

# Utah High School Rodeo Hosts PRCA Camp

The Utah High School Rodeo Association became the first NHSRA state association to host a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Championship Rodeo Camp when 30 cowboys converged on the Wasatch County Event Center in Heber City, Utah, the last weekend in October.

"I felt like we had to get involved because our roughstock numbers were really hurting," said Utah National Director Kelly Anderson. "Even our bull riding numbers had really dropped off, so I felt like this was one way to encourage people to give our sport a try."

Held in conjunction with the PRCA's Wilderness Circuit Finals Rodeo, the camp featured top-notch instruction from world champions Kaycee Feild in bareback riding and Wesley Silcox in bull riding. Utah's Wright family took care of the saddle bronc riding instruction, with Jesse (the world standings leader heading into the National Finals Rodeo this month), Jake and Alex all showing up to lend a hand.

"Our numbers in bareback riding and saddle bronc riding have been dropping – just like everyone's," said Anderson. "But the drop in bull riding – rodeo's most popular event – is what really got me alarmed."

Anderson was familiar with the PRCA camps, which provide roughstock cowboys of all skill levels with a free opportunity to learn and practice the fundamentals of their events.

"Because the camps are free, they really are a great place to give rodeo a try," said PRCA Manager of Industry Outreach Julie Jutten. "We have bull riders who come to the camps and then decide to spend some time trying bareback riding and saddle bronc riding. It's free and we offer world-class instructors, so this is the place to give it a shot."

While beginners will obviously benefit from the camps, Jutten said there's plenty of reason for even experienced cowboys to make the effort to attend.

"There's always something to learn," she said. "We offer

those who attend the camp the chance to learn from some of the best cowboys in the business. Who wouldn't want to spend some time learning bareback riding from Kaycee Feild? We've gotten a lot of great support from high school rodeo's state associations with these camps. I think we can all agree that they are a win-win situation for everyone in our sport."

Anderson said many of the attendees at the camp were already high school or junior high members, but that the state gained a couple of new bareback riders from the 30 or so attendees.

"It was such a neat experience for the kids," he said. "We had one kid who had a ratty, old glove and he was having some problems with it, so Kaycee just handed him his glove and said, 'Here, use this one.' That was a pretty cool experience for that kid, to be able to stick his hand in a world champion's glove."

In addition to roughstock instruction, Doug Olle of the Justin Sportsmedicine Team was at the camp and led a session on injury prevention.

The PRCA plans to host approximately 20 such camps in 2013, many of which are held in conjunction with PRCA-approved rodeos. Jutten encourages state associations to contact her if they are interested in hosting a camp. For a schedule of upcoming camps, or to learn more about similar opportunities, visit [ProRodeo.com/youthrodeo.aspx](http://ProRodeo.com/youthrodeo.aspx).



World Champion Bareback Rider Kaycee Feild offers guidance on setting a rigging during a PRCA-sponsored rodeo camp at the Wilderness Circuit Finals Rodeo in Heber City, Utah.

Photo courtesy of Jon Provost