

It's Rodeo Time!!!

The main focus of a School Bus Rodeo is SAFETY. The more training and practice a driver has the safer he or she will be. Rodeo is a great skill builder that is beneficial to the drivers, the company, school district and the students that ride the bus.

**Special Notice: the 2018 Rodeo Books are now available on [www.castoways.org](http://www.castoways.org) .**

We are excited to announce the rapid approach of the 2018 Rodeo Season, which will be initiated this year by the Chapter 3 Special Needs Rodeo in San Diego and the Chapter 8 Rodeo in Clovis, both taking place on February 24<sup>th</sup> (see Upcoming Events/Chapter Rodeos on [www.castoways.org](http://www.castoways.org)). Before most of the Rodeos get started there will be final opportunities to prepare and learn more about Rodeo at the Chapter 20 Rodeo Workshop taking place on both February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Phelan and at the Chapter 12 Rodeo Workshop taking place on February 24<sup>th</sup> in Bakersfield. But that's just the beginning, in March prior to the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual CASTO Conference in San Diego, four more Chapter Rodeos will take place. March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the Chapter 4 Rodeo in Gardena and the Chapter 14 Rodeo in Visalia, followed by the Chapter 12 Rodeo on March 10<sup>th</sup> in Bakersfield and the Chapter 3 Rodeo on March 17<sup>th</sup> in San Diego. No, that's not all, there will still be six additional Chapter Rodeos after Conference and before the Sectional Rodeos (more about them in the future). So break out the equipment and start fine tuning your skills in preparation for the 2018 Rodeo Season. We are looking forward to a lot of brand new, as well as, returning contestants and hope to see a lot of new faces and new districts/companies participating for the benefit of all.

I also wish to once again congratulate the current Special Needs Champion (Ismael Arias of San Diego USD) and his teammate (Robelyn Watson also of San Diego USD) as they will be proudly representing CASTO and California at the National Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo in Frisco, Texas on March 10<sup>th</sup>. They are both very deserving of our support and admiration and I expect to be very proud of their upcoming performance at the National Competition.

Please keep in mind that the Northern Sectional Rodeo will once again take place first, this year, and that the deadline for early registration is April 14<sup>th</sup> followed by the early registration deadline for the Southern Sectional Rodeo on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Northern Sectional Rodeo will once again take place at the Galt Market on April 28<sup>th</sup> and the Southern Sectional Rodeo will take place at a new location, Lot K of the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on May 5<sup>th</sup> **[registration for the Southern Sectional will be from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.](#)**. Please encourage each and every contestant to continue on to one of the Sectional Rodeos and each of us should also be there, and encourage others to be there, to judge, support, and cheer them on. Of course every contestant that places at a Sectional Rodeo will also qualify to compete in the California State Championship Rodeo on May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Galt Market. It is also important to remember that **[CASTO will only sponsor members in good standing for those who qualify to continue to a National Competition](#)**; therefore, they should all be reminded of the many benefits of CASTO membership. Let's make this a Rodeo Season to remember, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Rodeos.

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State Rodeo Chair – John Cain

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