

INFORMATION PACKET

Georgia Lineman's



FFA - CAMP JOHN HOPE

FORT VALLEY, GA – MAY 3, 2025



RODEO INFORMATION

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Georgia Lineman's Rodeo Competition will be held on May 3, 2025 at Camp John Hope: 281 Hope Entrance Rd, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Teams will compete in two divisions: EMC and Electric Cities.

On Saturday following the Rodeo, there will be an awards presentation on the Camp John Hope Rodeo Field.

Awards will be given to:

- First, second, third, fourth, and fifth place teams overall.
- First, second, and third place teams for events.
- First, second, third, fourth, and fifth place overall apprentice lineman.
- First, second and third place apprentice lineman in each division.
- First, second and third place apprentice lineman for events, per division.

Judges representing each division will judge the rodeo events. Rodeo teams consist of three members: two climbers and a ground person. They may also have a coach if desired. Climbers must be a Journeyman Lineman or meet the qualifications established by the International Lineman's Rodeo Committee. An Apprentice Lineman who has competed as an apprentice for four years or more cannot compete in the Apprentice events. After four years of Rodeo competition as an Apprentice, the Apprentice must compete on a Journeyman team.

A Lineman can be the Groundman but must be designated as the Groundman for the Rodeo.

This packet is intended as an informational resource to answer commonly asked questions about the Lineman's Rodeo. It contains specification pages that may be used to build a practice line as well as information sheets for each announced event in the Rodeo. Also included is a list of common infractions for all events that judges will be looking for.

Registration will be at Camp John Hope on Friday, May 2nd with Competition on Saturday, May 3rd from 8:00am - 2:00pm. All Apprentices must register individually, and all Team members must register together. **All participants must provide a picture ID for registration.**

Teams and Apprentices must have their own tools, handlines, hose bags, hand tools, wire brushes and tarp. Teams that might be sharing some major items must register together and let someone know at registration to avoid being scheduled for the same event together. The schedule will be drawn prior to registration.

Each Team is required to supply at least one judge per team for the rodeo.

One judge is required for every three apprentices that are from one utility.

RODEO INFORMATION (cont'd)

All poles for the rodeo will be CCA-treated 40' class 4, unless otherwise noted on event description sheet.

To compete in the Rodeo, please register online at garodeo.com or email your completed forms to Charles Mathis at Charlesmmathis@bellsouth.net. If paying by check, please send form and payment to:

GLRA | 6077 Middleground Road | Louisville, GA 30434

Please attempt to have registrations submitted before April 18, 2025 to allow for ordering of supplies and materials.

You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. GLRA will not be blocking rooms.

There will be a special vendor show on Friday, May 2nd, and Saturday May 3rd, at the FFA Camp. Vendors will be displaying the latest tools and equipment pertinent to Electric Utility Linemen. See agenda for more details.

Please do not grill on the Rodeo Field during the rodeo on Saturday. The smoke could be a distraction for the participants competing. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Camp John Hope is a state-run facility, **so NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are allowed at Camp John Hope. NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

NEW: Competitors' trailers will be required to park on the far end of the field.

Note: All events at the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo are for competition purposes only and in no way should be taken as to what a Journeyman Team or an Apprentice should or should not do at their own company.

EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

The Georgia Lineman's Rodeo is sponsored and coordinated through the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo Association. GLRA is a non-profit organization that relies on participant entry fees, exhibitor sponsorships, and meal, shirt, and hat orders to finance the Rodeo. Many of the expenses incurred are non-refundable to GLRA.

The Georgia Lineman's Rodeo will be cancelled in the event of prolonged Lightning, Tornados, or other severe weather during the scheduled day of the Rodeo that make it impossible for safe participation. Furthermore, the Rodeo will be cancelled in the event of widespread power outages that require most of the Rodeo participants and judges to return to work.

