

Fort Bridger 2023 Knife and Hawk

The 50th anniversary of the Fort Bridger Rendezvous will prove to be one of the biggest events in Wyoming. The Knife and Hawk event is charted to be one of the best of all rendezvous.

The event is structured so that contestants of all skills and experience can participate and have a good time. Besides the typical Men's, Women's and Youth division, an amateur division is incorporated for those with less than a year's experience.

There are two blanket throws scheduled for Thursday and Friday so that the range masters and the contestants can get a good feel for the course. This low level competition requires an inexpensive item by every contestant, so every contestant will get a prize.

Saturday is the big competition. From 8:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon, scores will be tallied to determine the top four contenders. Then at 3:30 those top four scores will go head to head to determine the true master of their division. Excellent prizes are given out to those winners.

The competition on Sunday takes a different atmosphere. There will be two events and only \$5 per contestant is asked for both events. In the morning a partner's competition will be held. In this event two players will combine their score to see who the winner is. If you don't have a partner, please come anyway as there are likely several like you who would like to compete. There are no divisions in this competition. Trader bucks will be awarded to the top scores.

The second event will begin at 1:00. Using the same course, two players will team up and go through the course as a relay. One player will throw at a target, retrieve the hawk and give it to the next player for the next target. The players go back and forth from target to target. A timing is taken combined with their score to determine the winner. This event is unique to Bridger and is a lot of fun for the contestants and spectators. Trader bucks will be awarded to the top scores.

The knife and hawk is a very popular activity, especially for those who are too old to play kids games and too young to compete in the rifle shoot. In addition, unlike most events, this activity can go on all day long the entire rendezvous. Several targets are set aside for practice which are open at all times. The main course is closed during competition, but open to all when no one is competing.

The only requirement to compete in the knife and hawk is that the competitors must be in period dress. For those who are not in dress (flatlanders), there are two times on Saturday and Sunday where you can come learn how to throw from a seasoned mountain man. We even have hawks you can borrow. Look for the times in the flyer.

The knife and hawk has many different targets to test their skill. There are standard targets, some called balance, dice throw, compass, the Bridger three step, and others. There are three moving targets that challenge the best. The most favorite of all is called *Save Bob*. *Save Bob* was started at Bridger several years ago and has been a big hit. Poor Bob is about to be hung. The hawk thrower has to cut a string that releases Bob from the noose.

The knife and hawk event at Bridger will provide fun for all ages with challenging targets and fun competitions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Truestory