



# HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

NRG Park • Feb. 25 - March 17, 2019

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

## Southwest Trail Riders Association

### Story Ideas

- Southwest hosts an annual Fun Day event to provide a safe and fun atmosphere for children while

teaching them about horsemanship, sportsmanship, teamwork and comrade. In 2009, we added a city

wide annual School Supply Drive where we distribute 300 backpacks filled with school supplies as well

as a "Basket of Blessing" program that provides Thanksgiving meals for needing families that has

reached 50 families thus far. We have also donated toys, socks, blankets and other items to many

Multi-Purpose Centers, churches, and the Richmond State School during the Christmas holiday.

- In January 2015, Verna Lee Booker-Hightower was awarded a humanitarian award they will be given

to honorees for the following 5 years by the Black Heritage Committee of the HLSR. She was the wife

of Diamond L Roping & Riding Club's founder Ted Hightower. She has been credited for being the first

African American woman to barrel race in the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in 1969.

### History

- In 1997, the ride was sanctioned by the Show. Since its inception in 1993, the ride has continued to

strive to support youth through education, scholarship and community service.

- Education: The ride has sponsored animals for agricultural students, donated funds for 4-H students to

attend summer camp, co-sponsored calf scramblers for the Black Professional Cowboys and Cowgirls

Association annual rodeo, and participated in the HISD all-district Ag sale.

- To date, the ride has awarded approximately \$200,000 in scholarship funds to high school seniors in

the Houston area.

- 2009 Large Group Award from Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo