

Darby Rodeo Association

Royalty Pageant: Welcome!

Contestants, moms, grandmas, aunties, sisters and friends, WELCOME to the Darby Rodeo Association's Royalty Pageant where preserving our western heritage, promoting the sport of rodeo and the Darby Rodeo Association while helping young ladies develop their leadership skills is our mission. Please be sure to READ ALL information provided.

Though this pageant will be challenging for all contestants, the heart of it is developed with beginners in mind. Because I know you will find this "queening" experience valuable, it is also designed with the expectation that once you realize you have survived it, you will want to move on to next level! It is my aim to prepare both contestants and "royalty moms & dads" for their next pageant, whether that be another attempt at DRA Royalty, Missoula Stampede or beyond. To that end, please know that we have gleaned advice from Miss Rodeo America, the National High School Rodeo Queen and materials from the Miss Rodeo Montana pageant to guide us in the creation of this program.

For those of you who are new to this "royalty thing", I want you to know I've been there; I understand there is an element of fear of the unknown. As you prepare you may find there seem to be all sort of unwritten "rules" disguised as recommendations. Don't panic. Be assured that we want as much transparency as possible and will do everything we can to dispel the mysteries of the rodeo pageant world for you. We will provide you with advice through rodeo and rodeo queen information websites/Face book pages so that you can inform and prepare yourselves as best as possible within your means. Success in this pageant is not dependent upon affluence, leather dresses and finished reining horses. It **will** depend on your horsemanship skills, maturity, attitude, respect for others, rodeo knowledge and respect for tradition and how much obvious effort you invest.

One key to success is to keep in mind this pageant is an application for one of the best jobs you will ever have! Though you will receive some prizes, your true pay will be of an intangible nature and dependent upon the effort you put into your work. The job you are applying for is a public relations type position that has a western dress code and requires sound horsemanship skills, knowledge of rodeo events and sponsors, poise under pressure, willingness to answer questions and work with the public. In addition to presenting flags at DRA events, your duties may include: work with the stock contractor to push cattle during an event; ride or appear in parades; help with community events; sell raffle tickets; attend dinners; show off auction items; sign autographs and give interviews. The application process (the pageant) will strengthen each of you, and the position, should you be selected for it, will pay off in the long run by helping you to develop valuable leadership and communication skills that will benefit you the rest of your life!

Thank you for your interest in entering this great and wonderful world of rodeo royalty!
I look forward to working with all of you ~ Call or email me any time with any questions!

- Amanda Zeman (406) 240-9432 darby.mt.rodeo.royalty@gmail.com

Darby Rodeo Association

Royalty Pageant Application

Please READ ALL the Contest rules and information. Complete this form and return it along with your entry fee, the 5x7 head shot in western attire, and your signed and notarized release form to the DRA Royalty Pageant Coordinator at 5103 Hoblitt Ln. N Florence, MT 59833. \$25 entry fee payable to Darby Rodeo Association Royalty by June 1st, 2024

Title Competing for:

Lil Miss _____ (7 - 10)

Princess _____ (11 - 14)

Queen _____ (15 - 18)

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Birthdate: _____

Age as of June 1ST, 2024 _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Email: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

School attending/attended: _____

Have you participated in a rodeo royalty pageant before? _____

Past crowns/titles held: _____

Darby Rodeo Association
Royalty Pageant Application

Who do you most admire and why:

What is rodeo royalty and why do you want to become a part of the Darby Rodeo Royalty court:

What are some of your achievements you are most proud of?
(Can be rodeo, horses, sports, school, church, community service, etc.)

Bio: _____

Write in the 3rd person a brief bio - include things you would want people to hear the announcer to say about you during your horsemanship and modeling. You might include your rodeo, academic and sports achievements; your horse's name; your favorite things; what you are proud of and what sets you apart from others. You can attach a typed bio on a separate sheet of paper if you'd like.)

