

Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase

Program Specifications

The National Western Stock Show Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase was created to provide youth within the equine industry an opportunity to showcase their talents in freestyle reining in an exhibition routine and be recognized during a prestigious event at the National Western Stock Show. Applications will be accepted through the website until September 30, 2026. **Read the specifications below carefully BEFORE submitting an application. By signing and submitting an application, you agree to all the specifications.**

1. To be eligible, you must:
 - a. Be between the ages of 14-21 as of September 30, 2026, inclusive.
 - b. Be a current member of NRHA
 - c. Have a horse with an NRHA license
 - d. Possess potential in freestyle reining
 - e. Have not ridden in the previous year's Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase
2. Interested youth will need to submit a completed application and a video showing the horse/rider pair's potential for a freestyle reining performance.
 - a. The video should be submitted via a link on the application (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.), be no longer than four minutes and be set to allow others to view.
3. Completed applications will be accepted through the website until September 30, 2026 11:59 p.m. MST.
 - a. Visit <https://nationalwestern.com/horse-shows/horse-exhibitors/horse-youth-programs/> for the application link.
4. Applications will be reviewed and up to three (3) outstanding individuals will be selected to participate and notified in November.
 - a. Selections will be based on:
 - i. Quality
 - ii. Talent
 - iii. Creativity

iv. Entertainment

5. Logistics

- a. By submitting an application, interested youth agree to abide by National Western Stock Show Horse Show Rules & Regulations as well as the NRHA Rule Book.
- b. Selected youth will be required to attend a logistics meeting prior to show, via conference call or Zoom.
- c. Selected youth will perform their exhibition freestyle reining routine prior to the \$30,000 Invitational Freestyle Reining on Sunday, January 10, 2027.
- d. Routines should follow NRHA freestyle reining guidelines and be entertaining with creative elements including, but not limited to, music, lights, props, costumes.
- e. Complete entries will be due prior to show.
- f. Music for each routine will be limited to three (3) minutes in length. Any edits will need to be done by the selected youth and submitted as an mp3 via email by the deadline.
- g. Songs selected and used in the previous two Invitational Freestyle Reining events (including the Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase) will not be available for use for the 2027 event. A list of songs used in 2025 and 2026 is available on the website on the Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase Application page.
- h. Selected youth will be required to attend a rider's meeting and rehearsal on Saturday, January 9, 2027 to practice with the NWSS production team.
- i. Interested youth may, and are encouraged to, complete an application for both the Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase and the \$30,000 Invitational Freestyle Reining. The \$30,000 Invitational Freestyle Reining will take precedence in selections unless otherwise noted.
- j. Riders may not participate in both the \$30,000 Invitational Freestyle Reining and the Youth Freestyle Reining Showcase in the same year.

6. Call or email the NWSS Horse Show Department with questions: 303-299-5525 or horse@nationalwestern.com