



# HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

NRG Park • Feb. 25 - March 17, 2019

P.O. Box 20070 • Houston, Texas 77225 • 832.667.1000 • rodeohouston.com

## 2019 Prairie View Trail Ride Association Story Ideas and History

### Story Ideas

1. PVTRA continues to serve as a booster for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and supports Prairie View A& M University in its educational programs.
2. PVTRA "Annual Chili Cook-Off" Benefits Agricultural Clubs on the Campsite of Prairie View Trail Riders Kilpatrick's Place, 22063 FM 1098, Prairie View, TX 77445. As cowboys gear up for the Prairie View Trail Ride, Cook-off Teams prepare for the Annual Chili Cook-off. The parade through the campus culminates in the most bragged about Chili Cook-off of the year. Each wagon boss spends an entire year perfecting the recipe which will send his/her pot of chili into the winner's circle along with all the bragging rights there unto appertaining. Teams start off with an equal amount of grade "A" beef chili meat supplied at 8 am by the Association. Team members have until 12 noon to prepare a smoldering concoction which will "WOW" the judges. After the judging, bowls of chili are sold to the public with proceeds benefiting agricultural clubs on the campus. This event occurs rain or shine and attracts 200-300 chili connoisseurs each year.
3. For the past 31 years, PVTRA continues to stop annually at the Elementary Schools, Retirement Communities and Daycares in route to Memorial Park to display its wagons and animals for the children and adults. We continue to distribute schools supplies/activity books and back packs to deserving students.
4. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, in September 2017, PVTRA held a community "Animal Feed" give-a-way distribution. Over 5000 pounds of feed was distributed to all that were in need.
5. Our Annual Safety Workshops hosted by the PVTRA in conjunction with PVAMU 's Cooperative Extension Program gives the most current information related to trail riding safety. Topics include Trailer/RV Maintenance, Equine Nutrition, Proper Horseshoeing and Saddle Fitting, Food Safety, and Generator/Carbon Monoxide Safety.
6. On June 23, 2018, PVTRA participated again in the "Juneteenth Heritage Celebration" at the Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site, in Brazos County. The celebration includes the rich African American heritage and culture of the Brazos Valley, past and present. PVTRA had a chance to display various information relating to our organization. This event is sponsored by H-E-B.
7. In July 2018, PVTRA awarded another \$500.00 scholarship to Mason Ella Oppelt. Ms. Mason has been a member of the PVTRA for 5 years. She is also a member of the 7W Youth Riding Club, where she has served as, President 2017-2018 and Wagon Boss. Mason competed in the PVTRA chili cook-off representing her riding club. In February, 2018, Mason was also a flag bearer with the PVTRA and during the downtown parade. Mason is attending Blinn College for two (2) years and will later transfer to Texas A&M University, where she will fulfill her passion & love for animals. Mason is studying to become a Veterinarian. Congratulations to MASON ELLA OPPELT!



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8. In October, 2018, PVTRA participated in the annual Prairie View A&M University "Homecoming Parade" This event is held annually commemorating the University's existence.
9. Throughout the year, PVTRA has supported and continues to support various trail ride clubs by volunteering time & donating funds for their events. (i.e. Fish Fry's, raffles, warm-up rides, annual dances) etc. We are looking forward to OUR continued support!
10. PVTRA participated in five (5) events partnering with Prairie View A&M University and Sodexo Vending to help raise scholarship funds for PVTRA recipients. PVTRA participated as a concession vendor/seller at Prairie View A&M University home football games. It continues to be a great success. Looking forward to the next season.
11. September, 2018, the Myrtis Dightman, Sr. 30th Annual Hall of Fame Rodeo was held in Crockett, Tx.
12. In December 17, 2018, Ethan M. Harris, was inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society. Ethan is currently in the 5th grade and is enrolled at Houston Academy. He takes responsibility of his learning by paying attention, completing & turning in his assignments and asking questions for clarification, if necessary. Ethan is a member of the 7W Youth Riding Club, currently serving as Chaplain. He opens and closes all meetings with a prayer. Ethan has been chosen to help train other children to comfortably ride horses without being afraid. Ethan is also a new member in the 4H Club, where he will be assisting in equestrian & bovine education and upkeep. Ethan is a member of the Houston Astros Youth Baseball team, a member of the Upward Basketball team, and a proud member of STEM and a member of Strings. He is also an active member of Bible Way Church and the Freeman-Harris family. Family is very important to Ethan. In addition, he calls his "grandma" weekly to check on her - his grandfather passed away last year. In addition, each month, Ethan helps others by donating clothes and other items to those that are less fortunate. Ethan's goal as a member of the National Elementary Honor Society is to be an asset to this distinguished group by enhancing his ideas and leadership abilities and increasing his community involvement, academic achievements, broaden his awareness and maintaining an "A" average. Congratulations and keep up the great work, ETHAN M. HARRIS!
13. Our 60th year PVTRA annual dance was held and was a great success. Entertainment was provided by J Paul Jr. and the Zydeco Nubreeds. A portion of the proceeds continues to support our scholarship fund. Prairie View Trail Ride Association.
14. January 21, 2019, PVTRA will participate in the City of Houston's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. The theme for this event is, "It Takes A Village". This parade route is approximately 1.5 miles traveling throughout the Third Ward area. This parade is known nationally throughout the United States.
15. In March, 2019, PVTRA is scheduled to be featured in the "Fotoshoot Magazine". They are planning to visit PVTRA during the trailride.
16. As PVTRA continues to celebrate its 60 plus years of existence, in February, 2019, PVTRA will be honored during Black History Month. This 10th Annual event is sponsored by the City of Houston Controllers office, Controller, Chris Brown, in observance of Black History month. It is scheduled to take place at City Hall, in the Legacy Room at 11:00 am. All City of Houston employees, elected officials and others are invited to attend this great event. Myrtis



