

MISSION STATEMENT

- **Promote the sport of rodeo and the highest type of conduct and sportsmanship and expose its positive image to the general public**
- **Preserve the Western Heritage**
- **Offer a privilege of family bonding**
- **Maintain the highest regard of livestock**

I was sitting in Sunday School today and as usual my mind was wondering. Not away from the subject our teacher was covering, but, how the subject related to my life and goals. As with most of us, in this part of the country, the rest of the class I participate in does not think much about the sport that we love and compete in. As much as I try to relate my experiences of rodeo, the other class members can just barely grasp the concept.

Once in a while I get to insert in the discussion one of the codes of the west.

"THE CODE OF THE WEST"

- **Live Each Day With Courage**
- **Take Pride In Your Work**
- **Always Finish What You Start**
- **Do What Has To Be Done**
- **Be Tough But Fair**
- **When You Make A Promise Keep It**
- **Ride For The Brand**
- **Talk Less Say More**
- **Remember That Some Things Are Not For Sale**
- **Know Where To Draw The Line**

A while back I did some research about the Code. For almost 100 years the Code Of The West was just some unwritten guidelines for the people of the West to live by. Now it is written down in books and on plaques and posters. The Code can be found in any western wear store that you walk in.

While researching "the Code" I was wondering what the basis for these western ways could be. Pretty soon it was obvious to me that each code can be backed up by scripture. This brings me back to Sunday School.

Our congregation has decided to build a new church. I am not sure yet if we need a new, bigger, better place to worship. But, it is God's Church and I will "Ride for the Brand".

My Sunday School teacher asked a question today while we have been discussing stewardship. He asked if anyone in the class participated in the stewardship campaign for our old church that was built from 1888 to 1892. Well, the answer was obvious. Nobody was alive then. But, then came the next statement from our teacher. " So, we all our reaping the rewards from others stewardship."

I will also ask a question. In the world of rodeo and the western way of life, are we not all reaping the rewards from the stewardship of the cowboys and cowgirls that came before us? Are we being good stewards of the National High School Rodeo Association, the High School Rodeo Association mission statement, and the "Code of the West"?

As student and adult members of NHSRA and KHSRA I challenge you to "take pride in our heritage", "do what has to be done", "when you make a promise keep it". And most of all be good stewards of what we as adults and students leave for generations to come after our kids have competed and move on to the next phase in their lives. What have you done to carry out our mission statement?

An author, the name I do not know, said,

"Just like the American bald eagle, the cowboy stands for God, home and country, as well as hard work, courage, responsibility, honesty, determination, and simply doing the right thing."

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