

2026 ACYRA Summer Program Member Information and Forms

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**MUST be submitted prior to contestant entering the arena*

Please read ALL pages for ACYRA dates, rules, and requirements. Note that some things have changed.

Rule updates/changes/clarification for 2026:

****Gun Raffle:** This will be a new fundraising opportunity for 2026 in order to award better prizes and raise additional funds for the program. All contestants are highly encouraged to participate. More details to come.

****Eligibility to compete:** Please check the box on the rules acknowledgment as to which applies. See Rule #3.

****Clean Up** is now Monday (Not Tuesday) the week of the first rodeo. See Rule #5.

****Changes in the entry system:** Be sure to read carefully on how to enter and deadlines. Late fees will be applied to any entries made after the deadline. See Rules and Regulations #6

****All contestant award winners must be in attendance at the Awards Banquet to receive his/her award.** See Rule #12

****For clarification and examples on age groups and how to determine which age group is right for each contestant see Rule #19 & 22.**

****YRA Point:** Every family is required to work the YRA rodeo that ACYRA hosts in October of 2025. If the family does not work, \$150 must be paid (in place of the work point) prior to the first rodeo the contestant enters in 2026. Fee is waived if the family worked at the most recent YRA rodeo. See Rule #24

****Speed event drag Rule #29**

****Requirement during Goat Events See Rule #38**

****ACYRA directors will enforce Rule #40,41,42 to keep all contestants and animals safe.**

Reminders:

Dress Code- This applies to ALL contestants at ALL rodeos. Contestants will NOT be allowed to enter the arena if not in dress code. See ACYRA Rule #32 for requirements.

Most information can be found on the ACYRA website at www.acyra.org

Join us on Facebook: “ACYRA Summer Rodeo Program”.

We will not be using Remind going forward. Instead a Group Me will be used to communicate timely information. The Group me name is ACYRA Summer Rodeo Program. Scan the QR code to join the group.



Questions regarding ACYRA Summer Program:
Contact Brenna Smidt
Phone # 979-885-9495
austincountyra@gmail.com

Dates and times to remember

ACYRA Summer Program begins on June 3, 2026 and will continue for 6 weeks. The Awards Night will be at Austin County Fair Expo Building on July 10, 2026. The rodeos will begin promptly at 7 P.M. each Wednesday with the window opening at 6 P.M.

2026 schedule

Clean up	Monday,	June 1st at 5:30
Rodeo 1	Wednesday,	June 3rd
Rodeo 2	Wednesday,	June 10th
Rodeo 3	Wednesday,	June 17th
Rodeo 4	Wednesday,	June 24th
Rodeo 5	Wednesday,	July 1nd
Rodeo 6	Wednesday,	July 8th
Awards	Friday,	July 10th at 6:00

AUCTION- We need your help with donations for the auction to be held on Awards night, July 10, 2026. This auction raises money for the awards and prizes. Bring donations any

Wednesday night to the Announcer's box or Awards night at Austin County Fair Expo Building on **July 10, 2026**. Bidders are also needed for the auction. Please invite anyone you know to come and support the kids and also help us raise funds for the program.

SCHOLARSHIPS – The Will Byler Memorial and Garvin Kendrick Scholarship Funds give scholarships each year to ACYRA Graduating Seniors. These scholarships are awarded to ACYRA members only and are presented in July at the Awards Night. **Please contact your high school counselor for the scholarship application.**

ALL scholarship winners need to bring two auction items. The proceeds will go directly to these scholarship funds for future recipients.

2026 Austin County Youth Rodeo Association Rules and Regulations

1. The Austin County Youth Rodeo Summer Program will begin on **June 3, 2026**. The Summer Program will continue for six (6) rodeos, with the last rodeo on July 8, 2026. All rodeos will be held at the Austin County Fairgrounds (Bellville, TX).
2. Each rodeo will begin **promptly at 7:00 PM**.
3. To be eligible to participate in the Austin County Youth Rodeo Summer Program, the contestant must be one of the following: youth living in Austin County, attending an Austin County school, the child (biological or under legal guardianship) of an Austin County school attendee/ graduate. The burden of proof lies with the parent/legal guardian to provide documentation to ACYRA Directors with a diploma, report card or transcript showing school attendance. **Please check the box on the rules acknowledgment as to which applies.**
4. Directors reserve the right to verify an address by requesting a valid Driver's License or Report Card. Any questions regarding where a contestant resides or attends school will be decided upon by the ACYRA Directors -all decisions will be FINAL!
5. **All contestants must submit membership packets to austincountyyra@gmail.com in order to compete. These packets are due and will be accepted in person at clean up Monday, June 1st.**
6. Entry days and times:
Entry forms may be submitted until midnight on **Monday** night the week of the rodeo. Any entries submitted after will be considered late and a \$25 late fee will be applied.

