



4th-Grade Grand Prize Winner

The Spirit of Texas in Action

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The Spirit of Texas in Action

Every March, a magical transformation happens in our city. The sound of traffic is replaced by the clip-clop of horse hooves, and business suits are traded for cowboy boots and big belt buckles. This is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, also known as "Rodeo Houston." Since it started in 1932, it has grown into the biggest event of its kind in the entire world. But to the people of Texas, it is much more than just a carnival or a concert—it is a celebration of our history and a bridge to our future.

The most exciting part of the rodeo takes place inside the dirt arena of NRG Stadium. Here, the world's bravest cowboys and cowgirls compete in events like bull riding, barrel racing, and steer wrestling. One of the crowd favorites is Mutton Bustin', where brave kids hop on the backs of fluffy sheep! These events remind us of the "Wild West" days when ranching was the most important job in Texas. It shows us that strength, speed, and bravery are still celebrated today.

However, the rodeo isn't just about sports; it is about hard work and education. In the livestock halls, thousands of students from 4-Hand FFA clubs across Texas bring animals they have raised themselves. These students wake up early every morning for months to feed, wash, and care for their cows, pigs, and goats. When they sell their animals at the auction, they earn money for college. In fact, the rodeo has given over \$600 million in scholarships to Texas students! This means that every corn dog bought and every ticket scanned helps a student achieve their dreams of becoming a doctor, a teacher, or a farmer.

The rodeo also brings our whole community together. It starts with "Go Texan Day," when everyone in the city dresses like a cowpoke. We see trail riders who have traveled hundreds of miles on horseback just to reach Houston, keeping the old traditions alive. Whether you are eating a giant turkey leg at the carnival or watching a famous pop star perform under the bright stadium lights, you feel like you are part of one big Texas family.

In conclusion, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is the heartbeat of our city. It honors the hardworking ranchers of the past while helping the students of today. It teaches us that if we work hard and treat others with "Southern hospitality," we can do great things. That is why the rodeo isn't just a show it's the spirit of Texas in action!



Sources:

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