



Attention NHSFR Qualifiers: Please submit this press release to your local newspaper, television or radio station for editorial consideration.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL STUDENT QUALIFIES TO COMPETE AT WORLD'S LARGEST RODEO

DENVER – Mataya Ward, a 12th-grade student at Belle Fourche High School has earned a position on the South Dakota state/provincial National High School rodeo team and will be traveling with fellow teammates to Rock Springs, Wyoming July 14 – 20 to compete at the 76th annual National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) in the Goat Tying (list events you qualified in for the **2024 NHSFR**) competition(s).

Featuring more than 1,700 contestants from 44 states, five Canadian Provinces, Australia, Mexico, and New Zealand, the NHSFR is the world's largest rodeo. In addition to competing for more than \$150,000 in prizes and over \$200,000 in added money, NHSFR contestants will also be competing for more than \$375,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named an NHSFR World Champion. To earn this title, contestants must finish in the top 20 – based on their combined times/scores in the first two rounds – to advance to Saturday evening's final round. World champions will then be determined based on their three-round combined times/scores.

Again, this year, the Saturday championship performance will be televised nationally as a part of the *Cinch Highschool Rodeo Tour* telecast series on RFD-TV. LIVE broadcasts of each NHSFR performance will air online at www.thecowboychannel.com. Performance times begin @ 7pm on July 14th and competition continues daily at 9am and 7pm through July 20th. Make sure to catch the action!

Along with great rodeo competition and the chance to meet new friends from around the world, NHSFR contestants have the opportunity to enjoy volleyball, contestant dances, family-oriented activities, church services sponsored by Golden Spur Ministries, and shopping at the NHSFR tradeshow.

To follow your local favorites at the NHSFR, visit NHSRA.com daily for complete results. For ticket information, visit <https://www.sweetwaterevents.com/p/nhsfr/tickets>.