Darby Rodeo Association

Royalty Pageant

Contestant Eligibility & Liability Release

- Contestants may not be current title holder for another organization.
- All Contestants must be between the ages of 7yrs and 18yrs as of June 1st, 2024 and reside within 75mi/60 mins of Darby, MT.
- All Contestants/Title Winners must not consume alcohol, use tobacco or marijuana products of any kind, or use illicit or illegally obtained drugs or non-prescribed prescription drugs at any point in time during the competition and or throughout her reign.
- All Contestants/Title Winners must not chew gum during the pageant, nor during appearances representing Darby Rodeo Association during her reign.
- All Contestants/Title Winners agree to not engage in public display of affection while on the Darby Rodeo Association grounds or during any event at which she is representing the DRA.
- All DRA Title Winners accept their position as role-models and representatives of DRA and, as such, understand and agree that their social media posts may be viewed as a reflection of the DRA and that DRA Leadership may request any post determined to be immodest be removed from personal social media accounts and that failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of crown and prizes.
- All Contestants/Title Winners must provide their own horse, tack and transportation, have adequate liability and medical insurance, must be capable of riding a horse independently, and must compete on a sound horse.
- All Queen and Princess Contestants must, at the time of the pageant, be capable of riding a horse while safely carrying a flag. The requirement does not apply to Little Miss contestants.
- All Contestants acknowledge that, should they win the title for which they are competing, they will receive a prize buckle & sash to keep; they will be loaned a perpetual crown and Queen may be loaned a set of perpetual chaps to be returned at the end of her reign; and that, although no other prizes are promised, some may be awarded to Contestants according to event categories depending on sponsorship funds available.
- All Title Winners will be required to have at least one adult helper/chaperone at all events to assist with Royalty duties such as logistics, raffle ticket money management, rodeo association merchandise sales and auction item logistics as tasked to the Royalty by the Darby Rodeo Assoc. Board.

-All Contestants must submit the following no later than June 1st, 2024:

\$25 entry fee | Completed application | Notarized liability release | 5x7 headshot photo in western attire

-All Contestants agree to be available for ALL DRA events listed below, but not limited to:

- July/Aug 2024 Saturdays – Saddle Raffle Ticket sales (Murdoch's, etc.)
- July 5/6 2024 – Twisted Nut Rodeo
- August 2024 – Fundraiser and Auction Dinner
- August 16/17, 2024 – Wild West Rodeo
- September 13/14 2024 – Broncs, Bulls & Barrels Finals
- 2024/2025 – Any Parades/Fundraisers DRA Royalty is asked to attend
- May/June 2025 – Season Rodeos
- 2025 – Pageant

- All Contestants/Title Winners acknowledge that failure to attend the events may result in forfeiture of title and prizes.
- All Contestants/Title Winners acknowledge they will need to purchase required clothing for coordinating appearances with other Royalty Members at DRA events.
- All Contestants/Title Winners acknowledge that from time to time difficult decisions must be made with regard to contestant and/or horse and/or spectator safety and agree to accept all decisions made by the pageant coordinator or Darby Rodeo Association directors regarding safety of contestants and/or horses and/or spectators.
- All Contestants and contestant parents/guardians agree that the Judges' scores are final. Ties broken by horsemanship scores, followed by public speaking scores if still tied.
- All Contestants acknowledge **pageant details are subject to change**, and all must have executed all consents and waivers of liability presented as conditions precedent to competition.

