

## **THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL RODEO TOP COWBOY AND TOP COWGIRL AMERICANISM AWARD PROGRAM**

Since American Legion posts are encouraged to play an active role in the activities of the schools in its community, Legionnaires are encouraged to keep abreast of the many changes required to maintain a successful school system. Therefore, this program of The American Legion seeks to reward high school students who participate in high school rodeo competition, for their participation in various activities necessary for becoming good patriotic citizens within their respective communities.

This program intends to reward SDHSRA students who participate in community citizenship activities such as attending a court trial in the local community, attending a local city board meeting, attending a school board meeting, visiting a retired military veteran at their home or in a local nursing home, participating in a flag education program, participating in a Veteran's Day or Memorial Day program, or giving an oration on Americanism in their local school or community. Being a good citizen counts every time you do something good for America. As former President John F. Kennedy said. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country."

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of this Award Program is to recognize students in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in high school, for possessing qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Americanism, Sportsmanship, Horsemanship, Citizenship and Scholarship.

For further information, contact: Royce Loesch, Dir, The American Legion High School Rodeo Americanism Program, 1732 Northstar Avenue, Pierre, S.D. 57501 (605)224-4512 or (605) 224-1231 or Cell: 220-9725. Email: [royceloesch@gmail.com](mailto:royceloesch@gmail.com).

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

## **High School Rodeo Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl Americanism Award Program**

“Americanism Patriotic Citizenship Contest”

### Official Rules

#### **General**

#### **Information**

The purpose of The American Legion High School Rodeo Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl Americanism Award Program is to develop a greater sense of Patriotic Citizenship and Americanism Principles among high school students who compete within the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, courage, honor, Americanism, citizenship and patriotism.

#### **Post/District Awards**

Contest awards are presented to the Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl in each post, and the award shall be an engraved Post Champion buckle and should be awarded to at least one Top Cowboy and one Top Cowgirl as the members in any one post would so determine as to represent the local post. A post may provide for further awards to 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners. A post must provide for a monetary scholarship of no more than \$50 in addition to the Post Champion Buckle awarded. A District must provide a monetary scholarship of no more than \$100 in addition to the District Champion Buckle and may provide for further awards to 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners in all districts. At no time shall a post or district be awarded a larger monetary scholarship than the State Champion monetary scholarship. All awards and monetary scholarships at the post and district levels are awarded at the discretion of the judges in their respective post or district.

The Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl Award Winners of each post may be entered in competition at the District Level.

Arrangements for contests leading to the department finals shall be the responsibility of The American Legion Department of South Dakota. For those levels of competition prior to the department finals, the rules and regulations set forth in this program shall be followed as authorized by the Department Americanism Committee of The American Legion Department of South Dakota.

All District Level winners shall be entered in a Department Finals Competition with the winner given the title of Top Cowboy Champion and Top Cowgirl Champion in Americanism. However, all department finals contests shall conform to national contest procedures, rules and regulations.

A winner certified to the National Americanism Division of The American Legion by a department which did not conduct its final competition in conformity with the rules and regulations as set forth herein may, in the

judgment of the director of the Americanism Division or the director's representative, be disqualified from competition in the national contest.

Each department may certify one contestant into the national contest. If for any reason the department winner is unable to compete in the national contest, the department first runner-up may be substituted following approval by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission. A department first runner-up accepted into national competition will be entitled to all national awards, entitlements and compensation that the department winner would have received had he/she participated at that level.

For information about the High School Rodeo Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl Contests in your state, contact your nearest American Legion post or Department headquarters.

## **Eligibility**

Eligible participants in the contest shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.

All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 19 years on the date of the national contest that is presently enrolled in a high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school), commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade 12. Students must be enrolled in high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest and must be a current member of the National High School Rodeo Association.

Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department.

The three finalists of the national contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.

## ***Prepared Contest Application***

The Contest Application shall include the name of the applicant and the physical address of the applicant, including City, State, and zip code. The applicant shall include their phone number, email address if any and their parent's signature and phone number, or guardian's signature and phone number. The applicant shall include the name of the High School in which they are enrolled, school's address, City, State and zip code along with the name of the School Principal, their phone number, email, and signature. The application shall include the school class year of the applicant on the application form along with their SDHSRA reg. number.

## **Verification Form**

A Verification Form shall be attached to the applicant's Application and should contain a line for reference to the tasks involved and what the applicant actually did. It should contain a space for the date of the task performed, the fact that the task was performed, and the specific location where the task was performed. The Verification Form shall be one page for 12 places where the tasks may be listed and signed off on by a designated person in charge or bona-fide witness to the task performed. Each applicant may make additional Verification Forms for additional tasks if necessary. The Verification Form shall come with a page of instructions including a list of possible tasks that can be performed by a contest participant and written down on

the Verification Form. Any unlisted tasks in addition to those listed that are performed must be qualified and verified by the post judges.

