

# Calzavara memorial rodeo scholarship

## Application Form

(PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN JULY 20, 2017)

*There will be scholarship announcements made July 29, 2017 at Big Hat Rodeo's Grayslake, IL Rodeo; Winners do NOT need to be present to win...*

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

College or University Name you're attending \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade point average: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Involvement in Rodeo: (mark all that apply) contestant \_\_\_\_\_; specialty act \_\_\_\_\_; rodeo committee member \_\_\_\_\_  
personnel \_\_\_\_\_; Other \_\_\_\_\_: (if other, please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Rodeo accomplishments, events you enter or rodeos you've been involved in:

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Please explain any extenuating circumstances that may be contributing to your financial need.

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

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

***Please attach a copy of school transcript showing a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, a recent photo and an essay no longer than 500 words describing your accomplishments, future goals and what rodeo means to you. Please feel free to include a letter of recommendation, additional photos or any other items you think will help the selection committee make their decision. Please send to [info@biughatrodeo.com](mailto:info@biughatrodeo.com) or CALZAVARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, 9903 Kemman Road, Hebron, IL 60034. GOOD LUCK!***

# CALZAVARA MEMORIAL RODEO SCHOLARSHIP

The Calzavara Memorial Rodeo Scholarship Fund was formed to honor Rudy & Gene Calzavara, founders of the Big Hat Rodeo Company in IL. They were a fun loving, couple who worked and rodeoed together for over 61 years. Rodeo has been a way of life for over 96 years for this family. Both came from rodeo backgrounds, Rudy whose father and older brother were stock contractors, beginning in 1920. Rudy competed in Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Calf Roping and Bull Riding. He was a spectacular trick rider, renowned pickup man and stock contractor. Rudy's wife Gene was one of 10 kids that performed as trick riders & trick ropers with their rodeo clown father. Known as the "Graham Western Riders" they were featured at venues from Madison Square Garden to Denver and Gene's first trick riding saddle is part of their display at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs.

Over the years Rudy & Gene raised 4 kids and mentored hundreds more, using livestock and rodeos to impart some valuable life lessons. Most of all they simply loved young people and everything rodeo. They were always lending a helping hand to rodeo contestants and personnel and treated people as family. Gene passed away in May of 2011 and in March of 2015 Rudy joined her. Their children and several dear friends came together and made the decision to establish this memorial scholarship fund to aid young people from across the country who are continuing their education while involved in the sport of rodeo. At least one Big Hat Rodeo per season will benefit the Scholarship Fund. In 2017 there are 3 such rodeos, the Rock River Pro Rodeo in Jefferson, WI, the Union Grove Pro Rodeo in Union Grove, WI and the Great Midwest Pro Rodeo in Elkhorn, WI are all being held to raise more scholarship funds. The Calzavara family believes that helping a few great rodeo kids make furthering their education a little easier will continue to make Rudy & Gene proud.

Scholarship eligibility is simple. If you are involved in the sport of rodeo *in any way*, attend an accredited college or university on a full-time basis with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and are looking for some financial assistance, you qualify. Scholarships will be awarded on July 29, 2017 and winners will be notified on August 1, 2017 if they are not present at the rodeo.

***Good Luck, God Bless & Long Live Cowboys and Rodeo!***