

The FAIR FOUNDATION

north idaho fair and rodeo

Fair is Fast Approaching

The North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation is excitedly preparing for another incredible fair season and looking forward to welcoming the community back to the fairgrounds. Each year, the fair brings people together to celebrate agriculture, education, entertainment, and the traditions that make North Idaho so special. The Foundation is proud to continue supporting opportunities that create lasting memories for families and fairgoers of all ages.

This year, the Foundation is thrilled to partner with the Junior Fair Advisory Board to bring daily community contests to the fair. These contests have become a favorite tradition for many fair attendees and offer a fun and engaging way for the community to participate throughout the week. From friendly competitions to exciting activities for kids and adults alike, the contests help create an energetic atmosphere and encourage everyone to join in on the fun.

We are also incredibly excited to crown not one, but two Princesses for a Day during this year's fair. This special program has become a meaningful and memorable experience, giving young participants the opportunity to feel celebrated and truly part of the fair tradition. Watching the joy and confidence these young girls experience is something we look forward to each year, and we cannot wait to celebrate these two deserving princesses with our community.

The Foundation is incredibly grateful for the volunteers, sponsors, and community members who help make these events possible year after year. As fair season approaches, excitement continues to build for all the special moments, entertainment, and community connections that will take place at the fairgrounds.

The Foundation looks forward to seeing familiar faces, welcoming new visitors, and celebrating another unforgettable North Idaho Fair together.



2025 Clyde Boatwright Award



We greatly enjoyed celebrating the 2025 Clyde Boatwright Award recipient, Knudtsen Chevrolet, during last year's 2025 fair festivities. Their continued dedication, generosity, and support of our community and the North Idaho Fair made them truly deserving of this honor. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and all they do to help preserve and strengthen the traditions of North Idaho.

We are excited to once again honor the recipient of the Clyde Boatwright Award during the second Saturday of the fair alongside many other special fair awards and recognitions. This award represents the dedication, leadership, and lasting impact that help make our fair community so special. We look forward to announcing this year's winner soon and celebrating the individuals who continue to support and strengthen the traditions of the North Idaho Fair. Please join us as we celebrate these amazing people and the contributions they have made to our community and fairgrounds.

Presidential Address

Kim Weatherford: Proud to Lead the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation



I am truly honored to serve as the current President of the North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation. Living in North Idaho has been an incredible blessing, and having the opportunity to represent an organization that means so much to our community is a privilege I hold close to my heart.

The North Idaho Fair and Rodeo Foundation represents the spirit, heritage, and future of our community. It is inspiring to see the passion and support that so many people have for our mission. As a board, we are excited to continue building on that legacy and creating meaningful opportunities through scholarships, educational programs, capital improvements, and community events. We have an exciting year ahead with several wonderful events and initiatives planned, and we look forward to sharing them with all of you.

Whether you have supported the Foundation for years or are just getting involved, we are grateful to have you as part of our community. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events as we celebrate the enduring spirit of North Idaho together.

Kim Weatherford

President, North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation

North Idaho Nights- Full Throttle Edition

North Idaho Nights is gearing up to bring an unforgettable new experience to the community with the launch of the Full Throttle Edition on August 22 beginning at 2:00 PM at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds. This exciting event will pair with the motocross action to create an afternoon and evening full of energy, entertainment, food, drinks, raffles, and activities. Guests will even have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the motocross experience and truly feel part of the action.

The North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation is excited to continue creating events that bring the community together while supporting important causes throughout North Idaho. A portion of the proceeds from North Idaho Nights Full Throttle Edition will benefit the Red & Blue Foundation in support of our local heroes. Events like this help support the Foundation's mission of capital improvements, scholarships, and educational opportunities.

Tables and Tickets will be on sale soon!



Cowboy Ball Delivers Big for Students and Community

The Cowboy Ball brought an evening full of energy, generosity, and community spirit, raising an incredible \$78,000 to support local education initiatives. The event continues to grow as a favorite community tradition, and this year's turnout reflected just how much support there is for investing in students and their futures.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees, sponsors, and donors, \$23,000 in scholarships was awarded to 14 deserving students. These funds will help open doors and create new opportunities as they take the next steps in their educational journeys.

Guests enjoyed a fantastic dinner prepared by Ekness, followed by delicious desserts generously donated by Pastries and More — a sweet ending to an already memorable evening. The dance floor stayed lively as guests were thrilled to welcome back line dancing lessons led by Christie Peetoom, which added a fun and interactive element to the night.

“We were thrilled to see so many familiar and new faces come together for such a special evening. This event is truly an investment in our community's future,” said Serena Caples, Development Director.