Entry process:

Entry links are listed on the website by rodeo and will be posted to Facebook and Group Me each week. Please be sure to choose the correct rodeo if entering off the website.

How to enter:

Each contestant must be entered separately.

Must enter the contestant's full name and select which events by age group to enter.

How to pay:

In order to enter you must submit payment with the entry. We are using Zeffy to collect payment and entries. Credit cards, ACH, Apple Pay and Google Pay are accepted.

Late Entries:

Any entries made after **Monday** at midnight will be considered **late** and a \$25 late fee will be applied.

7. There are five age groups/categories. Age is determined as of Midnight on December 31, 2025. **Birth certificates must be submitted if not submitted in prior years.**
8. Events include: goat ribbon race, goat tying, straight-away barrels, cloverleaf barrels, pole bending, break-away roping, ribbon roping and tie-down roping. The age group/category and events are described in more detail below.
9. All contestants must have the following forms submitted before he/she enters the arena:
 - Rules Acknowledgment
 - Liability Release and Indemnity Agreement
 - Medical Release
 - Copy of Birth Certificate
10. Current Coggins papers are required for each horse.
11. A professional photographer will be taking pictures. Dates of photographer availability will be announced prior to the rodeo date he/she is available.
12. All contestant award winners must be in attendance at the Awards Banquet to receive his/her award. If the winner is unable to attend the Awards Banquet with approval from the ACYRA Board of Directors, the contestant is still eligible for the awards. However, if the contestant is unable to attend the awards banquet without approval from the ACYRA Board of Directors, the prize will be awarded to the next eligible contestant. For example... Contestants may be excused from being present at awards if and only if there has been an unforeseen, extreme circumstance (ie death, medical emergency, etc) take place where then ACYRA would hold the contestants award and it would not be passed down to the next placing contestant. All contestants must be checked in by 6pm in order to receive awards.
13. The person helping the lead line rider **must be 16 years old or older** and **must remain in contact with the horse at all times.**
14. At the conclusion of the Summer Program the awards to be given are as follows:

a. High Point Winners- in each age group	Saddle
b. Reserve High Point Winners- in each age group	Buckle
c. 1 st Place Event Winners- in each age group	Buckle
d. 2 nd -6 th Place Event Winners- in each age group	Tack
e. Participation Award	Participation Award
f. Sportsmanship Awards- 1 boy & 1 girl	Trophy

g. Scholarships

15. The Austin County Youth Rodeo Association will begin the first Wednesday after school is out for the summer. The first rodeo for the 2026 series will be on June 3rd. The program will continue for six rodeos on Wednesday nights.
16. The Speed Event Entry Fee is \$10.00 per event/per contestant. ALL ROPING EVENTS will be \$30.00 to include the stock charge for the calves.
17. Every contestant (including ribbon muggers) is required to have a signed, notarized Minor's Liability Release Form along with a signed Rules Acknowledgement before entering the arena. Return forms to the Rodeo Secretary.
18. If it rains on Wednesday before the rodeo begins, call 817-760-1829 or 512-576-2295 or a director BEFORE YOU HAUL. Updates will be sent via Group Me and the Facebook page as they are available.
19. There will be five age groups/categories, they are: (The age of a contestant will be determined as of midnight on December 31, 2025)
 - a. **Leadline (ASSISTED age 6 & under)**
 - i. Events: goat ribbon race, straight-away barrels & cloverleaf barrels
 - b. **Peewee (UNASSISTED ages 6 & under)**
 - i. Events: goat ribbon race, straight-away barrels & cloverleaf barrels
 - ii. *Both Boys & Girls
 - c. **Sub-Junior (ages 7 to 10)**
 - i. Events: goat tying, straight-away barrels, cloverleaf barrels, pole bending & break-away roping
 - ii. *Both Boys & Girls
 - d. **Junior (ages 11 to 14)**
 - i. Girls Events: goat tying, cloverleaf barrels, pole bending & break-away roping (**contestants can only compete in three events**)
 - ii. Boys Events: break-away roping, ribbon roping & tie-down roping
 - e. **Senior (ages 15 to 19)**
 - i. Girls Events: goat tying, cloverleaf barrels, pole bending and break-away roping (**contestants can only compete in 3 events**)
 - ii. Boys Events: break-away roping, ribbon roping & tie-down roping

For example, a 6 year old contestant classified in the Peewee age group after proof of age at deadline can only enter PW GOATS, PW STRAIGHTS and PW CLOVERS. If that contestant cannot ride on his/her own then he/she must enter ALL Leadline events. Then that contestant is classified as a Leadline contestant and would receive a Leadline award if qualifications are met. A contestant may not enter PW GOATS and then LL STRAIGHTS and LL CLOVERS. LL and PW cannot mix.