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Dightman, Sr. and Myrtis Dightman, Jr. will be representing the Prairie View Trail Riders Association.

### Awards

2017 – Division 2 Winner – Outstanding Trail Ride Group

2017 – Best Appearance Trail Ride Group

2016 - Division 2 Winner - Outstanding Trail Ride Group

2014 - "Best Wagon Spirit Award" awarded to Wagon # 6 - Acres Homes Riding & Roping Club

2013 - Division 2 - Best Trail Award (Med 50-144 riders)

2012 - Division 2 - Best Trail Award (Med 50-144 riders)

2011 - "Spirit Award"

2010 - "Best Wagon" awarded to Wagon # 3 - Circle 44

2005 - "Top Trail" Award

1992 - "Most Outstanding Trail Ride"

### Unique Attributes

Prairie View Trail Riders Assoc. is the oldest African-American Trail Ride in the U.S. Approved in 1958 as the 1st African American Trail of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Prairie View Trail Ride Assoc. is known as the "mother" of the Black Trails. All black trail rides of Texas have roots that trace back to this trail ride group.

In February, 2017, Prairie View Trail Riders Association & The Boss: Myrtis Dightman, Jr. was featured in several magazines such as "Houstonia", "Houston Style Magazine" and "Amtrack The National", in conjunction with celebrating its 60th year anniversary on Preserving the Tradition of Black Cowboys in Texas. Features included these stories: At the stables with the man behind the oldest African American trail ride in Texas, Myrtis Dightman, Jr.'s father clopped into Memorial Park with 10 other horseback riders from the Prairie View Trail Riders Association. They were the first African American group to join the tradition of cowboys riding into the city for Rodeo Houston's Go Texan Day and parade. Last year, the group co-founded by Myrtis Dightman, Sr. won Outstanding Trail Ride at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, a huge honor for any organization, but a particularly gratifying moment for the oldest black trail-ride association in Texas, whose members, in many cases, have been riding together for decades. Raised on a farm in Crockett, Texas, Dightman has been riding since he was 2. The elder Dightman was not only the trail ride's co-founder, but the first black professional cowboy to compete in the National Finals Rodeo and a rodeo clown; last year, he was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.



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Bull-riding, the younger Dightman found out pretty early on, wasn't for him. But he lives for trail-riding, getting out on his horse once a month and spending the entire year and "many sleepless nights" planning the week long, 87-mile journey which some 200 riders on horses and wagons take from Hempstead—about an hour northwest of Houston, by car—to Memorial Park. This year, the ride kicks off on February 16, 2019.

"Wild Hogg" Cooking Exhibition – Kelvin Arnsworth, known as the Hog Roast King spends one day each year cooking for the Prairie View Trail Riders. Arnsworth has owned Yo Mama's Pit Bar-B-Q where the slogan is, "you need no teeth to eat our beef!" in Montgomery, Texas for 26 years and comes to the PVTRA campsite to delight visitors with his delectable culinary skills. He has won numerous awards and accolades related to his barbecue techniques. He began the tradition, 21 years ago of roasting a hog in the ground during the Prairie View Trail. The technique begins by digging a trench 6ft wide, 12ft long and 2ft deep. A 250 lb. hog is then cooked for 18 hours on a coal fed, hand cranked rotisserie. Upon declaring the animal ready for consumption, it is garnished with 200 lbs of fruit, and then served free of charge to those interested in partaking in the deliciousness. Arnsworth has cooked all over the world, but talks gleefully about cooking for 200 men on a Hague Engineering oil rig. Arnsworth's exhibition is hosted and sponsored each year by George and Ruby Linton, Wagon Bosses for Acres Homes Riding and Roping Club.

Myrtis Dightman Jr., Trailboss states "one thing about rodeo and cowboys, it's just like a family. When you go into downtown Houston, Texas, and over a million people are hollering and screaming at you, to see the smiles on those kids' faces, it's exciting to me. It brings tears to your eyes."

Prairie View Trail Riders Association, established in 1957, celebrates its 62nd Anniversary in 2019. Prairie View Trail Riders Association is also recognized as a 5013c Non-Profit Organization. This recognized status provides greater opportunities and resources enhancing the vision and purpose for the PVTRA. We are looking forward to our 62nd year!