

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™



presented by



## Rules & Information 2020

**Please read all rules and make sure you are available all applicable dates before entering the contest.**

**Entry Fees:** There are no entry fees.

**Deadline:** Must submit audition by January 10, 2020 (see below for details).

**Divisions:** Competitors will select a division based on age criteria below.

- Junior, ages 6 to 15 (Must be at least 6 years old and not older than 15 by Dec. 11, 2019.)
- Senior, ages 16 to 21 (Must be at least 16 years old and not older than 21 by Dec. 11, 2019.)
- Group, ages 6 to 21 (All members must be at least 6 years old and not older than 21 by Dec. 11, 2019.)

**Eligibility:** The 2020 Rodeo Rockstar competition is open to non-professional competitors who wish to showcase their musical talents. Individuals and groups who are practicing professionals or engage in this work for a livelihood are **not** eligible for this competition. This includes any person who might have a manager, music recording contract, agreement relating to the use of their name/likeness, or other entertainment contract. **Previous finalists (defined as those who advanced to the Semifinal or Final Round) are not eligible to compete again in the division for which they were a finalist.**

**How to submit audition:** Competitors submit their YouTube video audition entry through the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Facebook page.

([www.facebook.com/rodeohouston](http://www.facebook.com/rodeohouston)) or website ([www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com)).

- Competitors may submit their audition video online Dec. 11, 2019 – Jan. 10, 2020.
  - If you are entering the Junior or Senior Divisions, you must be the only performer in the entry video – no backup instrumentalists or vocalists.

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- Audition videos must be one person performing one song, with only an introduction of the song – no other talking.
- Group videos must be the group performing one song, with only an introduction of the song – no other talking.
- We encourage live performance rather than edited music video style. No filters.
- Please submit a full song, not just clip or clips of pieces of songs.
- Follow the link from our website or Facebook page.
- Complete all information fields in the entry form with details about the *competitor*, not the parent or guardian. If you are entering in the group category, please put the main contact person for the group in the information fields.
- Upload your audition video from YouTube, ensuring that your YouTube settings allow the video to be viewed publicly. If your settings are private, your video will not be viewable for public voting. If you have trouble setting up your video on YouTube, please contact their customer service for assistance.
- Each competitor may submit only one audition. Submitting more than one audition may result in disqualification of the competitor.
- Voting by the general public will begin at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, and conclude at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.
  - Voting will take place through the Show's Facebook page only. All voters must have a Facebook account to cast his/her vote. When prompted, voter must authorize the 2020 Rodeo Rockstar Competition App to submit their vote. This app is used for voter identification purposes only and does not let the app post to the user's Facebook wall.
  - Users may vote for the same entry only once per hour per Facebook account.
  - The top 10 auditions in Junior and Senior Divisions will advance to the Semifinal Round.
  - The top five auditions in the Group Division will advance to the Final Round.
- Competitors advancing to the Semifinal Round (in Junior and Senior Divisions) and Final Round (in Group Division) will be notified by Thursday, Feb. 7, 2020.

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- The Semifinal Round will be hosted on the Stars Over Texas Stage at NRG Park, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, beginning at 5 p.m. Junior and Senior Divisions will perform.
- The Final Round will be hosted on the Stars Over Texas Stage at NRG Park, Tuesday March 17, 2020, beginning at 5 p.m. Junior, Senior, and Group Divisions will perform.
- Semifinal Round competitors (Junior and Senior Divisions) will receive a packet containing two NRG Park admission tickets, one parking pass and any additional instructions regarding their participation in the Semifinal Round in the mail.
- Final Round competitors (Group Division) will receive a packet containing two NRG Park admission tickets per group member, one parking pass per group member and any additional instructions regarding their participation in the Final Round in the mail.

**Audition Round**

- One entry per person. Individuals may only enter in one division at a time and individuals who are members of multiple performing groups may only enter with one group at a time.
- Competitors under the age of 18 must have permission from their parent or legal guardian to participate in Auditions.
- All competitors submitting online entries for the Audition Round agree to the terms of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's (the "Show") Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement (the "Release"). The Release is included in Appendix 1 of these 2020 Rodeo Rockstar Competitions Rules & Information (the "Rules").

**Semifinal Round:** The top 10 auditions in the Junior and Senior Divisions, as determined by the general public's voting, advance to the Semifinal Round.

- Competitors who advance to the Semifinal Round will be required to provide proof of age prior to performing in the Semifinal Round. Acceptable proof includes a birth certificate, driver's license or passport.