Example 2, a 6 year old contestant classified in the Peewee age group cannot enter up in the SUB JUNIOR POLES just to make a pole run since there isn't PW POLES. That contestant may only enter Peewee events.

Example 3, a 10 year old contestant classified in the Sub Junior age group and entered in SJ Breakaway cannot enter up into the JR BREAKAWAY or SENIOR BREAKAWAY just to make a jackpot run. That contestant may only enter Sub Junior events.

20. Contestants do not have to ride in all 6 rodeos to receive a prize. Prizes are based on the most points.
 21. Contestants and/or their parents are not allowed to linger or cause disruption in the Announcer's Box at any time.
 22. All events in each age group count towards the all around, except for Leadline. There is only participation awards given to all Leadline contestants.
 23. Event points will be earned by contestants who place in each event, each week.
 - 1st place will receive 6 points
 - 2nd place will receive 5 points
 - 3rd place will receive 4 points
 - 4th place will receive 3 points
 - 5th place will receive 2 points
 - 6th place will receive 1 pointExample: If only 3 contestants compete in one event and all have a **qualified time**, 1st place will receive 6 points, 2nd place will receive 5 points and 3rd place will receive 4. Event points will be updated each week and available on the website. Results will also be available on Facebook immediately after the rodeo.
 24. **Work Points:** Contestants and parents are strongly encouraged to help out and make the rodeo go smoothly. As a part of helping, each contestant is required to obtain work points throughout the series. These are a requirement to be eligible to participate in each rodeo and to receive any awards. Each returning contestant is required to earn 7 work points per year. Each NEW contestant is required to earn 6 work points for the first year. Points must be earned each week. Only 1 point/rodeo will count toward the 7 total required. Sign up each week will be available by the concession stand. If a parent is working for a contestant, put the contestant's name under your name. Each contestant/parent is responsible for signing up for work points as well as checking to ensure the accuracy of the work points obtained. Please check this on a weekly basis. Report any questions regarding work points to the rodeo secretary immediately.
- ACYRA host one YRA rodeo during the year (October) and members are required to earn one of the work points during that YRA rodeo.

Work point buyout: You can buy all your points or just the ones you are missing. The buyout fee for each is as follows:

\$25/point for each rodeo work point

\$150/point for the YRA work point

ALL work point fees need to be settled before the contestant can compete in the next rodeo. \$25/each rodeo not worked per family. Payment is due before the rodeo begins at the pay window the following Wednesday.

YRA Point Buyout: \$150 must be paid prior to the beginning of the first rodeo the contestant enters for the 2026 rodeo season if the YRA rodeo was not worked by that family.

25. Sub-Junior Break-Away Roping ONLY: The rule is catch as catch can, but the rope must pass over the head, as per High School rules. If no one has caught after the 6th rodeo, we will have another complete round and so on, until there is a legal catch.
26. Junior & Senior Ribbon Roping Only: The mugger is not qualified to receive any event points.
27. Event places will be determined at the conclusion of the 6-week program by totaling each contestant's event points. The contestant with the highest total score in each event will be the event winner. If two or more contestants have the same total score; the contestant who has the most number of 1st, 2nd, 3rd places and so on, determines the winner. If there is still a tie, we will add the fastest times together all the way down through the six weeks to decide the winner of 1st, 2nd and so on. If it is still a tie, then the tiebreaker will be determined by a flip of the coin. This is the last resort and at the discretion of the ACYRA directors.
28. A contestant must ride/compete in three (3) of the first four (4) rodeos to be eligible to vote or to be nominated for the Sportsmanship Award. Voting for the Sportsmanship Award is done by all eligible contestants at the 5th & 6th rodeos.
29. There will be no arena drags DURING the Pee Wee events. However, there will be a drag AFTER the Pee Wee events are over before starting the Sub Junior events. All other timed events will have a drag after every 10 runs.
30. An electric timer, stop watches, flagman/judge will be used in all events.
31. Dress code:
 - a. Strictly western attire in the arena at all times. (Belts are not required.)
 - b. Shirts must have a collar and full length buttons, snaps, or zipper in the front or back. Shirts must be long sleeved and cuffed. Shirts are to be worn with sleeves down and cuffs buttoned/snapped. No rolled up sleeves.
 - c. Shirts must be tucked in pants at the beginning of the run or ride.
 - d. Only Western hats are acceptable. Hat must be on contestants head when attempting to start the run. Helmets are permitted and shall qualify as a hat.
 - e. No caps, curlers, or curler caps may be worn.
 - f. Western boots must be worn in all events. Boots are to remain on at all times (including goats). Lace up tennis shoes with a riding heel are not considered western boots.