In the event of cancellation, there will be no refunds for entry fees, sponsorships, and food and/or merchandise orders. Shirts and hats that were preordered and paid for will be delivered later.

The decision to cancel the Rodeo due to weather related issues will be made by the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo Association Board of Directors and communicated by every means possible.

RODEO JUDGE'S SCORING INFORMATION

The GLRA Events Committee sets forth the guidelines listed on the following pages. Each event is worth a total of 100 points.

Bonus points will **Not** be awarded in the 2025 GLRA Rodeo. Places for events will be determined by combination of highest score and fastest time.

JUDGING IS BASED UPON:

- **Safety**
- **Work Practices**
- **Neatness and Ability**
- **Equipment Handling**
- **Timely Completion of Event**

- Time will be used as a tiebreaker only.
- Total number of events for each team = 4.
- All Safety rules are to be observed during events.
- Rubber gloves ground to ground for all pole events unless otherwise stated in event description.
- **All material sent up and down the pole will be hooked on the handline hook or inside a material bag.**
- Safety glasses are required for all events.
- Ground man must wear work gloves.
- Hard hats must be worn properly during all events.
- Long sleeve shirts are required.
- **A tool inspection will be conducted to check for safe condition and for alterations of tools such as: tapered cuts on straps, elongated holes in straps & belts, tape on straps, improper gaff length, buckles filed.**
- **Video Evidence will not be allowed in scoring results.**

JUDGING GUIDELINES

All safety rules are to be observed during events.

INFRACTIONS – 2 POINT DEDUCTION

1. Loss of hard hat.
2. Not wearing safety glasses.
3. No rubber on reach, fall, or slip.
4. Dropping tools.
5. Cutout with loss of control.
6. Hot-dogging.
7. Hand line operation while team is climbing.
8. Misuse of tools.
9. Wearing hard hat backwards.
10. Twisted hand line operation.
11. Not wearing OSHA approved lineman's belt.
12. Poor housekeeping (Tools and material must be kept on tarp).
13. Exceeding the mean time to complete an event.
14. If the event mean time is exceeded by more than 2 minutes the team will be stopped and be deducted 2 additional points. Timing will continue until the event is returned to normal and both linemen are back on the ground.
15. Not wearing work gloves.
16. Pushed or rolled up shirt sleeves.
17. Being late for an event. **Once an event is completed, teams and apprentices will be given 30 minutes to arrive at their next event. Teams and apprentices will be given one 1-hour lunch break.**
18. Failure to perform an event on schedule unless approved by Master Judge.
19. **Using unsafe tools in any event.**
20. **IMPROPER ADJUSTMENT ON FALL RESTRAINT WHILE CLIMBING OR IN A WORKING POSITION.**
21. **Secondary Safety may not be carried around climbers neck at any time during the event.**
22. **Loss of control of secondary safety while climbing will result in a deduction.**

GENERAL RULES – 10 POINT DEDUCTION

1. Cut out and fall to the ground.
2. Accidental contact with energized phases.
3. Working opposite energized phases.
4. Insulators being broken during an event.
5. Not using hand line or material bag for sending material up and down the pole.
6. Ascending or descending the pole while another climber is working or un-safetied.
7. **FALL RESTRAINT/PROTECTION MUST BE USED IN THE 2025 GEORGIA LINEMAN'S RODEO.**
8. **5 MINUTES LATE FOR TEST (MORE THAN 5 MINUTES LATE THE COMPETITOR WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THAT EVENT).**

DISQUALIFICATION

1. Unprofessional behavior.
2. Practicing on the Rodeo field prior to the Rodeo.
3. Tampering with materials, tools, or equipment on the Rodeo Field.
4. Unapproved use of alternates or changing status of team members during the events. See Master Judges for approved use of alternates or change in team status during Rodeo.
5. Teams and Apprentices must attempt all events to be eligible to win an event except for a Team or Apprentice being injured the day of the rodeo. Final determination for a Team or Apprentice to win, that did not attempt all events, will be made by the Events committee.

