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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Secretary Gary Westcott



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Department Shares 2026 Spring Angola Rodeo Dates

Get tickets early for this family-friendly experience

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections announces that tickets are on sale now for the Angola Prison Rodeo, which is set for April 18 and 19, 2026 at Louisiana State Penitentiary. A general admission rodeo ticket is \$20 per day. The arena gates will open at 8 a.m. and the rodeo will start at 2 p.m. on both days. The public should purchase tickets in advance, as the rodeo does typically sell out. With the upcoming Christmas holiday, rodeo tickets make great gifts or stocking stuffers.

“The rodeo, which is also known as the ‘The Wildest Show in the South,’ has something to offer for citizens of all ages, and it’s a great way to spend the day,” said Darrel Vannoy, warden, Louisiana State Penitentiary. “Our staff works hard to ensure that attendees will have an enjoyable experience and the individuals who are incarcerated take pride in the hobby crafts they create for this event.”

The Department recommends that rodeo goers make plans for an early arrival to avoid any long lines and wait times. The event will feature musical performances, arts and crafts booths, and rodeo events like bust out, bareback riding, wild horse race, barrel racing, and bull-dogging. Other signature competitions include, chariot racing, wild cow milking, bull riding, convict poker and the finale, guts and glory.

Cash and major credit cards will be accepted for the purchase of unique, hand-made inmate hobby crafts, which will include jewelry, leathercrafts, furniture, woodworking, barbecue pits, toys and paintings. Children will get to enjoy age-appropriate attractions, like carnival games, pony rides and an antique carousel. Concession stands will offer a variety of food options, however this is a cash only transaction. As a convenience, an automatic teller machine or ATM will be onsite.

As a reminder, smoking at the rodeo is strictly prohibited as well as outside food, drinks and ice chests. The rodeo does permit clear or transparent bags for entry, and they are subject to search.

For more information about the event, to view the seating chart, buy an advance rodeo ticket or to become a sponsor, please visit the official online site, angolarodeo.com or call the correctional facility at 225-655-2030 or 225-655-2607, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Department warns it cannot guarantee the authenticity of a rodeo ticket obtained through an unauthorized third-party vendor.

No commercial documentary or film requests for either the 2026 spring or fall rodeos will be accepted due to the waiting list that currently exists. During the first week of April, the Department’s Headquarters Communications Unit will issue a limited number of media passes to approved news outlets.

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