

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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*8th Annual Best Little Cowboy Gathering in La Grange Returns to Fuel
the Fun of all Ages in Cowboy Culture March 10-13*



Looking for fun in Rural Texas with ease of parking and minimal walking? If you are seeking an awesome atmosphere and experience to enjoy alone, with friends, and/or family (while playing and learning a little history), mark your calendars and buff the boots because the Best Little Cowboy Gathering (and it truly is the best) is back with classics, western swing, and country rockin' the stages at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in La Grange Thursday March 10 through Sunday March 13. Always held the second full weekend in March--rain, snow or sunshine, this group

of volunteers manage to make every year better in bringing great performers, dancing day and night, children's events, Andalusian Horse Demonstrations, Chuck Wagon Exhibits, BBQ cook-off, and even Western Arts & Crafts Exhibits--all for the visitor and locals to enjoy in a wonderful rural setting.

Hold your breath for the entertainment line-up and get ready to order your tickets to see: Johnny Bush, Kristyn Harris, The Survivors, Jeff Woolsey & the Dancehall Kings, Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition, Jake Hooker & the Outsiders with Tommy Hooker, Jody Nix & The Texas Cowboys, Landon Dodd & The Dancehall Drifters, KR Wood, Rance Norton, Jason Roberts, Rocky King Band, Lake Travis Fiddlers, Devon Dawson, Ginny Mac, Jean Prescott, and Brook Wallace. AND the Jody Nix Fiddle Extravaganza (legendary mix of artists for a musical hour) and Dutch Oven Demonstrations (skills in the art with a Dutch oven chef Tim Spice) are just a couple of venues to enjoy and give folks an understanding for the cowboy era.

Don't wait too long for the reserved tickets to the Dance Hall as only 500 tickets are available --- if you miss that, there is fantastic entertainment showcased on the main stage for all to enjoy (and many of the artists from the dance hall venue will be joining in)--another "don't forget", those dancing boots are a must!! The main stage outside has undergone various improvements including new vinyl siding that allows the stage to be enclosed depending on the weather. Additionally, a wood floor will be on the main stage for the three day event. The regular day pass gets the visitor access to all the entertainment at the main stage.

The motto, "Come a Day Early, Stay a Day Late" reflects the shining hospitality that this community has to offer and the official "AIM" is to promote the cowboy culture with a variety of music emphasizing western swing, country and old cowboy classics, as well as fun fun fun!! A few suggestions...Bring a jacket (temperatures can drop 20-30 degrees at dusk), grab some sunscreen and camp chairs (might warm up), and cast your cares away as this event takes you to a time forgotten. The event is never cancelled--some venues are simply moved indoors. This celebration of cowboy culture (*with proceeds going to youth scholarships--a real "win-win"*), is held at the Fayette County Fairgrounds (one mile north of La Grange on Highway 77) and has become not only a tradition but an educational venue to those that may have not ever embraced that "cowboy persona"--a perfect weekend event for all ages--treat your friends and family to something really special.

The schedule is full, so plan for the weekend accordingly. Thursday, March 10 kicks off with Rance Norton who returns with his traditional country music in the Dance Hall at 3:00 pm followed by The Survivors with Darrell McCall, Tony Booth, and Curtis Potter (careers over 40 years each in the profession) at 7:00 pm. The Outside Stage will lead off with Jeff Woolsey (guaranteed to keep you on the dance floor) beginning at 7:00 pm.

Friday, March 11 Kristyn Harris is the featured female artist who also joins other musical guests on stage for special performances throughout the weekend. She is a

singer/performer/entertainer from Texas with powerful vocals, solid swing rhythm guitar style and unique songwriting that won her the Western Music Association Female Performer of the Year in 2014--the youngest person in history to receive this award. The dance hall provides a great treat as beginning noon Friday, Rocky King hits the stage, followed by Jeff Woolsey at 4:00 pm and wrapping up the evening with the ever loving Jake & Tommy Hooker at 8:00 pm. If you prefer the outside stage, look for Rance Norton at 12:30 pm with Landon Dodd to follow at 4:30 and Jason Roberts showcased at 8:30 pm.

Saturday, March 12 shines regardless of the weather as Jody Nix graces the dance hall stage at 4:00 pm followed by Billy Mata at 8:00 pm. The outside stage spotlights KR Wood at 10:00 am, followed by Kristyn Harris, Devon Dawson, Ginny Mae, Jean Prescott, and Brook Wallace at 11:00 am singing western theme type music--a real "don't miss" performance. Jody Nix Fiddle Extravaganza follows at 1:30 pm with lake Travis Fiddlers at 3:00 pm, Bill Mata at 5:00 pm, and Kristyn Harris, Devon Dawson, Ginny Mae, Jean Prescott, and Brook Wallace return at 7:00 pm performing a few more traditional country tunes.

Saturday evening at 10:00 pm, yet another legend (amongst so many others appearing at this venue) performs on the outside stage. Johnny Bush, aka the "Country Caruso", lends his distinctive voice and signature songs to the honky tonk sounds which made him so famous. Yes, he is indeed the writer of "Whiskey River", a top-ten hit for himself and Willie Nelson's signature song. As a drummer, he worked for bands like the Mission City Playboys, Texas Plainsmen, and the Texas Top Hands.

Sunday, March 13, see the return of the Cowboy Church which will be conducted beginning at 10:00 am and hosted by Pastor Russ Weaver from the RFD channel. He is Pastor of Shepherd's Valley Cowboy Church in Egan and will officiate the services. Cowboy gospel singer Kimmy Hudson returns and will perform and join a multi-talented western singers/musicians group including K.R.Wood, Mikki Daniel, and Hailey Sandoz. This wraps up the weekend festivities.

The ever competitive LSBS Best Little Cook-off in Texas commences Friday, March 11 thru Saturday, March 13 and includes pinto beans, chicken, chili, pork ribs, and brisket. Forms may be obtained by going to www.bestlittlecowboygathering.org or by contacting Jimmy Rohde at rowdyj@cvctx.com. Teams consist of a chief cook and five team members and the event is sanctioned by the Lone Star BBQ Society.

If you know nothing about the history and culture of the cowboy, you'll leave with some lasting memories through music, demonstrations, and activities for all ages. The price can't be beat. For tickets, ticket packages (children under 12 are admitted free with an adult), and/or information on the 8th Annual Best Little Cowboy Gathering in Texas from March 10-13 in La Grange, visit www.bestlittlecowboygathering.org.

Cathy Chaloupka--Rural Texas Tourism, LLC