RULES FOR PROTEST

1. Protests must be submitted to the Chief Judge **BEFORE** the competitor exits the event.
2. Protest must be made on the **official protest form** to the Chief Judge for that event and resolved before leaving event location. (Protest forms will be at each event)
3. If the Chief Judge denies the protest, an additional two-point deduction will be applied to the score on that event.
4. Protest may be appealed to the Master Judges. If the Master Judges rule in favor of the team/apprentice, the two-point deduction for the protest will be removed. However, if the Master Judges uphold the decision of the Chief Judge the two-point deduction will remain and an additional two-point deduction will be applied.

General Judging Guidelines

- Teams and apprentices will have a **5-minute set-up time to prepare tools and also ask any questions they may have for the judge**. If the team or apprentice is not ready at the end of the 5-minute set-up time, the event time will begin.
- Climbers may assist each other with safety straps while re-positioning (1 or 2 steps) only.
- Blanket pins, small material (clamps, tie wire etc.) and small hand tools may be carried up in the lineman's ditty bag (no insulators, big bolts or items that may be dropped and injure someone) **unless otherwise noted on individual events**.
- The 1st climber must carry the handline, one climber must descend the pole to the ground before the handline is dropped and the climber who drops the handline must signal the groundman (yell "headache") before dropping the block.
- The handline may be placed just above the neutral clevis before the neutral is covered, however the climber shall not contact the **uncovered** neutral with **unprotected** parts of the body.
- All tools and material must be sent up and down with handline or drop line.
- It is permissible to drop a tag line to the ground from the pole if the climber signals the groundman.
- It is permissible to lower rope blocks to the ground with its own rope.
- Material or tool bags may be suspended or hooked onto the bottom of the handline block.
- Brush/incidental contact of a **covered neutral** with **unprotected** parts of the body is **not** a deduction.
- Brush/incidental contact of a **covered primary** with **unprotected** parts of the body is a deduction.
- Hot Sticking Events: the climber cannot encroach inside the minimum approach distance on the hot stick with rubber gloves.
- Climbers **cannot** encroach inside the minimum approach distance (26 inches) of uncovered primaries that are not being worked with unprotected parts of the body, whether it be sticking or gloving events. The only permissible encroachment is with rubber gloves.
- **Working opposite energized phases at the same time is not allowed, whether it is with sticks or gloves.**
- Climbers shall not work on the ground with their climbing tools on. **Climbing tools are defined by the Event Committee as HOOKS/CLIMBERS ONLY. Body belts are not considered climbing tools.**
- Gaffs must be protected with gaff guards outside the 10 ft. circle.
- If material or tools come off the tarp and the groundman places it back on within 10 seconds, this is not a deduction.
- It is permissible for the handline and ropes to come off the tarp and remain there.
- All Team members and Apprentices must wear work gloves while working on the ground.
- The Team or Apprentice should check the working condition of all material and tools provided during the set- up time.

- The Groundman cannot work directly under a climber who is ascending or descending the pole.
- The Groundman cannot stand under a suspended load such as a crossarm.
- Material and tool bags cannot be loaded before time starts; bags do not have to be unloaded before time stops. (Must be unloaded before leaving event site)
- A climber may assist the Groundman pulling rope blocks, or a handline for raising or lowering heavy material.
- **Every electrical connection must be wire brushed unless otherwise noted.**
- The tie wire can be cut in the set-up time.
- The tie wire cannot be made up in the set-up time.
- Homemade devices used to hold primary cover upright are allowed but **must** be 10 ft. from the pole and subject to Chief Judge's discretion.
- Insulation shavings falling from the pole are not a deduction.
- Channel locks may be used as a holding tool only.
- **No ascending or descending the pole while other climber is un-safetied, working, or if handline is in operation.**
- When an event begins and ends with both climbers and the Apprentice back on the ground, the following will apply: **Event times will start on judges' signal.** Event time will stop when the last man down has one foot on the ground (earth).

