

CUSTER STATE PARK APPLICATION

BUFFALO ROUND UP HORSEBACK RIDER

SEPTEMBER 24 and 25, 2026

Please Note: If you have ridden in the roundup in 2023, 2024, or 2025, you are not eligible to ride in 2026.

Please print or type:

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: CELL: _____ HOME: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NOTE: If drawn, email is our preferred method of contact. If you do not monitor your email, do not provide.

Please complete the following information:

Weight: _____ Height: _____

Average number of days of riding per year: _____

Type of riding done: _____

Do you have any livestock handling experience? _____

Total number of years of riding experience: _____

NOTE: Only one application per rider may be submitted, per email or mail. More than one application will void all applications.

You may indicate if you would like to ride with up to one other person who must submit their own application and select you as their choice. Groups of three will not be put in the draw.

I would like to ride with: _____

YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN HORSE.

IF DRAWN, your role in the roundup will be to assist in gathering and moving the herd several miles. Both horse and rider should be in good physical condition. The terrain that you will encounter will vary from very rocky, steep timbered slopes, possibly up to 50 degrees, to flat prairie. Stream crossings may be encountered. Jumping fallen trees may be necessary. **THIS IS NOT A TRAIL RIDE!**

What to Expect:

The roundup activity for riders will begin on Thursday, September 24, 2026, with check in, safety briefing and orientation ride.

It is **required** that you attend this orientation to introduce your horse to the buffalo, see the lay of the land and learn your duties for Friday's event. The official roundup ride occurs on Friday morning, September 25, 2026.

Due to the growing level of interest in participating in the roundup, successful applicants are not eligible to re-apply for one of the designated public at-large rider spots for three (3) years. This means you will be eligible to apply again in 2030.

This application is for field orientation on Thursday, September 24th, and roundup participation Friday, September 25th. **To ensure a safe event, Riders and horses must attend both days.** Please understand you will be an active part of a team that will be riding hard to assist in gathering the buffalo herd into the corrals.

I hereby verify that the information contained in this application accurately reflects my horseback riding experience and that if drawn to participate in the roundup I will sign a waiver of liability form provided by the State of South Dakota.

SUBMITTED BY: _____ DATE: _____

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
Application must be received no later than May 31, 2026.
Successful applicants will be notified by June 12th, 2026.

- **Mail to: Custer State Park, Attn: Roundup Draw, 13329 US Highway 16A, Custer, SD 57730.**
 - **Please note, this is a random draw. additional information on application (i.e. experience, riding history, etc.) does not influence the random draw.**
-