



2022 Rowell Ranch Rodeo Essay Contest Entries Due April 25 (for May 14, 2022 Parade)

This Year's Theme: "BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN!"

The **Castro Valley Rotary Club** invites all elementary students in Castro Valley (public, private or homeschool) to participate in an Art and Essay contest. This year's Rotary theme "Back in the saddle again" was chosen to celebrate the re-opening of the Rowell Ranch Rodeo after the pandemic, and to honor their 100th year event which we were scheduled to celebrate in 2020. This year we will kick off our rodeo celebration with the Chili Cook-off being held on our traditional Friday night, May 13th, with the parade to follow the next morning. **Art work and Essays are judged in three levels: K-1, 2-3, and 4-5, with two prizes in each of the three grade levels. Following are the guidelines:**

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

In May each year, a rodeo is held at the Rowell Ranch Rodeo in Castro Valley. You may not have seen a rodeo before. It is much like a fair. At the Rowell Ranch Rodeo you can see cute farm animals as you stroll through the fields, have fun with face painting, and eat hot dogs, ice cream, and yummy kettle corn too! What is your favorite thing to do at a fair? Write about your favorite things to do and see at a fair. Draw or paint a picture of yourself and your friends or family at the fair or a rodeo.

2nd and 3rd Grade

Have you ever done something that you can't wait to do again? Have you ever gone somewhere so special that you can close your eyes and picture every moment? These are memories that make **your** life so special. What memory do you look forward to doing again? Maybe you can't wait to hop up on your favorite pony for a ride, or dip your feet in the ocean again. Perhaps you look forward to watching your family pop popcorn on an open campfire, just like the cowboys did. Have you ever gazed up at the sparkling stars at night, or slept out in a tent? I wonder what it would be like to be a cowboy. Do you have a favorite cowboy you have seen or read about in a story book or movie... like "Woody" from the movie "Toy Story"? Wow! He has had many adventures! Cowboys have shared many memories too. They remember riding many miles on their horses, playing their harmonica under the stars, and always looking forward to getting "Back in the saddle again".

4th and 5th Grade

All traditional cowboys know the excitement of being "Back in the saddle again!" But what does this mean for you? These past two years we have had to put a hold on so many things that we used to take for granted. But now our world is opening up again! What did you miss most during the pandemic, and what are you most excited to do now? Is it getting back into the classroom and seeing all of your friends in person once more? Perhaps you are looking forward to taking a family vacation this summer, or being able to celebrate your birthday with your friends again. Maybe you will be able to sign up for your favorite sports team, or take that special airplane ride to visit relatives. What positive changes have you made in your life during this pandemic? Have you learned to be more patient, and become closer with your family? Perhaps you have become a pro at navigating zoom, or have become more organized and self-motivated in doing your homework and household chores. It is amazing how we can learn to appreciate even the smallest of things when we are challenged.

Essay: Submit an essay of 150 words or less. Essays over 150 words will not be judged.

OR

ART: Submit an Artwork project. Artwork needs to be flat, and no larger than 17"x 22".

Judging will be in three categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5 with two prizes awarded for each level.

First Place Prize: Award Plaque, 4 tickets to attend the Rowell Ranch Rodeo, ride in the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade, Publication of your work on www.castrovalleyrotary.org

First Runner-up Prize: Award Plaque, 2 tickets to attend the Rowell Ranch Rodeo, ride in the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade, publication of your work on www.castrovalleyrotary.org

Send or deliver your essay or art work along with the name of your school, your name, grade, address, phone number and parent's email address **ON THE BACK** to either address below:

ADDRESS: Dawn Ortiz
4507 Recreation Rd.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Castro Valley Rotary Club
P.O. Box 2117
Castro Valley, CA 94546

You may also email your essay to ortiz.dawn@gmail.com.

All entries must be received by April 25th. All decisions are final. All entries become the sole property of the Castro Valley Rotary Club. For further information, please contact: art-essay-contest@rowellranchrodeoparade.com or ortiz.dawn@gmail.com