

I am grateful to have been afforded an opportunity to apply for this bursary. My name is Nolan Patton and I have been raised in the agricultural industry in Clear Hills County. I grew up on a farm and am now part of the working crew at Wanham Community Pasture. I have also been raised in a family that loves and values the lifestyle of rodeo. I grew up alongside my grandpa and dad riding horses and using them for our livelihoods.

I have grown to have a passion for all things roping. With this lifestyle comes a lot of different responsibilities. I have two horses that we haul down the road so that I can be competitive. I spend a lot of time training and practicing with both so that I give myself the best chance every time I ride into the arena. It has grown me as a competitor as well. There are so many variables that are at play that I have no control over. It isn't for the faint of heart. My horses have taught me so much. I take care of them before I do anything for myself.

I very much enjoy team roping and roping calves. I am fortunate enough to be able to High School rodeo. I belong to the Alberta High School Rodeo Association and that has allowed me to travel to various places in Northern Alberta to compete. This spring, we have a very busy schedule lined up. We start our season in Grande Prairie, then to Whitecourt, on to our hometown of Worsley and then to High Prairie and finish up the regular season with our last one being in Hinton. My goal is to qualify for Provincials and Nationals in both of my events. Provincials are held in Stettler AB. May 31st, June 1st and 2nd. My partner, Owen Pratt in the team roping, is in his last year for High School rodeo and it would be amazing to make it to Nationals in the team roping with him. Nationals is held in Gillette Wyoming in July.

I love the camaraderie and the competition that rodeo brings to my life. I like that I get to help other young cowboys learn how to rope and teach them different skills they need to improve their horsemanship and sportsmanship skills. It really is like having another family that really wants to see me succeed. As you can see though, it is an expensive sport to be a part of. If I were to be awarded this bursary, I would use the money to make a solid run at Provincials and ultimately Nationals.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my application.

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