A special thank you goes out to title sponsors Stegmann Farms, Knudsten Auto Group, and Farm Bureau for their generous support and commitment to supporting capital improvements, scholarships, and other educational opportunities.

From great food and dancing to a shared purpose of giving back, the Cowboy Ball once again proved to be more than just an event — it's a celebration of what a community can accomplish together.



Looking to get more involved? Learn more on donating and volunteering



The North Idaho
Fair & Rodeo Foundation

BENCH PROGRAM

A place to sit. A place to remember.

Through the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation Bench & Table Program, you can place a personalized bench or table right here on the Fairgrounds—where more than 170,000 guests gather each year to make memories of their own.

Your tribute becomes part of the Fair's story while helping support the Foundation's mission and adding seating for our community to enjoy for years to come.

- A meaningful way to give back
- A lasting tribute to someone special
- A place where memories live on



An Update from Serena Caples, Development Director of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation

As Development Director of the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation, I am continually inspired by the heart of this community. Every conversation, every event, and every act of generosity reminds me just how special this place is. It's truly an honor to be part of an organization that brings people together to support something bigger than themselves—creating opportunities, enhancing our fairgrounds, and investing in the future of North Idaho.

Over the past year, we have seen incredible momentum. From growing participation at our events to expanding our reach within local schools and community groups, it's clear that people believe in what we're building together. That shared belief fuels everything we do. Whether it's supporting scholarships, improving facilities, or creating new educational experiences, the impact of this work continues to grow in meaningful and exciting ways.

Looking ahead, I couldn't be more excited about what's to come. We are actively working on bringing new ideas to life—fresh events, expanded programs, and innovative ways to connect with our community. Our goal is not only to grow, but to create experiences and opportunities that people are proud to be part of. There is so much potential ahead, and we are just getting started.

On behalf of the Foundation, thank you for being part of this journey. Your support, encouragement, and enthusiasm make all the difference. Together, we are building something lasting—something that will continue to serve our community for generations to come.



Serena Caples

North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation Development Director

From the Ground Up: The Youth Stock Show and Sale

The North Idaho State Fair launched the Youth Stock Show and Sale (YSSS) in 2023, and it has been a work in progress in the best possible way.

The early focus was simple: get organized, be transparent, and make the experience easier for exhibitors. We also worked to welcome new local FFA chapters and open the door for non-traditional participants through an independent exhibitor pathway while still providing for our traditional 4-H exhibitors. Some wins came quickly. National level judges were recruited, processes and policies were clearly documented and partnerships with local processors were re-established.

Our community's generosity at the annual stock sale has never wavered. In 2025, we wrote checks totaling nearly \$1,000,000 to youth livestock exhibitors.

What we did not expect was how much fun we would have along the way. New events like the Beef Fitting Contest (adding goats in 2026!), Adult Showmanship and an all-exhibitor meeting featuring a t-shirt cannon have made Fair week even better. The market and showmanship finals have become a full production, with lights down, each exhibitor walking out to their own chosen song and getting their moment in the literal spotlight. A fitting clinic run almost entirely by our Junior Fair Advisory Board keeps exhibitors connected and prepared throughout the year. If you have never made it out during Fair week, consider this your invitation.

All of this is spearheaded by two dedicated livestock staff members, Hannah Booth and Blake McLean, who keep things rolling year-round through hundreds of banners, boxes of buckles, and countless emails and posts.

In 2024, the YSSS introduced "Caught Being Awesome," letting anyone anonymously recognize exhibitors doing something great or needing a gentle reminder of the rules. Every single report was positive, and we ran out of prizes. It turns out North Idaho's youth exhibitors are pretty great, and if that is not a testament to why these programs matter, we don't know what is.

Hannah Booth
Ag Program Director



Looking Ahead—The 2026 North Idaho State Fair



The 2026 North Idaho State Fair, themed “Fun in the Mix in 2026,” will run August 21–30, and it’s shaping up to be another incredible celebration of community, agriculture, and tradition.

Each year, the Fair reflects the heart of North Idaho—and 2025 reminded us just how strong that heart is. With over 169,000 attendees, sold-out arena shows, and record participation in our competitive exhibits program, the Fair continues to grow while staying true to what matters most: creating a place where families, friends, and neighbors come together.

One of the highlights year after year is our Youth Stock Show and Sale, where young exhibitors showcase not only their animals, but months—often years—of hard work, discipline, and dedication. In 2025 alone, over \$900,000 was generated in support of these youth. It’s one of the most meaningful ways we see the impact of this Fair play out in real lives.

Looking ahead to 2026, fairgoers can expect a dynamic mix of returning favorites and exciting new additions. From high-energy arena entertainment and concerts to free daily shows, local vendors, and agricultural exhibits, there’s truly something for everyone.