32. Contestants need to be at the gate before their event is called. Each contestant will be called by name. The contestant's name will be called **three (3)** times. If the contestant has not entered the arena, ready to ride, after the third call, they will be disqualified.
33. Only authorized personnel are allowed in the arena during the rodeo. This includes horses and riders. No one is allowed in the announcer's box after the rodeo begins.
34. Horses need not be owned by the contestant. More than one contestant is permitted to ride the same horse. However, we do REQUIRE contestants to NOTIFY us, at the time of entry for the event they will be riding the same horse in the same event.
35. Current Coggins papers will be required on all horses.
36. **No stallions or unruly horses allowed!**
37. All riders must confine their riding to the arena. No riding allowed in the park. No horses are allowed in the concession area (tied, led or ridden). No riding double at any time. **These rules will be strictly enforced for your safety.**
38. **During the goat events, all contestants and helpers will be required to stay outside of the white box until the contestant has been called to compete.**
39. Contestants led on horseback or assisted by anyone while competing in the arena, **CANNOT** place higher than a contestant who was not led or assisted while competing in the arena.
40. **Absolutely no riding in halters at any time. Every rider must ride their horse in a bit and bridle if on horseback.**
41. **No riding double at any time.**
42. **The back gate will remain closed during the speed events.**
43. Any contestant and/or the contestant's parent displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, unruly behavior, using profanity, or under the influence of drugs/alcohol will be grounds for that contestant to be disqualified. No smoking will be permitted by any contestant. This includes, but not limited to vaping, e-cigarettes, or Julies- with or without nicotine.
44. **PROTESTS:** Any and all disputes must be brought to one of the current ACYRA Directors along with the \$50.00 fee before the next event starts. **This fee must be filed with all disputes.** The ACYRA directors will meet to discuss the said dispute and make a decision. **ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**
45. **NO REFUNDS!** If you pay in advance or get disqualified for any reason, there will be **NO** refunds given. If unforeseen event get board approval for refund.

46. Rules will be enforced in the following order:

- a. ACYRA Rules
- b. YRA Rules

It is the responsibility of the contestant and the parent of the contestant knowing and understanding all rules related to the ACYRA Summer Program.

47. The Austin County Youth Rodeo Association (ACYRA) and/or its directors **are not responsible** for any accidents and/or theft that occur during the Summer Program.

48. The ACYRA Directors reserve the right to amend or change any of these rules at any time.

ACYRA Officers

President-

Troy Keaton
Phone #: 979-732-0811

Rodeo Director-

Reagan Freeman
Phone #: 817-760-1829

Rodeo Secretary-

Brenna Smidt
Phone #: 979-885-9495

Sponsorships-

Katelyn Keaton
Phone # - 979-732-0811

Vice President-

Wes Hobbs
Phone #: 512-576-2295

Communications Director-

Alyssa Werner
Phone #: 713-447-5700

Treasurer-

Becca Luedke
Phone #: 979-885-8161

ACYRA Directors

Troy & Katelyn Keaton Katelyn: 979-472-8920 Troy: 979-732-0811	Wes & Christy Hobbs Christy: 512-417-7255 Wes: 512-576-2295
Caleb & Brenna Smidt Caleb: 361-648-4632 Brenna: 979-885-9495	Josh & Reagan Freeman Reagan: 817-760-1829 Josh: 682-416-8766
Trey & Alyssa Werner Trey: 281-939-2913 Alyssa: 713-447-5700	Doug & Amber Bass Doug: 979-877-4454 Amber: 979-255-2458
Cody & Bonnie Cerny Bonnie: 979-533-1244 Cody: 979-533-1940	Will & Ashleigh Wingo Ashleigh: 979-270-3665 Will: 979-270-1568
Heath & Melanie Wiktorik Heath: 979-877-8440 Melanie: 979-877-4065	Chad & Jamie Janosky Jamie: 979-215-9438 Chad: 713-392-1203

RULES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Fill out all information – Used for contact information only

PARENTS NAME _____ CELL NUMBER _____

PARENTS NAME _____ CELL NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS

CHILDREN(S) NAME(S)

CURRENT ADDRESS

I/WE _____ have read all the ACYRA Rules above and understand to the fullest extent of my ability.