Time will start on judge's signal. Teams and apprentice will start event with safety hooked in D ring or placed over arm. (Cannot hold snap in hand) Time will stop when the last man down has one foot on the ground (earth). However, the fall arrest/safety does not have to be removed from around the pole for time to stop.

2025 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo Event Questions

Please submit all event questions directly to the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo Association using the contact information below. **ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL. NO QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED BY PHONE.** Do not forget to include your contact info.

Bobby Fincher, Events Committee Chair: bfincher@ssemc.com

GLRA Events Committee Members

Tony Jordan

Blake Manning, Crisp County Power

Wayne Connell, Jackson EMC

Les Wilson, Marietta Power

Nick Pandolfi – Flint Energy

Patrick LeCroy – Greystone Power

Rusty Spear - City of Griffin

- Please have ALL questions submitted before **Friday, April 25, 2025**. Questions submitted after this date will not be answered.

2025 GEORGIA LINEMAN'S RODEO RELEASE

I, _____ (hereinafter "Releasor")
PRINT NAME

of _____, City of _____, State of _____,
COMPANY NAME

the undersigned, with the intent of binding myself, my spouse, and my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, executed in this Release as my own free act and deed.

Releasor, being of lawful age, in consideration of being permitted to participate in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo to be located at Camp John Hope, 281 Hope Entrance Road, Fort Valley, GA, on the date of May 3, 2025, do for myself, my spouse, and my heirs, legal representatives and assigns, hereby release and forever discharge all sponsors including: the ELECTRIC CITIES OF GEORGIA, GEORGIA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS, and the GEORGIA LINEMAN'S RODEO ASSOCIATION, INC., each of their respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, affiliates, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators, or legal representatives, or any other successors in interest (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Releasee") of and from any and every claim, demand, action or right of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or equity, arising from or by reason of their participation in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, and hereby assumes all risks of any bodily injury or personal injuries known or unknown, death or occurrence that may occur during or as a result of Releasor's participation in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo or any activities in connection with the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, whether caused by negligence of Releasee or otherwise.

Releasor further releases Releasee, officials, other participants, or any person of any claim whatsoever on account of first aid treatment or services rendered during his/her participation in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo.

Releasor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Releasee from any loss, liability, damage or cost, including reasonable attorney's fees, he/she may incur due to the presence of Releasor in or upon Camp John Hope during the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo or any activities in connection with the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, except that caused by the sole negligence of the Releasee.

Releasor further grants the GEORGIA LINEMAN'S RODEO ASSOCIATION, INC. (the "GLRA") an irrevocable royalty-free license to use Releasor's name, photograph, voice, likeness, and any identifiable attributes in connection with any materials created by the GLRA in any media (hereinafter the "Photographs"). Releasor forever releases the GLRA from all claims associated with this license or the Photographs. The GLRA shall be the exclusive owner of the Photographs and the rights in the Photographs. Releasor represents that he/she will not seek to disaffirm this Release.

Releasor further warrants and states that:

1. He/She is eighteen (18) years of age or older.
2. He/She is a lineman or ground person.

3. He/She has been thoroughly trained in climbing utility poles and in working on or atop utility poles without supervision.
4. He/She is aware of and understands all safety regulations and rules applicable to servicing, repairing, replacing, or otherwise working with or on electrical power lines and utility poles.
5. He/She will supply, for his/her own use, all equipment necessary for his/her participation in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, including, but not limited to, all hooks, belts, and hand tools.
6. He/She has inspected all said equipment and tools, and he/she hereby warrants that they are in good condition and that they are suitable and adequate for use in servicing, repairing, replacing, or otherwise working with or on electrical power lines during the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo.
7. He/She is aware of all risks and dangers involved in participation in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, including without limitation, all risks associated with climbing or working on or atop utility poles where no fall arresting system, safety nets or other such devices are in use, and the risks associated with the failure of personal protective equipment such as belts, hooks, personal fall protection equipment, and hand tools, and hereby states that his/her participation therein is voluntary.
8. He/She is acting of his/her own accord and Releasee has in no way coerced, forced or suggested that Releasor participate in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo.
9. He/She hereby agrees and understands that Camp John Hope has made no warranties as to the safety and condition of the facilities used at the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo and has not made any representations and warranties as to the ground and has not done any soil testing, and Releasor hereby agrees that he/she enters onto the property at his/her own risk.

