

Talking Points

The event is called Tiger Tough Welding Certification Event and Build Off, it's held at 105 S Main (SWAT Building also known as Coffield Old Lumber Yard) on Wednesday Nov 17th starting at 8am.

This event is put together by Rockdale ISD, Perry & Perry Builders, and Servicing Welders Across Texas (SWAT). This event is one of the 26 across the state that is sanctioned under the Texas High School Welding Series (TXHSWS), and this year's Tiger Tough event is the largest one so far in the series.

The 26 events are held between September and April of each school year.

TXHSWS was officially launched in 2018-2019 school year, a little history, this series was developed and moved to the next level after an event that PPB attended an event put on by Columbus ISD. In 2017 there was only 3 or 4 events being held individually, we came together at that time and formed the TXHSWS. With this series being organized it allowed us to grow the series and work together to continuously adjust the rigor to push these kids to the next level.

This year's event in Rockdale will host between 250 and 270 individual kids, comprised of 23 schools. Some of these schools are traveling as far as 225 miles to compete in this event.

The uniqueness of this event that draws the contestant is from the real-world welding situations we create for them to test their skills, including equipment demos and aerial equipment operations.

These events allow the kids to achieve certification that belong to them. These certifications are pivotal when kids graduate high school and go directly into the work force. It helps them get their foot in the door with employers knowing that these kids at least possess the basic knowledge and skills to complete basic and some advanced welding tasks. PPB has seen firsthand kids come out of this program and be in a position to come in above just an introductory welding position.

Non-destructive testing (X-Ray) is performed on level 3 & 4 welding certification events to verify the legitimacy of the weld. This is above and beyond some industry standards for verification that the weld is 100%.

This particular event also includes a team building event, this competition consists of up to 3 person teams. These teams are handed a stack of material and a blueprint to build something that is unique to this specific event. These students and teachers have 15 minutes together to make heads or tails of this blueprint and after the 15 minutes is up the teacher is removed from the equation and the kids are on their own to complete the project.

After the competition the school districts are allowed to take their projects back to their district to complete and/or clean up any mistakes that were made, they then auction these items off, with the money earned it goes back into welding programs at their schools.

A special thanks to Erick and Britina Pesak for pouring countless hours into these events. Please visit the website by searching Texas High School Welding Series and pay special attention to all the sponsors of this series, which without these sponsors these events would not be possible. Some of the Milam County businesses that support the series are Butler Weldments, SWAT, PPB, and Rockdale Welding Supply.