But beyond the lights, the rides, and the entertainment, the Fair serves a bigger purpose. It’s where traditions are passed down. It’s where young people find confidence and direction. It’s where our agricultural roots remain front and center in a rapidly changing world.

And it’s where community shows up—year after year.

As we prepare for another Fair, we’re reminded that its success is built on the support of those who believe in it. Your involvement—whether as a donor, sponsor, volunteer, or attendee—plays a vital role in keeping this tradition strong.

We can’t wait to welcome you back through the gates in August.

Alexcia Jordan, CFE

General Manager & CEO, North Idaho State Fair



2026 Gem State Stampede

Get ready between August 26-30 th for five action-packed rodeo performances in Findlay Arena featuring World Champions and top rodeo contestants from across the U.S. and Canada. Over the course of the rodeo, you will see some of the best talent in the PRCA competing for a trip to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. You had better get your tickets now as some of the performances are already sold out.

This year's rodeo will be star packed; you won't want to miss a performance. The big voice of Western Sports Roundup and the Cowboy Channel and award-winning rodeo announcer Steve Kenyon and award-winning music director Jill Franzen Loden will be back to entertain you. PRCA Bull Fighters Logan Blasdell, Eric Schwindt and Sean Peterson will protect our cowboys during the bull riding all week and 9-time NFR Barrelman and Triple Crown winner John Harrison will entertain the crowd. John annually wins Comedy Act of the year, Coors Man in the Can, and Clown of the Year. This is one of the most decorated entertainers we have ever had at the rodeo.

The Gem State Stampede committee is proud of the many improvements to the rodeo and the Findlay Arena over the last several years including all new arena dirt/ground for 2022, brand new arena lighting (thanks to the Fair Foundation), new pens for rough stock and timed event cattle and many other improvements to the arena. All aimed to make this rodeo the best it can be for rodeo fans, our cowboys, cowgirls and equine athletes. The Fair Board, Staff and Fair Foundation along with our community have so graciously supported our PRCA Rodeo and we can't thank them all enough.

For 2026 we are so excited to announce that we will have brand new Priefert Bucking Chutes along with new gates and stripping chutes. Our rodeo committee and volunteers have spent several days volunteering their resources, time and talents to remove the old infrastructure and install the new equipment. We can't wait to share these arena improvements with our cowboys/cowgirls and our fair and rodeo crowd in 2026.

We are a proud member of the PRCA's Columbia River Circuit and thanks to our Rodeo Committee's experience, the North Idaho State Fair and the great support of the Fair Foundation, Kootenai County and North Idaho community, we can't wait to bring you another great week of family entertainment.

Dave Paul

Chairman, Gem State Stampede Rodeo Committee



Having a Blast at Bingo

The North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation's Christmas Bingo was nothing short of magical this year, bringing together our community for an evening full of laughter, excitement, and giving. With our biggest turnout ever, we were thrilled to expand into Building 25, the Jacklin Building, allowing even more friends, families, and supporters to join in the fun. The energy in the room was incredible—from festive decorations to the sound of bingo calls and cheers from winners, it was a night that truly captured the spirit of the season.

What made this year even more special was the opportunity to make a meaningful impact beyond the event itself. During the evening, we proudly partnered with Make-A-Wish Foundation and donated 50% of the proceeds to help grant wishes for children facing critical illnesses. It was inspiring to see our community come together not only to celebrate, but to give back in such a powerful way.

“Christmas Bingo is one of those events that truly brings the community together in the best way,” shared Serena Caples. “Seeing the room filled with so much joy, laughter, and generosity is incredibly special. To be able to grow the event, welcome more people than ever before, and partner with Make-A-Wish to give back makes it even more meaningful. It’s a night that reminds us what this season is all about.”

We are so grateful to everyone who attended, supported, and helped make this event such a success. Christmas Bingo continues to grow each year, and we are already looking forward to making next year even bigger, brighter, and more impactful.



We Love Our Sponsors



Building Momentum—Together

Because of you, the Kootenai County Fairgrounds continues to do what it was always meant to do—serve as a place where North Idaho gathers, grows, and thrives.

Over the past year, the Fairgrounds has remained a hub of activity, welcoming nearly 400,000 guests across hundreds of events. From livestock shows and youth programs to community fundraisers, concerts, and trade shows, this facility is working year-round—and doing so without relying on taxpayer dollars. That's something we're incredibly proud of, and it's only possible because of the support of our Foundation members and donors.

This year, your impact can be seen in a meaningful way at the Jacklin Building. With a \$150,000 investment from the Foundation, we were able to complete a much-needed roof replacement and interior paint refresh. What was once a tired space is now renewed—clean, functional, and ready to serve our community for years to come. It's a great example of how thoughtful improvements can extend the life of our facilities while enhancing the experience for every guest who walks through the doors.

