

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.

Since the last installment on March 2nd six more Chapter Rodeos have taken place as we conclude the March portion of the season and now take a break for Conference. The actual contestant counts for Chapters 4, 2, 1, and 12 were 61, 66+, 65, and 93. Impressive numbers and a marked improvement for many. I do not know the numbers for Chapters 14 and 17, but perhaps they will share and hopefully they also experienced a great success. By the way Dale Sharp of Snowline is making a concerted effort to fill Doug's shoes. Also, Napa has already made two journeys to Chapters 4 and 12 in the south and is also planning on attending the Chapter 20 Rodeo in Apple Valley. I think they mean business! Additionally, I am very happy to share that I heard from a reliable source that the reigning State Champion, Derek Bosserman, will no longer be a team of one, he's bringing some friends from Tahoe-Truckee. We have also seen new participation surfacing from Durham School Services, Antelope Valley School Transportation Agency, Southwest Transportation Agency, and possibly others.

As we move into April we still have four Chapter Rodeos remaining before the first of the State Rodeos. The Chapter 3 and Chapters 7/19 Rodeos will both take place on April 8th in San Diego and San Jose. The Chapter 6 Rodeo has had a change in dates due to unforeseen circumstances and will now take place on **April 15th** at the Galt Market (the updated information is already available under upcoming events). The final Chapter Rodeo of the season will once again be Chapter 20 in Apple Valley on April 22nd. Also, this is the only Chapter Rodeo that includes the Wheelchair Loading Escort event and gives awards in all of the same categories as the Sectional Rodeos (including Special Needs).

Please keep in mind that the Northern Sectional Rodeo will take place first, this year, and that the deadline for early registration is April 15th (only two more weeks) followed by the early registration deadline for the Southern Sectional Rodeo on April 22nd (only three more weeks). The Northern Sectional Rodeo will once again take place at the Galt Market on April 29th and the Southern Sectional Rodeo will also once again take place at the Irwindale Speedway on May 6th. 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 28th 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.

For more information: castoroadeo@gmail.com

State Rodeo Chair – John Cain
