

If you qualify for the State 4H Finals Rodeo – here is some information you need to know.

To qualify for the Finals Rodeo – If you place in the top 4 places of an event at any Regional Rodeo you will automatically be entered into the Finals Rodeo in that event. **You will not be notified by the Finals Secretary; this is your responsibility to keep track of your qualifications.** The South Dakota 4H Finals rodeo is held in Ft Pierre, SD August 14-16, 2026.

SD 4-H Finals Rodeo

The rodeo is two go-rounds with an average. The rodeo is held in four performances. The first go-round is Friday night and Saturday morning. The second go-round is Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Each contestant will compete in each round for events they qualify for. Each contestant will compete on either Friday Night/Sunday morning **OR** Saturday morning/Saturday evening for each event they qualify. Which performance you compete in is a randomized draw with no guarantee that you will have all events in the same performance.

There are awards presented for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place in each go-round that will be handed out at the rodeo office after each round (after Saturday morning and after Sunday morning performances). The Average awards include a saddle for 1st place and buckles for 2nd, 3rd and 4th. There is an awards ceremony held after the performance on Sunday to present the average awards. If you win an average award, you are expected to attend the ceremony and pick up your award. Awards will not be mailed.

More information about the Finals is listed on the Finals tab on the 4H Rodeo website (www.sd4hrodeo.org).

Entry Fees for SD 4-H Finals Inc Rodeo

Entry fees are due when you check-in at the State Finals. Check-in is located under the grandstands at the Stanley County Fairgrounds before the performance on Friday afternoon (August 14) or Saturday morning (August 15). Entry fees and additional information are on: www.sd4hrodeo.org.

If entry fees paid by check are returned to the SD 4-H Finals Inc. Rodeo, for any reason including non-sufficient funds (NSF), the 4-H member is no longer considered in “good standing,” and will be removed from the Rodeo Eligibility list and cannot compete in 4-H Regional and/or 4-H Finals Rodeo for the following year or until the owed entry fees are paid, a \$30 reprocessing fee plus any bank fees that the SD 4-H Finals Inc. Rodeo incurs because of the returned check transaction.

Notified Turnout

If a contestant qualifies in the top four at a Regional Rodeo and does **not** wish to complete in one or all of their events at the Finals, they must notify the SD 4-H Finals Secretary via **email** (4HFinalsSecretary@gmail.com) on or before August 3, 2026.

Contestants who fail to notify the SD 4-H Finals Secretary of events they do not wish to participate in are responsible for paying the entry fees for those events and will not be allowed to compete the following year until those fees are paid.

Team Roping Changes

Team ropers will be entered for Finals based on the first regional rodeo where the team qualified. If you plan to rope with someone other than the first person you qualified with, you must submit changes on the “Team Roping Correction Form” to the Finals Rodeo Secretary by Monday, August 3rd. The forms can be emailed to (4HFinalsSecretary@gmail.com). You can download the form from the 4H Rodeo website (www.sd4hrodeo.org). **NOTE: Team Roping corrections are NOT accepted by telephone.**

Finals Drawing Positions

Positions must be randomly drawn for all events. Positions will be computer drawn. You cannot choose a preferred Performance UNLESS you have a conflict with another 4-H Event (i.e. County Livestock Show). If a contestant is showing livestock (not static exhibits) at the County’s 4-H Achievement Days, the contestant may have a set performance for Friday/Sunday or Saturday/Saturday. Submit Set Performance documentation from the County 4-H Office describing the conflict to the SD 4-H Finals Inc. Rodeo Secretary on/before August 1, 2026. The email for the 4-H Finals Secretary is 4HFinalsSecretary@gmail.com.

Trade Out Rule

Once the draw is posted on the 4-H Rodeo Website, the only way the random draw can be altered is with the Trade-Out rule. A contestant wishing to change their set performance can find a contestant in the same event who is in the opposite performance and request their draw spots to be switched. BOTH contestants must send an email to the 4-H Finals Secretary requesting the change. If there is not an email received from both contestants, the trade will not be processed. There is a 24-hour deadline from the time the draw is posted, there will be a clock on the 4-H Rodeo website that is the official time deadline for the trades to occur.

EXAMPLE: John Doe in Sr. Calf Roping on Friday night and Sunday morning can trade with Jake Doe in Sr. Calf Roping on Saturday am and Saturday pm. **Requests to trade must be emailed to the secretary within 24 hours of the draw being posted. BOTH CONTESTANTS MUST EMAIL 4H FINALS SECRETARY THEIR PERMISSION BEFORE THE DRAW WILL BE CHANGED.** In the event of a team roping trade, emails must be received from ALL FOUR contestants (both headers and both heelers). A change will only be allowed if there is a trade able to be made. In the event a contestant cannot find someone to trade performances with OR both contestants wanting a trade do not meet the time deadline which is exactly 24 hours, then no trade will be made, and the Contestants will keep their original draw. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Stalls

Due to limited space, all horses must be stalled with the Stanley County Fairgrounds, tied to a trailer, or kept off site overnight. **Absolutely no pens of any nature are allowed on the grounds.** With the large number of pickups, trailers, and horses on the grounds, please use as little space as possible to ensure that all contestants have room to park their pickups and trailers. The on-site stalling process is controlled by the **Stanley County Fairgrounds staff and not within the control of the 4H Finals Rodeo Committee.** See the Stall Information link under the Finals Rodeo tab on the SD 4H Rodeo website (www.sd4Hrodeo.org) for more information. **Please note, Stall Forms will NOT be accepted until June 22, 2026.**

Camping

There are a limited number of camping spots available on the fairgrounds. There are 16 Full spots and 48 spots with electricity only. Reservations for these spots are handled by the Stanley County Fairgrounds staff and not within the control of the 4H Finals Rodeo Committee. See the "Camping/Lodging Information" link on the Finals Rodeo tab on the SD 4-H Rodeo website (www.sd4Hrodeo.org) for complete information.

On-Grounds Parking

Due to the continued growth in participation and the increasing number of contestants at the 4-H Finals Rodeo, the Finals Rodeo Committee is asking for your cooperation in helping manage traffic and reduce congestion on the rodeo grounds.

To help with this effort, we are asking families to limit themselves to one vehicle and one trailer on the grounds. Please be mindful of your parking choices to ensure space is available and accessible for all participants.

The area directly behind the south arena bleachers will be reserved for handicapped parking only. Please keep this space clear to ensure it remains accessible to those who need it.

We are relying on everyone to self-monitor and be respectful of shared space. If parking congestion continues to be an issue, we may need to explore more formal measures in the future, which could result in added costs and logistical changes for upcoming events.

We're sharing this information early to give families time to plan ahead and support a smooth and safe rodeo experience for all.

4-H Rodeo Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on the SD 4-H Rodeo website (www.sd4hrodeo.org). Scholarships are for high school seniors and college/university/technical institute freshman who participate in the SD 4-H Finals Inc. Rodeo. The scholarship application deadline is August 1, 2026. Personal interviews will be conducted during the Finals rodeo.