All contestants at each contest level are required to complete the Application and Verification Forms in the English language.

## **Contest Rules**

The contest rules shall require a contest committee of two legion members at the post level to assess the applications turned in to the Contest Committee Chairman. The Contest Committee shall meet and verify that all signatures of the various signatories and the task events which have been completed are verified and true to the best of their knowledge. The Contest Committee shall verify that all answers on the form are properly filled in and legible.

### Travel Expenses

It has not been decided whether or not the national organization of The American Legion will pay for the travel and lodging expenses of department winners and their chaperones to the national contest. **All contestants under the age of 21 years old, must be accompanied by a chaperone over 21 years of age.**

**The following section under this warning is not applicable to this Program as of Jan. 1, 2019.**

The national organization of The American Legion will not assume liability for personal injury, property damage or loss sustained by any contestant or chaperone in route to or from the contest; however, The American Legion does carry a nominal group accident insurance policy on contestants certified into the national competition. Contestants will travel by air carrier selected by the national organization of The American Legion or personal automobile if previously approved by the national organization of The American Legion.

## **TV and radio**

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests as well as taping or other types of media for later showing, provided: 1) the lighting and other site conditions are the same for all contestants; 2) the taping or broadcasts shall in no way interfere with the announced scheduled time of the contest; 3) The American Legion is in no way financially obligated without its prior approval.

## **Judges**

The judges are an integral part of the High School Rodeo Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl Americanism Citizenship Contest. Their qualifications are considered carefully as the decision of the judges is final and must be reached without bias. Impartial judging in all contests is the key to fairness and success of the program which results in the selection of a national champion Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl.

All department finals and the national contest finals must use three judges. No publicity shall be given to the names of the judges in advance of the contest. During the contest, the judges in a private meeting room shall report their final decision depending on the number of certified tasks performed, without consultation with other judges, to the designated officer of the Americanism Committee.

Judges will be advised that a lack of emphasis on the number and type of citizenship tasks performed and the obligations in filling out the Verification Form must result in their down-grading the contestant. Judges are

permitted to downgrade a contestant for failure to completely fill out all blanks on the application and not having verifying signatures on every task on the Task Verification Sheet. It will be the Judge's responsibility to tabulate and verify that all the tasks were signed properly before they are submitted for final tabulation.

The judges shall proceed to a private room for final review and tabulation. **The decision of the judges is final.**

Judges' Score sheets for department finals and the national contest shall not be divulged to anyone apart from the contest, at the site of the contest. The Judge's Score sheets shall become the property of The American Legion National Headquarters.

### ***National finals contest***

**Note: A National Finals Contest has not been authorized at this time.**

(January 1, 2019)

# 2019 HIGH SCHOOL RODEO AMERICANISM AWARD NEWSFLASH!

To All American Legion Posts and South Dakota High School Rodeo Association Members who are participating in the 2019 American Legion High School Rodeo Americanism Award Program.

The Beginning Date for 2019 is 8:00 a.m. January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The Ending Date All Americanism Task Sheets For the 2019 Program Year Must Be Turned in To Your Nearest Participating American Legion Post Commander is by 5:00 p.m. on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

All Americanism Entries Must be Processed and Verified by The Participating American Legion Post Judges Committee by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

It is the Responsibility of the Participating Post to Decide When and Where to Present the Post Champion Cowboy and Cowgirl Awards to the Winning Competitors.

**Trophy Buckles Must Not be Ordered and Scholarships Must Not be Written Until the Winning Entry Has Been Determined.**

Each Host Post Who Has a Rodeo Americanism Winner, Must Report the Names of the Post Champions to The District Americanism Chairman and He/She Is Expected to Report Those Winners to the South Dakota Rodeo Americanism Director in Due Time.

If a Given District Has Voted to Participate and Award a District Rodeo Americanism Champion Cowboy or Cowgirl, The District Commander Shall Appoint A District Judges Committee to Convene and Determine a District Champion.

For Questions or Information, Contact: Royce Loesch, S. D. High School Rodeo Americanism Award Dir., 1732 Northstar Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501; PH: 605-224-4512 or 605-224-1231 or 220-9725 Email: [royceloesch@gmail.com](mailto:royceloesch@gmail.com).

## APPLICATION

### THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL TOP COWBOY AND TOP COWGIRL AWARD IN AMERICANISM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup>

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR GUARDIAN ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR GUARDIAN PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SDHSRA REG. NO \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION WITH COMPLETED AMERICANISM TASK SHEETS  
TO YOUR NEAREST LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION POST).