This Release contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and the terms of this Release are contractual and not merely recitals.

Releasor further states that he/she has carefully read the foregoing Release, and knows and understands the contents thereof, and signs this Release as his/her own free act.

In witness whereof, hand and seal, Releasor has executed this Release in _____ County, Georgia, on the ____ day of _____, 2025.

_____(LS.)
RELEASOR

NOTARY PUBLIC

Georgia Lineman's



2025 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo
Camp John Hope (FFA), Fort Valley, GA
May 3, 2025

BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM

Please use this form if you would like to purchase Banquet Tickets. One Banquet ticket is included for Teams and Apprentices and Judges.

Please email this form to Charles Mathis at Charlesmmathis@bellsouth.net *NOTE: You must submit payment via the website after sending your form. Garodeo.com*

Banquet Tickets

Adult Ticket _____ \$35.00 \$ _____
Child's Ticket _____ \$20.00 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*Tickets can be picked up at the registration table on Friday, May 2nd between 10:00am – 2:00pm.
Please provide the name of the person who will be picking up the order:*

Name: _____ Utility: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



2025 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo

Camp John Hope (FFA), Fort Valley, GA

May 3, 2025

RODEO T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Please use this form if you would like to purchase rodeo gear. Shirts are included for Teams and Apprentices.

Please email this form to Charles Mathis at Charlesmmathis@bellsouth.net **NOTE: You must submit payment via the website after sending your form. Garodeo.com**

SHORT SLEEVE

LONG SLEEVE

Small	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
Medium	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
Large	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
XL	_____	\$15.00	\$ _____
2 XL	_____	\$17.00	\$ _____
3 XL	_____	\$17.00	\$ _____
4 XL	_____	\$17.00	\$ _____

Small	_____	\$20.00	\$ _____
Medium	_____	\$20.00	\$ _____
Large	_____	\$20.00	\$ _____
XL	_____	\$20.00	\$ _____
2 XL	_____	\$23.00	\$ _____
3 XL	_____	\$23.00	\$ _____
4 XL	_____	\$23.00	\$ _____

CHILDREN SHIRTS (SHORT SLEEVE ONLY)

HATS

Youth Small	_____	\$12.00	\$ _____
Youth Medium	_____	\$12.00	\$ _____
Youth Large	_____	\$12.00	\$ _____

One Size _____ \$12.00 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Orders can be picked up at the registration table on Friday, May 2nd between 10:00am – 2:00pm. Please provide the name of the person who will be picking up the order:

Name: _____ Utility: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

AGENDA

2025 GEORGIA LINEMAN'S RODEO

THURSDAY, MAY 1

3:00pm

CHIEF JUDGES' MEETING (MANDATORY)

FRIDAY, MAY 2

10:00am – 2:00pm

JUDGES' MEETING (MANDATORY)

Judges will receive their assignments & official shirts

10:00am – 2:00pm

VENDOR EXPO

Come check out the latest products and services.

10:00am – 2:00pm

RODEO REGISTRATION & SALES

Registration for apprentices, teams, and greeters.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

8:00am

OPENING CEREMONY

8:30am

2025 GLRA RODEO COMPETITION

8:30am

OUTDOOR VENDOR EXPO

AWARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT
THE RODEO BANQUET ON
SATURDAY EVENING

THANK YOU 2025 SPONSORS!

Georgia Lineman's

