

# RODEO 101

This class/event is geared towards those young people that may not have any rodeo knowledge or experience, or that want to increase their understanding of America's #1 Sport and gain proficiency in different events.

This will be both a classroom and hands-on exercise, with instructors that are familiar with each rodeo event sharing their knowledge and experience. The introductory session will start with a DVD that explains the sport in general, after which each event will be presented and discussed in greater detail. Equipment for each event will be available to students to handle. After the classroom session, students will get to practice roping, run a barrel or pole pattern, and get to experience bull riding on the bucking machine.

This will be the only "event" during Junior Camp that does not have a maximum class size limit. There will be no live animals used for this event.

## EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

**Barrel racing** is a rodeo event in which a horse and rider attempt to complete a clover-leaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time. It combines the horse's athletic ability and the horsemanship skills of a rider in order to safely and successfully maneuvers a horse through the pattern.

**Goat tying** is a fast paced rodeo event in which the object is to race to the end of the rodeo arena where a goat is staked out on a 10' rope. Contestants dismount their horse and run to the staked-out goat, which then must be thrown on its' side (flanked) and three legs tied together. The contestant with the fastest time wins.

**Pole bending** is a timed event that features a horse and one mounted rider, running a weaving or serpentine path around six poles arranged in a line. Good horsemanship is the foundation for success in pole bending.

**Team roping** is a rodeo event that includes a steer and two mounted cowboys or cowgirls. The first roper is referred to as the "header," the person who ropes the front of the steer, usually around the horns; the second is the "heeler," who ropes the steer by the hind feet.

**Steer wrestling**, also known as **bulldogging**, is a rodeo event in which a horse-mounted rider chases a steer, drops from the horse to the steer, than wrestles the steer to the ground. The steer wrestler has a helper called the *hazer*, whose job is to ride parallel with the steer and ensure it runs in a straight line.

**Chute dogging** includes all the skills of steer wrestling, but without the cowboy being on horseback. A steer is released from the chute with the bulldogger in very close proximity. When the steer reaches a pre-designated line (usually about 10'), the cowboy wrestles the steer to the ground.

**Tie-Down roping**, also known as **calf roping**, is a rodeo event that features a calf, and a rider mounted on a horse. The goal of this timed event is for the rider to catch the calf with a lariat, dismount from the horse, run to the calf, and restrain it by tying three legs together, in as short a time as possible.

**Break-Away Roping** is similar to tie-down roping, but the rider does not dismount and tie the calf.

**Calf tying** includes all the skills of tie-down roping, except the rider does not have to rope the calf. The calf is staked out on a 10' rope. The contestant must ride to the calf, dismount, throw the calf on its' side (flank), and tie three legs together. The contestant with the fastest time wins.

**Bareback bronc riding** is a rough stock event where the rider attempts to stay on a bucking horse for eight seconds, without touching the horse with his free hand. The bareback bronc rider uses one hand to grip a handle (similar to a suitcase handle) on a rigging, placed on the horse's withers. The rider leans back and spurs with and up-and-down motion with his legs, in rhythm with the motion of the horse.

**Saddle bronc riding** is a rodeo event that involves a rodeo participant attempting to ride on a bucking horse for eight seconds. The rider uses a specialized saddle with free swinging stirrups and no horn, called an "association" saddle. The saddle bronc rider grips a braided rein attached to a leather halter worn by the horse. The rider lifts on the rein with one hand, keeping the other hand free, and attempts to find a rhythm with the animal by spurring forwards and backwards with his feet.

**Bull riding** is rodeo sport that involves a rider getting on a bull and attempting to stay mounted for 8 seconds, while the animal attempts to buck off the rider. The cowboy grips a flat braided rope with one hand, and is not allowed to touch the bull or himself with his other hand.

**Steer/calf riding** utilizes the same equipment and provides the same degree of excitement as bull riding; except smaller animals are used (calves and/or steers), as the contestants are generally younger and less experienced.