# ***THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL RODEO TOP COWBOY AND TOP COWGIRL***

## ***Task Verification Form (Each numbered line accounts for one hour of time spent with one person)***

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

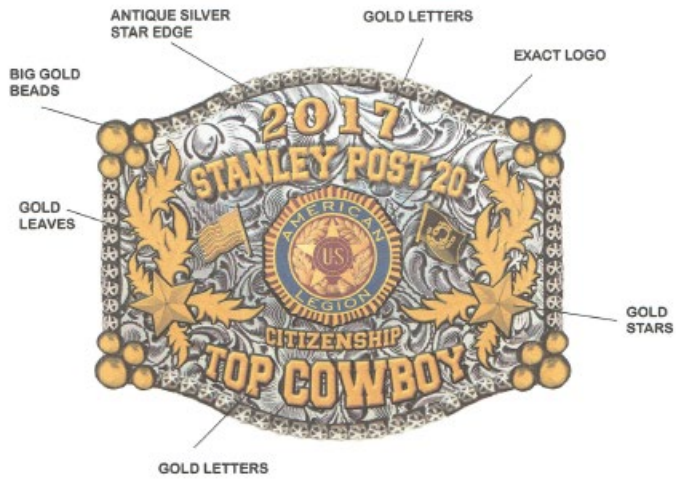
11. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_  
Verified by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTESTANT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



R&K



1 - TOP COWBOY  
1 - TOP COWGIRL

CUSTOM  
3 1/2 X 4 1/2  
ANTIQU SILVER BASE  
2 buckles

Dear Post Commander.

The name and address for ordering a buckle is: TRES RIOS SILVER, 105 E. Grayson St. Llano, Texas 78643. You will have to fill out an order sheet like the one I have included with this letter. You should include a picture of the Post Buckle which I am including with this letter also. Always make a copy of every paper you include in your order so that you can keep the old copies and use them for further reference in ordering more buckles. Always make a copy of your order blank that you must fill out and keep it so that you can use it to make the next one with it. Remember you can only order 1 for a boy and 1 for a girl. And you will have to fill out an order form for each buckle. Of course, they will both be for the same year or whichever year you will need them for. Please be sure that you are DEFINITELY GOING TO HAVE A BOY OR GIRL CHAMPION BEFORE ORDERING A BUCKLE FOR THEM. If you like, you can take your order to him in Watertown at the State Hdqtrs. and make sure that you have it filled out correctly since you have to take it to them in the first place and you can speak to Mark Abraham in person about making sure that it is correct. You can also find out exactly what you will have to do. Either way, it will have to go through State Headquarters in which case they will send it to National Headquarters for their clearance, and they will return it back to the Department of South Dakota Headquarters and they will tell you it is okay to order your buckle. Then you will be able to order a buckle from Tres Rios Silversmiths. Pee-Wee is the name of the designer and he would know what you are talking about in case you want to call them up and talk with them about it. He is the one I always communicate with and he knows me.

Hope this works for you. Thanks for all you are doing to help make this go.

If you have any more questions, contact Royce Loesch at 605-224-4512 or send me an email at [royceloesch@gmail.com](mailto:royceloesch@gmail.com).

# HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

## AMERICANISM CONTESTANT INSTRUCTIONS

### CONTESTANTS

You may make as many copies of the Verification Sheets as you may need in participating in this Americanism Contest. (Make and keep extra blank copies.)

On each line behind the numbers, the citizen you are participating with, should write in the citizenship task you completed with them. They should sign their name, address and phone number, verifying that you completed the task in question with them. The Rodeo Americanism Committee of the Legion post where you turn in your Verification Sheets along with your Application sheet, will check on the verified tasks that are filled in. You should have everything filled in and completed to qualify for the contest when you are ready. Fill in as many tasks as you can qualify to win the contest, but they all must be verifiable by the Rodeo Americanism Committee of the participating American Legion Post. A contestant may only enter once a year in this contest, with one set of verification sheets, and one application. Once a contestant has turned in their task verification sheets along with their application, their entry will be completed.

The Contestant who turns in the most verifiable tasks will be the winner at the Post level contest. The winning contestant's entry sheets will be entered into the corresponding American Legion District Contest for that post. In the District Contest, the entry with the most verifiable tasks will be the winner at the District Level. A post may offer a buckle and no more than \$50.00 from their post. A District may offer no more than a buckle and \$100.00 for their District champion.

The winning entry of each District Contest (of which there are eight districts) will be entered into the Department Level Contest. At the Department Level, (currently unavailable) the entry with the most verifiable tasks performed, will be the winner of the Top Cowboy or Top Cowgirl in Americanism Award Buckle and a \$200.00 Scholarship Award.