We're also excited to share progress on our new administrative office building, which we anticipate opening in early summer. This space will proudly carry the name Barb Renner Administrative Building, in honor of Barb's lasting legacy and her estate's generous \$100,000 contribution toward this project. Barb's total lifetime giving of more than \$600,000 continues to shape the future of this organization, with additional funds held to support future improvements across the grounds.

As you walk the Fairgrounds today, you'll notice progress everywhere. Some projects are highly visible, while others are happening quietly beneath the surface—critical infrastructure work that ensures this facility can continue to operate safely, efficiently, and successfully for years to come.

Every one of these improvements—large and small—is made possible in part through the generosity of our Foundation donors.

We could not be more grateful.

Your support is not only maintaining this facility, it is strengthening its future and preserving a place that means so much to so many.

Alexcia Jordan, OFE

General Manager & CEO, North Idaho State Fair



Celebrating Our 2026 Scholarship Program

The North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation is proud to celebrate an incredible year for our scholarship program, awarding \$23,000 to 16 outstanding students across our community. This year's applicant pool was one of the most competitive we've ever seen, filled with hardworking, passionate young individuals who represent the very best of North Idaho. From agriculture and trades to academics and community leadership, these students are paving the way for a bright future—and we are honored to play a small role in helping them get there.

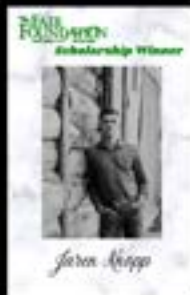
What makes this year especially meaningful is the continued growth of our relationships within the community. We've had the privilege of strengthening connections with local schools, educators, and families, allowing us to reach more students and better understand their goals and aspirations. These partnerships are at the heart of what we do, and they are helping us build a program that not only provides financial support but also fosters encouragement, mentorship, and opportunity.

This program would not be possible without the generosity and commitment of our donors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Livestock Booster Club, Stegmann Farms, Kootenai Shoshone Farm Bureau, Joy Richards, Allison and Jon Joss, Associated Insurance, NW Specialty Hospital, and the 40 Something Cowgirls. Your investment is more than a donation—it is a belief in the potential of our youth and a commitment to the future of our community.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue growing this program and expanding our impact. Each scholarship awarded is more than just financial support—it's a vote of confidence in the next generation. To our recipients, congratulations on this well-earned achievement. And to our community, thank you for standing with us as we invest in the future of North Idaho.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Thank You to Our Board of Directors

Behind every successful program at the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation is a dedicated and passionate Board of Directors committed to serving our community. Our board brings together a diverse group of leaders who generously give their time, expertise, and heart to guide our mission forward—supporting capital improvements, scholarships, and educational opportunities at the fairgrounds. Their leadership ensures that our foundation remains strong, focused, and positioned for continued growth.

We are proud to recognize our current board members who help make this work possible. Leading the way is President Kim Weatherford, alongside Vice President Rachel Peters and Treasurer Hayley Pflasterer. They are joined by board members Christine Planalp, Mercedes McComb, Dorine Southern, and Jessica McLean. Supporting the board's efforts are Executive Secretary Alexcia Jordan and Development Director Serena Caples, who work diligently to bring initiatives to life and strengthen community connections.

As the Foundation continues to grow, so does the impact of strong leadership behind the scenes. Our board is actively working to build meaningful relationships throughout the community, strengthen partnerships with local organizations, and lay the groundwork for future initiatives that will benefit generations to come. Their focus remains not only on today's success, but on creating a sustainable and thriving future for the fairgrounds and the youth we serve.

We are incredibly grateful for the vision, dedication, and momentum this group brings to the Foundation. With a shared commitment to community investment and opportunity, our Board of Directors is helping turn big goals into reality—ensuring the North Idaho Fair & Rodeo Foundation continues to make a lasting difference.



**President: Kim Weatherford, Vice President: Rachel Peters, Treasurer: Hayley Pflasterer, Board Members: Christine Planalp, Mercedes McComb, Dorine Souther and Jessica McLean
Executive Secretary: Alexcia Jordan and Development Director: Serena Caples.**

Upcoming Events



MAY 29-30, 2026

MONSTER TRUCK INSANITY TOUR

JUNE 10-12, 2026

KOOTENAI CLASSIC LIVESTOCK SHOW

JUNE 19-21, 2026

VINTAGE MARKET DAYS

JUNE 26-28, 2026

MODERN HOMESTEADING CONFERENCE

JUNE 26-28, 2026

LAKE CITY JR RODEO

AUGUST 21-30, 2026

NORTH IDAHO STATE FAIR



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