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- Competitors who advance to the Semifinal Round will be required to provide a signed Release. Competitors under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign the Release.
- All competitors under the age of 18 who advance to the Semifinal Round must have their parent or legal guardian accompany them to the event.
- The Semifinal Round Competition will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2020.
  - The Junior Division Semifinal Round will begin at 5 p.m.
  - The Senior Division Semifinal Round will begin at approximately 6 p.m., or immediately following the Junior Division Semifinal Round.
- All competitors must arrive by 4:30 p.m. to allow time to check-in, set equipment, and cue music. If a performer arrives late to the competition, the Show will make every effort to allow the competitor to perform. However, if the competitor is late, a performance slot is not guaranteed.
- Competitors who wish to conduct a brief sound check may begin to arrive at 3 p.m. on the performance date. Each performer will be allotted 5 minutes to perform the sound check; sound checks will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Each competitor will have 4 minutes to perform.
- Three judges will individually score each competitor following their performance.
  - Each judge will identify their five best performances and place them first through fifth.
  - Points will be assigned with 11 points for first, 7 for second, 4 for third, 2 for fourth and 1 for fifth.
  - If a tie occurs, the judges will vote a second time on the contestants involved in the tie to determine a single competitor in each place.
- The top five scoring competitors from each Division will advance to the Final Round.
  - The Final Round will be hosted on the Stars Over Texas Stage at NRG Park, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, beginning at 5 p.m.



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- Final Round competitors will receive a packet containing two NRG Park admission tickets, one parking pass, and any additional instructions regarding their participation in the Final Round.

**Final Round:** The top five performers in each Division, as determined by the judge's voting in the Semifinal Round (Junior and Senior Divisions) and as determined by the general public's voting (Group Division), advance to the Final Round.

- All competitors who advance to the Final Round will be required to provide a W-9 and social security number. The cash award for Group Division winners will be made out to the primary contact. The group is responsible for equitable distribution of the cash award amongst its members.
- Group Division competitors who advance to the Final Round will be required to provide proof of age for each member of the group prior to performing in the Final Round. Acceptable proof includes a birth certificate, driver's license or passport.
- Group Division competitors who advance to the Final Round will be required to provide a signed Release for each member of the group. Competitors under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign the Release.
- All competitors under the age of 18 who advance to the Final Round must have their parent or legal guardian accompany them to the event.
- The Final Round Competition will be held Tuesday, March 17, 2020.
  - The Junior Division Final Competition will begin at 5 p.m.
  - The Senior Division Final Competition will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m., or immediately following the Junior Division Final Round.
  - The Group Division Final competition will begin at approximately 6:00 p.m., or immediately following the Senior Division Final Round.
- Rodeo Rockstar finalists in the Junior and Senior Divisions must perform a different song than performed in the Semifinal Round.
- All competitors must arrive by 4:30 p.m. to allow time to check-in, set equipment, and cue music. If a performer arrives late to the competition, the Show will make



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every effort to allow the competitor to perform. However, if the competitor is late, a performance slot is not guaranteed.

- Competitors who wish to conduct a brief sound check may begin arriving at 3 p.m. on the performance date. Each performer will be allotted 5 minutes to perform the sound check; sound checks will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Each competitor will have 5 minutes to perform.
- Three judges will individually score each competitor following their performance.
  - Each judge will identify their three best performances and places them first through third.
  - Points will be assigned with 11 points for first, 7 for second and 4 for third.
  - If a tie occurs, the judges will vote a second time on the contestants involved in the tie to determine a single competitor in each place.

**Music Selection and Equipment:** Competitors may perform a song from the genre of their choice.

- Contestants may bring a compact disc, iPod or other MP3 device with background music **only**. Track must be able to be transferred to Rodeo sound equipment to prevent delays during the program. No mobile phones will be permitted.
  - If the track has vocals (primary or background) of any kind, the vocals must be set at a level such that they do not overpower the contestant. The singing competition will be based on the contestant's voice alone, and it is important that the judges are able to distinguish the contestant's voice.
  - Contestants will be disqualified if musical accompaniment contains vocals that overpower the performance.
- Contestants should be prepared to perform a Capella, in case of any technical difficulties.
- Backline will be provided for individuals or groups who wish to use instruments during their performance.
- All song choices must be appropriate for a family-friendly show.
- Lyrics that are deemed lewd or violent, or that contain profanity, are not permitted.

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- The Show reserves the right to end any performance it deems inappropriate.

**Attire:** Competitors may wear the attire of their choice; however, all attire must be appropriate for a family show. The Show reserves the right to cancel the performance of any competitor wearing inappropriate attire.

**Performance:** A great stage performance is often an advantage to a competitor; however, all performances must be appropriate for a family show. The Show reserves the right to cancel the performance of any competitor performing in an excessively suggestive or other inappropriate manner.

**Judging:**

- Qualified judges will be selected by the Show to judge both divisions of the Semifinal Round and Final Round of the competition.
- Judges decisions are final.
- Winning competitors will be announced immediately following the Semifinal and Final Round judging, and winning competitors will be recognized.
- Results will be published on the Show's website at [www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com).

**Awards:**

**Semifinal Round**

- All competitors will receive a Rodeo Rockstar gift bag (one per entry). Awards will be presented immediately following the Semifinal Round judging.

**Final Round**

- All competitors performing in the Final Round will receive a trophy and a Rodeo Rockstar gift bag. Awards will be presented immediately following the Final Round judging.
- All cash awards will be mailed to the winner. The cash award will be paid by Show check and will be mailed to the address on the W-9 form. All checks will be issued to

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the competitor; the award may not be paid to the parent or guardian. All exhibitors must complete a W-9 to receive payment. The cash award for Group Division winners will be made out to the primary contact. The group is responsible for equitable distribution of the cash award amongst its members. Please allow one month for receipt of prize.

