

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 final versions of the 2018 Rodeo Books are now available on www.castoways.org .

We have now entered into the 2018 Rodeo Season, which was 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 24th. Next up after those first two were the Chapter 4 and Chapter 14 Rodeos on March 3rd. But that's just the beginning, in March prior to the 50th Annual CASTO Conference in San Diego, two more Chapter Rodeos will take place. On March 10th will be the Chapter 12 Rodeo in Bakersfield and the Chapter 3 Rodeo on March 17th in San Diego. No, that's not all, there will still be six additional Chapter Rodeos after Conference and before the Northern, Southern, and Championship State Rodeo (see Upcoming Events/Chapter Rodeos on www.castoways.org). So break out the equipment and continue fine tuning your skills in preparation for the remainder of 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 10th. 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 **this year the Northern Sectional Rodeo, Southern Sectional Rodeo, and the Championship Rodeo will all three be combined into one CASTO State Sectional & Championship Rodeo on May 27th at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools in Bakersfield**. The deadline for early registration is May 12th and final registration closes on May 18th. Please encourage each and every contestant to continue on to the CASTO State Rodeo in Bakersfield and each of us should also be there, and encourage others to be there, to judge, support, and cheer them on. I have been receiving questions about who can qualify to attend and the answer is everyone. Think of it like two Sectional Rodeos both being conducted at the same time and in the same place. All of the same awards will be given to both Northern and Southern Contestants, but at the end we will also announce the State Team Champions, the Special Needs Champion, Third Place, Second Place, and the Grand State Champion (along with all that are eligible to continue to the International Competition in Philadelphia). 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 (State Champion and Special Needs Champion)**; therefore, all should 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: castorodeo@gmail.com

State Rodeo Chair – John Cain
