Fair & Rodeo has celebrated its deep roots in Western heritage. Nestled in the heart of Burlington, Colorado, the Kit Carson County Fair features fun for the whole family, including 4-H shows, delicious food, carnival rides, PRCA rodeo action and Reckless Kelly in concert! While in town, be sure to visit local attractions, such as the Old Town Museum, a historic gem showcasing the history of eastern Colorado.

kitcarsoncounty.org



Nashville Stampede Days August 16-18, 2024

BRIDGESTONE ARENA
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Don't miss the excitement of the 2024 Nashville Stampede Days, a three-day event at the corner of Broadway & 8th street in the heart of Music City. Stampede Days, hosted by the 2022 PBR Team Series Champions Nashville Stampede, features music, fan engagement, entertainment on the plaza during the day anchored by three rounds of action-packed PBR Team Series bull riding competition. Tickets are available now at nashvillestampede.com



PBR Team Series Championship October 18-20, 2024

T-MOBILE ARENA,
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Are you planning to attend the Professional Bull Riders Team Series Championship? Stay at South Point Hotel & Casino with the 2024 PBR Team Series Championship Package, featuring three nights' accommodation in one of South Point's deluxe rooms during the event. This includes nightly lower-level tickets to each of PBR's three events and round-trip transportation to the event each night. Packages start at \$1,420. (866) 796-7111; southpointcasino.com.

southpointcasino.com/hotel/packages/pbr-packages



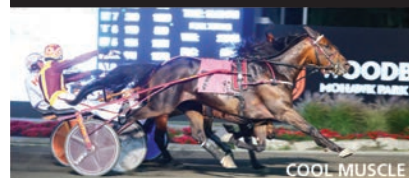
**RUB
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DIRT
ON IT.**

JUNE 20-29, 2024

Tickets are on sale now at
RENORODEO.COM



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