- The third prize winner will receive a \$200 cash prize from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- The second prize winner will receive a \$500 cash prize from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- The Rodeo Rockstar Competition first prize winner in each division will receive:
  - A \$1,000 cash prize from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
  - A day in the professional studio at Stormy Cooper Media to produce a radio quality recording, including 3-4 tracks, that the winner may use to further his/her musical career. The recording must be completed on or before August 31, 2020.
  - An invitation to ride and perform on the Show's entertainment float in the 2021 Downtown Rodeo Parade Saturday.
  - "Whataburger for a Year" – one free Whataburger per week for a year (52 Total).

### Contact:

Aaron Ortega – Coordinator, Exhibits and Events  
832.667.1086 or [ortega@rodeohouston.com](mailto:ortega@rodeohouston.com)





## RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, for permitting \_\_\_\_\_ (name of participant) (the "Participant") to enter and participate in the Rodeo Rockstar event (the "Activity") associated with Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Inc. ("HLSR"), and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Participant's undersigned parent(s) and/or guardian(s) hereby enter into this RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (this "Agreement"). This Agreement shall remain in effect for as long as the Participant participates in the Activity.

**1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS:** The undersigned recognizes and understands that there are risks associated with participation in the Activity including, but not limited to, bodily injury or death to persons and damage to property. The undersigned further acknowledges and understands that he/she will be held liable and responsible for any and all damage to persons, livestock, vehicles, property and/or improvements to property that is caused by him/her and/or any persons (including, but not limited to, minors and/or the Participant) under his/her care and control, and that arise out of, or are related to, the Participant's entry into and participation in the Activity.

**2. RELEASE FROM LIABILITY:** The undersigned hereby RELEASES, ACQUITS AND FOREVER DISCHARGES HLSR, its subsidiaries and affiliates, present and former directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and representatives and the respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns (collectively, the "HLSR Parties" or individually, an "HLSR Party") from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, settlements, expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees) for personal injury, death and/or property damage, accrued or to accrue in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims") relating to or arising out of any negligent acts in connection with the Participant's entry into and participation in the Activities, including but not limited to the **NEGLIGENT ACTIONS OF THE HLSR PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS.** Without limiting the foregoing, the undersigned agrees that the HLSR Parties shall not be liable to him/her, the Participant, their families, heirs, administrators, executors or assigns for Claims arising from or related to the Participant's entry into and participation in the Activities.

**3. AGREEMENT TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS:** The undersigned agrees to DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE HLSR PARTIES from any and all claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, settlements, and expenses (including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees) for personal injury, death or property damage, accrued or to accrue in the future, known or unknown, (collectively, "Claims"), including but not limited to Claims resulting from THE HLSR PARTIES' OWN NEGLIGENCE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH NEGLIGENCE WAS THE SOLE, PROXIMATE OR PRODUCING CAUSE OF THE CLAIMS; provided, however, that the duty of the undersigned to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the HLSR Parties shall extend only to Claims arising directly or indirectly from the Participant's entry into and participation in the Activities. As used herein, "INDEMNIFY" means to agree to assume the HLSR Parties' liability as to any and all claims, causes of action, suits, demands, judgments, settlements, fees and expenses made by, through or under the undersigned against the HLSR Parties related to the Participant's entry into and participation in the Activities.

**4. PHOTOGRAPH/INTERVIEW RELEASE AND INDEMNITY:** The undersigned GRANTS PERMISSION for Participant to be PHOTOGRAPHED, VIDEOED, RECORDED and/or INTERVIEWED in connection with the Activity. The undersigned understands that any such photographs, videos, recordings, and/or interviews may be used by HLSR Parties in television, film, video, visual, graphic, printed, and/or social media. The undersigned agrees to RELEASE and INDEMNIFY HLSR Parties with respect to any Claims related to the usage of such photographs, videos, recordings, and/or interviews by HLSR Parties and/or any media.

**5. TEXAS LAW:** The undersigned understands that this Agreement shall be binding on the undersigned, the Participant, their families, heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns, that the Agreement will be governed by the laws of Texas, and that jurisdiction and venue for resolution of any dispute regarding this Agreement shall lie in a Texas State Court in Harris County, Texas. If any part of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it does not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement. The undersigned has read and understands the Agreement, agrees to the terms and conditions above, and acknowledges receipt of this Agreement.

**6. COMPREHENSION AND AUTHORITY:** As further inducement to HLSR to permit the Participant's entry into and participation in the Activity, the undersigned represents that he/she understands that this is a complete and final release agreement, that he/she is freely and voluntarily entering into this Agreement, and that no representations, promises, or statements made by any HLSR Party has influenced the undersigned in causing him/her to sign this Agreement.



**RELEASE OF LIABILITY  
AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

Participant

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT

TELEPHONE NUMBER

RELATIONSHIP

**FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE  
(UNDER AGE 18 AT DATE THIS AGREEMENT IS SIGNED)**

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for the above-named Participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the HLSR Parties, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE HLSR PARTIES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_