



**Press Release
Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Colorado Rodeos, One Big Payout

Elizabeth, Colorado - April 24, 2016 - Colorado's rodeo tradition is as fundamental to the state's history as its very name. "Rodeo" and "Colorado" are both Spanish words from the time of the state's early settlements and its cattle industry. Rodeos started from the need for cooperation among cowboys and ranchers to gather free-range cattle and get them to market. Friendly competitions between ranches were commercialized to become traveling entertainment venues with headliners like Buffalo Bill, Annie Oakley, and Tom Mix.

Today's events range from big-money rodeos such as Denver's National Western Stock Show and Rodeo hosted by organizations with thousands of staff and volunteers, to community and ranch rodeos held in local municipal arenas and on private property. In between the largest and smallest, are mid-size and small professional rodeos. Small rodeos mean big action, close-up.

This year four Colorado small rodeos have partnered to host an exciting competition for PRCA cowboys (Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association). The four-rodeo series will reward three top bronc riders with an additional \$6,000 total payout. This series incentive is open to all cowboys who enter and compete in bareback bronc riding or saddle bronc riding at all four rodeos:

- Royal Gorge Rodeo in Canon City, May 6 and 7
- Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo in Elizabeth, June 4 and 5
- Cattlemen's Days in Gunnison, July 14, 15, and 16
- Ski Hi Stampede in Monte Vista, July 29, 30 and 31

Each ride is an 8-second adrenaline rush for riders and spectators alike. During a ride, the cowboy must keep one hand in the air, not touching the animal, himself or the equipment. Points are scored to both rider and horse by two PRCA judges. Cowboys must show style, control, and movement. The horse is judged on how hard he makes it for the cowboy to stay on. A good score in bareback riding is in the low 80s while an excellent score is in the high 80s to 90s.

The cowboy earning the highest aggregate score will win an incentive payout of \$3,500 and a Champion's buckle by IM Silver. The cowboy with the second highest aggregate score will take home \$2,000, and the cowboy with the third highest aggregate score will receive \$500.00. "Smaller rodeos compete for the top cowboy talent. Incentives like these will help get Colorado

onto the route maps of high-scoring riders.” says Ron Howard, Chair of the Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo’s Production Committee.

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Background: Producing annual rodeos for over 50 years the Elizabeth Stampede is a top-ranking rodeo in our state and region: Thirteen times Mountain States Circuit Rodeo of the Year in our size category, most recently in 2015; three times PRCA Small Rodeo of the Year, and with exceptional ground, our rodeo was voted by the Women’s Professional Rodeo Association Board of Directors as Small Rodeo of the Year in 2013.

Elizabeth, Colorado, home of the Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo, is about 50 miles southeast of downtown Denver and less than 30 miles from Aurora and the Denver Tech Center. Rodeo weekend kicks off Thursday, June 2nd with a concert featuring Tracy Lawrence, with special guest Chancey Williams and The Younger Brothers Band, followed by PRCA Xtreme Bulls® on Friday night, June 3rd. Then the bronc riding series starts with the Saturday afternoon performance June 4th at 2pm and continues for two more shows on Saturday night at 7pm and Sunday afternoon at 2pm. Concert tickets are \$27 and \$32, PRCA Xtreme Bulls are \$22, tickets for the two afternoon shows are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children ages 4-12 (3 and under are free). Saturday night tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for children ages 4-12. Tickets for all events can be purchased online at <http://elizabethstampede.com> , or at the gate if not sold out.

Royal Gorge Rodeo is hosted by the Canon City Rodeo Association, a non-profit organization formed in 1937. The first rodeo in Canon City was held in 1872 and known as the “Old Settlers Reunion.”

Gunnison Cattlemen’s Days started out in the 1800’s between spring calving and summer haying when area ranchers took a break to test their skills with riding and roping contests on Main Street in Gunnison.

The first San Luis Valley Ski-High Stampede was held in August 1919. Newspapers of the times reported a turnout of more than 10,000 spectators.

For more information about each of the rodeos, please visit their websites:

- Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo, <http://elizabethstampede.com>
- Royal Gorge Rodeo, <http://www.canoncityrodeoassociation.com>
- Gunnison Cattlemen’s Days, <http://www.cattlemensdays.com>
- San Luis Valley Ski High Stampede, <http://www.skihstampede.com>