



White Mountain Apache Tribe  
Fair & Rodeo Office

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cairo Clay, Fair Manager

Ph: (928) 338-2492

### 2020 WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBAL FAIR & RODEO CANCELLATION

(FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION, WHITERIVER, AZ. JUNE 2, 2020)

Today the White Mountain Apache Tribe Fair and Rodeo Commissioners held a teleconference work session regarding the annual Tribal Fair celebration. After extensive input from each Fair and Rodeo Commissioner the committee came to a consensus to cancel the 2020 White Mountain Apache Tribal Fair and Rodeo. The very agonizing decision has been reached in the name of safety of the White Mountain Apache people, rodeo contestants, fair-goers, staff, vendors, entertainers, exhibitors, sponsors and suppliers.

The annual White Mountain Apache Tribal Fair and Rodeo is so much more than just a fair – it is a celebration of our people, our land, our resilience, our tradition, our rich history and everything we are so proud of as White Mountain Apaches. We understand the magnitude of disappointment you may be feeling. We feel it too. However, safety is our top priority, and that cannot be compromised under any circumstance. We have tremendously loyal fair-goers, vendors, partners and rodeo family. For that we are forever grateful, and our greatest responsibility is to ensure that the White Mountain Apache Tribe remains strong and resilient for future generations.

Moving forward, the Fair and Rodeo Commission and Fair Office staff will continue to analyze the data and prioritize the safety of all when making decisions about future events scheduled at the Whiteriver Fairgrounds.

However, all events at the Whiteriver Fairgrounds and Country Hall are canceled for the remainders of 2020; or until Tribal restrictions are lifted and large events are able to safely resume. We will share updated information as it becomes available or changes are made.

At this time, the Fair and Rodeo office is closed until allowed to re-open by the Tribe's "work from home" order. Messages can be left on the office voicemail by calling (928) 338-2492.

In the meantime we encourage you all to continue to pray, stay safe, practice social distancing, wash your hands often and stay home as much as possible. Please take a moment to recognize and thank our front-line healthcare workers, emergency and fire personnel, our Apache Police and the WMAT EOC for all the work they are doing during this pandemic. Our prayers are with all the White Mountain Apache Tribe and everyone across this great Nation that has been affected by coronavirus.

We are not going anywhere, we are here to stay. Together we can beat COVID-19. Take care and we'll see you at the 2021 White Mountain Apache Tribal Fair and Rodeo – September 1-6, 2021.



#### Address

Mailing:  
P.O. Box 1709  
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Physical:  
319 N. 1st Street  
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

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