

August 29, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Cathy Newby – 505-598-4410

Karen Francis – 928-871-7160

2nd Annual Navajo Nation Fair Exceptional Children's Rodeo

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The 2nd Annual Exceptional Children's Rodeo is set for Thursday, Sept. 7, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dean C. Jackson Arena in Window Rock, Arizona.

The Navajo Nation Fair Exceptional Children's Rodeo represents a "Time for Reflection and Renewal" of the Navajo Nation's commitment to children with special needs.

Held in conjunction with the 60th Annual Navajo Nation Fair, approximately 150 children, grades K-6th, who have physical and mental disabilities will have the opportunity to rope their own steer, ride a horse around a barrel and cowboy up for a wooly ride in a mock rodeo held especially for them.

Recently, Navajo Nation leaders proclaimed Sept. 7, a day of recognition and respect on behalf of the Navajo Nation's most exceptional citizens -- those with disabilities. The reaffirmation of the proclamation honoring Navajos with disabilities emphasized that the Exceptional Children's Rodeo will now be an annual event.

Navajo Nation Council Delegate George Arthur is the Exceptional Rodeo Committee's Chairman. He and over 50 other volunteers have been working diligently all year to bring the second Exceptional Children's Rodeo to the Navajo Nation Fair.

"We embrace this opportunity to advocate for all exceptional children, their families and support organizations. The event teaches acceptance and recognition for all exceptional children, their families and support organizations," Arthur said.

"I would like to encourage participation by the entire Navajo community. This represents a unique opportunity to give of ourselves," said Arthur. "There are many Navajo families that live with disabled family members. Most of us do not realize that there are so many challenging moments in their lives. This event offers our Navajo children, families and community to come together to bestow honor, value and human dignity, and allow the children to experience the joy of mounting a horse or swinging a rope for the very first time."

For Indian cowboys and cowgirls John Boyd II and III, Sammy Jo White, Preston Williams, Rudy Yazzie, Ben Bitsui, Roger Gishie, Brent Givens, Al Charley, Wilbur Murphy, Ruth and Edison Bitsui, and Ed Holyan, Jr., this is an opportunity to give back to the rodeo community. Their participation helped to make the first Exceptional Children's Rodeo a success, and the committee invites the participation of Indian cowboys and cowgirls once again.

"Ahe'hee` to professional Indian cowboys and cowgirls who volunteered their time and talents during the first Exceptional Children's Rodeo in 2005 to assist special needs children with events like Kidz Kowboy Roping, Lickity Split Barrel Racing, Scoot and Scram Pole Pending, Spiffy Spot Horse Grooming, the Pony Express Ride and Mighty Bucky," committee member Ruth Bitsui said on behalf of the committee.

The Exceptional Children's Rodeo is made possible by a number of organizations and companies including the Public Service Company of New Mexico, BHP-Billiton, Transwestern, Inc., Conoco Phillips, Diné Power Authority, Enterprise Oil and Gas, Larry Foster and Indigitech, Booger Barter World Championship Roping, John Chapella Law Firm, Penny Emerson Native Resource Development Company Inc., Navajo

Oil and Gas, Ross Dia, America Native Medical Transport, the Navajo Nation Resources Committee, Office of the President and Vice President, the Office of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and Navajo Parks and Recreation.

The volunteer committee is comprised of several rodeo participants and enthusiasts who believe the event makes positive impacts for the children. Committee members are George Arthur, John Boyd, Jr. Ruth Bitsui, Edison Bitsui, Marcella King, Cathy Newby, Clarina Arviso-Boyd, Gloria Grant, Ray Russell, Florinda Jackson, Karen Francis, Roger Gishie, Cynthia Martinez, Louise Bitsui, Harrison Bitsui, Aaron Ben and Maxine Etter.

###