

GET READY FOR A
PURE ADRENALINE RUSH.

BULLS, BRONCS AND BRAVERY AT THE OLD FORT DAYS RODEO



Whether you thrill to a cowboy's eight seconds on a bull's twisting back or a cowgirl's run for the barrels on her prized horse, it's gonna be an edge-of-your-seat ride! At the historic Old Fort Days Rodeo in Fort Smith, **400 TOP COMPETITORS** gather each year for a professional rodeo that offers **PULSE-POUNDING, INSPIRING FAMILY FUN.** Rodeo highlights the courage and determination of the Old West – even kids show their grit as they try to stay on the back of a running sheep in "mutton bustin'." Audiences still gasp at the sheer guts of rodeo clowns who run for a bull to distract him from a downed rider, putting their own lives on the line to protect others.

The Old Fort Days Rodeo has been a **POPULAR ATTRACTION FOR 87 YEARS,** filling the 7,000 seats in the arena stadium for six days surrounding **MEMORIAL DAY.** Upbeat country and bluegrass music pumps through the arena, and concessions flow with favorites like funnel cake, lemonade, BBQ and beer, while food trucks have now added a variety of delicious cuisines. Affordable ticket prices include great discounts for families on Family Nights. VIP seats offer bull's-eye views from behind the bucking chutes as well as access to the Gold Nugget Room for dinner and



drinks. Any way you go, this rodeo will offer an authentic taste of the cowboy lifestyle to enhance your visit to one of the most historic frontier towns in America.

Rodeo started over a century ago as a way for frontier riders and ropers to have some fun competing with their ranching skills. Even in the first years of the Old Fort Days Rodeo back in the 1930s, a wide variety of acts gave star power to the event. **COWGIRLS RODE BUCKING BRONCOS.** Trick roping and trick riding were jaw-dropping featured entertainments, as they still are in today's rodeo.

At the rodeo, animals take center stage along with humans. Admiration for the independence of a champion bull that refuses to be ridden is part of

rodeo values. **TEAM ROPING** requires seamless human-animal collaboration that takes years of training and self-discipline for both rider and horse.

Cowboys and cowgirls know better than anyone that nature is not always a force that can be controlled by human beings. When rodeo folk go out to ride, they do so accepting that nature is powerful and requires our utmost respect. In the rodeo, riders face a contest not only with spirited animals, but with their own spirits. And that's why over a century later, we're still catching our breath as we root for every person and animal to show their courage and talent in the ring.



Jacel Andrews of the legendary Andrews Rodeo Company in Bagwell, Texas, will attend this rodeo for the fifth time in 2021.

"The Old Fort Days Rodeo is full of culture," Andrews said. "It symbolizes the **TRUE WESTERN WAY** of the rodeo cowboy, from the large, colorful grand entry to the mutton bustin' and live rodeo action with some of the best stock matched with some of the best cowboys in the world."

To experience the excitement of the West in the heart of the historic frontier, plan your trip to the rodeo and Fort Smith around the Memorial Day holiday! ★★★