

June 25, 2021

## National Day of the Cowboy

By Jenny Castillo, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

The stakes for the life of the cowboy were high right from the start, for with the onset of the Industrial Revolution and now the Information Age, cowboys we know from books and movies have ridden into the sunset. However, as that “Cowboy Rides Away”—a new movement is determined to bring appreciation to this icon of the American West—via celebrations like **National Day of the Cowboy (July 24, 2021)**.

We’re not as far removed from the buckaroos who roamed where the deer and the antelope played. Holdovers from the days of cattle drives and campfires help to establish a “brand” of culture we still celebrate today.

- Any Urban Cowboy who wears heeled western boots should know that the heel actually helped cowboys’ feet stay in the stirrups as they drove hundreds of head of cattle towards greener pastures.
- Fringe had its benefits—as a functional feature to whisk away water in the driving rain.
- Wide brimmed hats served two purposes, shade from harsh sun, and a container for scooping up water from streams and rivers.
- Rodeos might be the most recognizable cowboy contribution to date. Skills they learned on the range led cowboys to compete against each other, evolving into what we know as the modern rodeo.

Understanding the contributions of people throughout history and their anthropological influences on modern life help create understanding and a sense of shared culture. Yee-haw!

To read more:

- <https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion/cowboys>
- <https://nationaltoday.com/national-day-of-the-cowboy/>
- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/rodeos>
- <http://fmlight.com/the-uses-of-western-garb-the-cowboy-hat/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AnTe663mrY>

