**Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum Bit, Spur & Rawhide Contest**

**2024**

**Rules and Guidelines**

All bit, spur & rawhide maker bios and photos are to be uploaded upon completion of the 2024 entry form.

The 2024 Gear Museum Contest will include:

20 Bits

10 Sets of Spurs

15 Rawhide Reins

All bit, spur & Rawhide items will be professionally photographed for use on the website, auction, program and all other media sources and outlets. Nicole Poyo Photography has graciously donated these photographs and continues to offer these professional images to the individual makers for their own marketing use for a nominal fee.

Every maker will start with the same blank cheek piece or spur band and may design them in any manner they choose (Inlay, overlay, steel engraved, etc.). Each maker can add or remove metal on the cheek to his or her liking. The mouth piece styles will be chosen by the maker. Maker may add rein chains if they choose. All bits & Spurs will be capped at $2500.00 for initial pricing. It is in the Arts and Gear Museums experience that bits priced below the $2500.00 threshold are the first to be bid on and generally exceed the maximum threshold.

Rules for the 2024 Bit & Spurs Contest:

All bits & Spurs are individually marked “CA” Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum logo. Maker is asked to mark their bit or Spurs with their individual maker’s mark.

Bits & Spurs will be listed for sale at price set by the maker. There will be an online auction where bits & Spurs will be posted and available for purchase through this online auction process. You can see the previous year’s bits online.

<https://cowboyartsandgearmuseum.org/product-category/2023-bit-auction/>

20% of proceeds will be taken as a “Charitable Donation” to the Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum. This is 100% deductible as a 501 (c) 3 donation.

The entry fee remains at $250.00 for Bits and Spurs and this is split between the museum and the contest purse.

Rawhide Rein Entry Fee is $100.00

Atten: Bit Makers

The 2023 Bit contest makers have the first right of refusal to enter the 2024 contest. If a maker forfeits their spot, the first completed application including received payment will be accepted and will fill the vacant spot.

Added Money & Awards:

J.M. Capriola Co. $2500.00

Gallagher Livestock $1000.00

Herman Oak Leather- Rawhide

Atwood Hat Co.-Merchandise

Rio Grande Jewelers Supply-

Other donations pending

Bits and Spurs are judged by three different judges that specialize in the horse industry. All judges’ decisions are final.

Categories on judging: Balance, function, visual appeal, design/detail, and finish work. No rough or sharp edges.

Rawhide Reins are judged on uniformity, correct parameters, balance & finish.

**ALL MAKERS: Please keep in mind this is a fundraiser for the CAGM. We are a 501 © 3 museum and we provide this contest as a way to showcase makers and help launch or further their talents.**

Makers will be responsible for the return shipping on any items do not sell.

If you have any questions, please contact John Wright 775-340-0789