Parent Signature

Date

Contestant Signature

Date

- Currently attend an Austin County School
- Child of an Austin County Alumni
- Currently reside at an Austin County Address

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, for being allowed to enter into or participate in the events known as the Austin County Youth Rodeo Summer Series (such entry into or participation in, being the "Activities") associated with the Austin County Youth Rodeo Association, a Texas domestic nonprofit corporation ("ACYRA"), the undersigned hereby enter into this Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement (this "Agreement") as of the date set forth below. This Agreement shall remain in effect for as long as the undersigned participate in the Activities.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS:** The undersigned recognize and understand that there are risks associated with their participation in the Activities, including, but not limited to, bodily injury or death to persons, and theft, damage, or destruction to property. The undersigned further acknowledge and understand that they shall be liable and responsible for any and all damage to persons, livestock, vehicles, property, or improvements to property that is caused by them or any person under their care and control (including minors) that arise out of or are related to their participation in the Activities.

WARNING: UNDER TEXAS LAW (CHAPTER 87, TEXAS CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE), A FARM ANIMAL PROFESSIONAL OR FARM OWNER OR LESSEE IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN FARM ANIMAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING AN EMPLOYEE OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF FARM ANIMAL ACTIVITIES. UNDER TEXAS LAW (CHAPTER 87, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE), A LIVESTOCK SHOW SPONSOR IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN A LIVESTOCK SHOW RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF LIVESTOCK SHOW ACTIVITIES.

2. **RELEASE FROM LIABILITY:** The undersigned hereby release, acquit, and forever discharge ACYRA, its subsidiaries and affiliates, present and former directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and representatives and their respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and assigns (collectively, the "ACYRA Parties") from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, settlements, and expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees) for personal injury, death, or property damage, accrued or to accrue in the future, known or unknown (collectively, "Claims"), related to or arising out of any act in connection with their participation in the Activities, including, but not limited to, the negligent actions of the ACYRA Parties, regardless of whether such negligence was the sole, proximate, or producing cause of the claims. Without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned agree that the ACYRA Parties shall not be liable to the undersigned, their families, heirs, administrators, executors, or assigns for Claims related to or arising out of the undersigned's participation in the Activities.

3. **AGREEMENT TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS:** The undersigned hereby agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless, the ACYRA Parties from any and all Claims including, but not limited to, those related to or arising out of the ACYRA Parties' own negligence, regardless of whether such negligence was the sole, proximate, or producing cause of the Claims; provided, however, that the duty of the undersigned to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the ACYRA Parties shall extend only to Claims arising directly or indirectly from the undersigned's participation in the Activities. As used in this Agreement, "indemnify" means to agree to assume the ACYRA Parties' liability as to any and all claims, causes of action, suits, demands, judgments, settlements, fees, and expenses made by, through, or under the undersigned against the ACYRA Parties, related to the undersigned's participation in the Activities; and "negligence" includes negligence and gross negligence.

4. **PHOTOGRAPH/INTERVIEW RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT:** The undersigned hereby grant permission to be photographed, videoed, recorded, and interviewed in connection with the Activities. The undersigned understand that any such photographs, videos, recordings, and interviews

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

In the event of an emergency, I give my consent and allow a Director of the Austin County Youth Rodeo Association (ACYRA) to transport by ambulance or personal automobile, my child/children to the Bellville Medical Center for treatment to begin. List each/all child/children below:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent's Name Printed _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____/_____
Notary Public / Print Name

_____ County, State of Texas (Seal)

****NEW VERIFICATION DOCUMENT NEEDED FOR 2026 ACYRA SUMMER SERIES****

All contestants must provide original or copy of their own legal birth certificate for age verification purposes in order to compete in the upcoming summer rodeo series. If contestant has previously submitted their birth certificate then it is not require to resubmit.

Failure to provide documentation will result in the contestant not being allowed to participate in the summer rodeo series until proper documentation is provided.

If presenting the original birth certificate to Board for review, a scanner will be accessible onsite so that original copy will immediately be given back to the contestant. For your convenience, scanned copies of birth certificates may also be emailed to austincountyra@gmail.com.