## South Dakota High School Rodeo Association



THE AMERICAN LEGION announces...

### High School Rodeo Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl Award Program

*“An Americanism Patriotic Citizenship Contest”*

Americanism is one of the four pillars of The American Legion and as such is one of the most important aspects of everyone’s lives. The purpose of this program is to develop a greater sense of Patriotic Citizenship and Americanism Principles among high school students who compete within the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association.

The objective of the program is to:

- Develop leadership qualities
- Fair-minded competitiveness
- Sportsmanship
- Courage, honor, citizenship and patriotism.

High school students who are members of the SDHSRA will complete “tasks” in citizenship and Americanism. Students competing in this program will not be judged by their athletic performance in the rodeo arena but only by their Americanism and Citizenship practiced in their lives during the year.

Winners will be selected at the Post (local) level and District (area) level.

The Top Cowboy and Top Cowgirl in each post, will each receive a \$50 Scholarship and Post Champion Belt Buckle.

For more information, Contact: Rodeo Americanism Award Program Committee Director, Royce Loesch, 1732 Northstar Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501; Ph:605-224-4512, 220-9725 cell.



What Does the Cowboy or Cowgirl Do

Once They Have Joined The SDHSRA?



Go to the SDHSRA

Website - Click on

The American Legion Rodeo

Award in Americanism Link.



Download All the Information and Forms –



## Study the List of Citizenship Tasks Sheet



Take a Task Verification Form around to all those people who you want to interview for a task signature.

When you have completed as many task sheets as you are satisfied with, take as many task sheets along with your Application Form that you have correctly filled out, to your nearest American Legion Post and ask them if they are participating in the South Dakota High School Rodeo Awards Program. If they decline, take the

same set of papers to the next nearest American Legion Post that will accept it.

Once your Task Verification Sheets have been given to an American Legion Post, your work is done.

Your Tasks will be certified by two Post Rodeo Award Judges as legitimate and accurate and the participant with the most verified tasks turned in, will be declared the Post Champion in Americanism and will be awarded a \$50 Cash Scholarship and a Post Champion Belt Buckle. The winner will be immediately entered at the District Level of Competition.

## LIST OF SUGGESTED TASKS

1. Attending a city commission meeting for an hour
2. Attending a county commission meeting for an hour
3. Helping with Meals on Wheels in the community
4. Visiting a veteran in a nursing home facility
5. Visiting a veteran in a community hospital
6. Serving meals at a community free meal event
7. Participating in a Veteran's Day Ceremony
8. Participating in a Flag etiquette class at school
9. Attending a session in a County Court Trial
10. Assisting in a community food drive
11. Assisting in a fundraiser for a special recipient
12. Attending a session at a Tribal Council meeting
13. Attending a committee hearing in the legislature
14. Attending a Session in the State Legislature
15. Singing the National Anthem at a special event
16. Helping to raise the National Flag at School
17. Participating in an American Legion Oratory contest
18. Attending a day at Boys State
19. Attending a day at Girls State
20. Touring a local jail facility
21. Attending a Naturalization Ceremony as a spectator
22. Serving as a volunteer at a food warehouse
23. Singing the National Anthem at a Basketball game
24. Spending a minimum of 1 hour picking up trash
25. Interview and visit your County Clerk of Courts
26. Serving as a volunteer at a high school rodeo
27. Interview and observe a Veterinarian at work
28. Interview and observe a Legislative Page
29. Attend and visit an American Legion meeting
30. Attend and visit a VFW meeting
31. Interview and visit with a local tribal member
32. Interview and observe a S.D. N G soldier
33. Stopping and helping a traveler with a flat tire
34. Stopping and helping a traveler in need of help
35. Interview and observe your Co. Clerk of Courts
36. Interview and observe your County Sheriff
37. Interview and observe your Co. Auditor
38. Interview and observe your Co. Librarian
39. Interview your local Co. Highway Engineer
40. Interview and observe your City Police Chief
41. Interview and observe your City Mayor
42. Interview and observe your County Judge
43. Interview and observe your Co. Treasurer
44. Interview and visit your local state legislator
45. Interview and visit your Congressman
46. Interview and visit a local firefighter
47. Interview and visit with a local store retailer
48. Interview and visit with a local dentist
49. Interview and visit with a local attorney
50. Interview and visit with a local barber
51. Interview and visit with a cosmetologist
52. Interview and visit with a medical doctor
53. Interview and visit with a local veteran
54. Interview and visit with a nursing home Dir.
55. Interview and visit with an insurance pro.
56. Interview and visit with an FBI investigator