

## **\* Liberty County 4-H Mounted Drill Teams \***

The Liberty County 4-H Fast Drill and Precision Riding Teams are in great need of your support to take our children to state competition each year in Abilene, Texas. We need dedicated sponsors to help defer the cost of getting these kids and their horses to Abilene. The teams travel approximately 850 miles round trip for this competition yearly in July. We must travel to Abilene the day before schedule practices because of this long distance and the strain on the horses.

In the past years, two teams competing in both the precision riding and fast drills have represented Liberty County. In 2009 The Rebel Riders won the State Championship in Drill Team competition by an impressive 11 point lead and placed 3rd in Precision Riding. They have held the State Championship in either Precision Riding or Drill Team for the past five years in a row and in 2007 held the Championship title for both drills. They also held the Precision Riding Championship in 2003. The Lone Star Riders took 7th place in Drill Team competition and 5<sup>th</sup> in Precision Riding placing above all other junior teams. The Lone Star Riders have never been defeated by a junior team and usually place above at least one senior team. Liberty represents District 9, which consists of 18 counties. This year and in the past we have kids from 4 different counties representing Liberty County. These riders are from Liberty, Chambers, Harris, and Hardin Counties. These teams also perform at rodeos throughout the year in several surrounding counties. Liberty County has competed and performed under the same leadership of Drill Masters Tommy Small, Debbie Cain, Cheryl Taylor, and Tammie Turner for many years. The current drillmasters are Head Drillmaster, Tommy Small, who is assisted by drillmaster Tammie Turner and Rex Robertson.

Besides the rodeos that the team performs at, they will compete several times before going to the State finals in Abilene. In May each year the teams travel to Giddings, Texas in Lee County to attend an open competition with their fast drill. Because of the starting time and distance this is also an overnight stay for most on the team. Then in June it is on to Katy, Texas in Harris County, for District competition in both precision riding and fast drill. We have been invited this year and are hoping to compete at the Drill Team Nationals Competition in Lindale, Texas the end of June. We wrap up the years competitions in Abilene at the Texas State 4-H Horse Show.

Last year the cost to travel to Abilene with 34 riders was almost \$35,000, which paid for costumes for horse and rider, hotel stay for 4 nights, entry and stall fees. We expect to need that amount or more this year. Our team members hold many fundraisers throughout the year to earn money necessary to compete at the state level in Abilene. For the kids to make these competitions they need your help. We need those people who are dedicated to our communities in helping our kids stay off the streets. While working hard with their animals in a good, clean, sporting competition, these kids learn teamwork and individual discipline with their horses. A child who is busy and tired from caring and training their horse – does not have time to get into trouble on the streets. There are not enough funds raised through the candy sales, raffles, brisket sales and BBQ sandwich sales to continue to get them to Abilene without your help. Remember a community is as strong as you make it. We must help our kids stay on a straight path – they are the future of our nation.

The Liberty County 4-H Drill Team would greatly appreciate your investment for a good cause, OUR KIDS!

### **4-H Motto**

“To Make the Best Better”

### **4-H Pledge**

“I pledge my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service, my Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world”.

If you would like to help support the Liberty County 4-H Mounted Drill Teams, please make checks payable to the LIBERTY COUNTY 4-H DRILL TEAM and mail to Tommy Small, PO Box 1713, Liberty, Texas 77575. Sponsorships and Donations are tax deductible.

Thank You,

Tommy Small Head Drill Master

Liberty County, Texas Tax #76-0462710