Our signatures on this page signify that we have read and agree to accept and abide by the terms of contestant eligibility and contest rules of the Darby Rodeo Royalty Pageant and to the following liability waiver:

Contestant signature and date

Parent/Guardian signature and date

LIABILITY RELEASE

Liability Release: I _____, the parent/guardian/of age contestant of _____, (Contestant) do hereby release, waive, discharge, and agree not to sue the Pageant Coordinator, pageant judges and volunteers, Darby Rodeo Association, Darby Rodeo Association Board members, Town of Darby, Town of Darby employees, (collectively, "Releasees"), from all liability to Contestant, to her successors, heirs, representatives, and assigns (collectively, "Releasors") for any and all loss and/or damage, and/or property of, and/or demand therefore, on account of injury to the person and/or property of, and /or resulting in the death of, any Releasor, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, while Contestant is participating in the Contest, the Year of Service, and/or any event related thereto. Contestant and her Parent/Guardian hereby agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless each of the Releasees from and against any loss, liability, damage, or cost they may incur due to Contestant's participation in the Contest, the Year of Service, and/or any event related thereto, and whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise.

Signature: _____

State of Montana,
County of _____.

This instrument was signed and sworn to before me on this _____ day of _____, 2024

by _____.
Print name of signer(s)

Notary Signature (Fix seal/stamp as close to signature as possible)

Contest : Entry fee: \$25 Total Points Available: 225

Judged categories:

Personal Interview (10min) (25pts) - Contestants enjoy a visit with their judges for up to 10 minutes. This is the judge's opportunity to get to know the contestants more personally and learn about what sets each girl apart from the other. Judges may ask questions pertaining to any of the categories below and may address answers given on contestant's entry form. Contestants may be judged on their professionalism, personality, sense of humor, confidence, honesty, knowledge, appearance, eye contact. (Tip: find out how to properly show the cleanliness of your boot if asked to do so. Find out how to ask to be seated and how to sit, and how to shake hands).

Written Test (25 pts) - Contestants will have up to an hour to complete an age appropriate 25 question written test on subject matter relating to Darby Rodeo Association sponsors, PRCA rodeo events & rules, horse anatomy and health. Questions will be fill in and multiple choice. Lil Miss will answer 25 horse & rodeo related questions, and at least one question pertaining to Darby Rodeo Association. The Judging Coordinator will be available to assist Lil Miss Contestants who might need help with reading.

Prepared (2 min) (15pts), Impromptu Speaking (1 min) (15pts), Rodeo Trivia (20pts) (50 pts total for all 3) - Contestants will have up to two minutes to deliver an original speech or poem prepared by themselves (and/or with the help of their family). Contestants may not re-use in full or in part any speech that has been delivered in a previous pageant. **Speech topic for Lil Miss: "Your horse can talk! What does he/she want to say about you as a horse owner/rider?"**
Speech topic for Queen and Princess: "You have a two minute interview with the Cowboy Channel to talk about the annual Twisted Nut. What are you going to say about the Twisted Nut event?"

Contestants will have up to 1 minute to answer each impromptu question. Contestants will be judged on their confidence, composure, clarity, projection, speech content relevant to age, and relevance of answer to impromptu question, and ability to deliver within the allotted time frame.

Rodeo Trivia (20pts, see above): Contestants will be asked 10 questions on rodeo knowledge. This includes: Knowledge of the PRCA (rules, standings, news, contestants); Knowledge of the Twisted Nut Festival event (what type of event is the Twisted Nut, History behind the event; Rodeo event Equipment knowledge.)

Appearance (35pts) & Modeling (25pts) (Total 60 pts) - Contestants will be judged throughout the pageant on their presentation of themselves in a clean, well-groomed, and professional manner. The modeling portion of this category will consider a contestant's poise, grace and confidence while making full use of her stage to show off her western elegance attire. Outfits for this category must be modest, calf length (to cover the top of the boot) long sleeve, western style. Sheer fabric, plunging neck lines or open back are not permitted.

Horsemanship & Interview (65 pts) - Standards for this category are developed with the assistance of an expert in the field of reining; NRHA rules are used only as guidelines; event will consist of an age appropriate interview and simple pattern, queen wave and flag lap. *The queen and princess contestants must be capable of safely presenting the flags on horseback in a rodeo environment.* Contestants may be judged on their knowledge of tack and its uses, horse health, horse care, balance, control, hands, seat, legs, posture, lead changes, personal appearance and cleanliness of horse and tack. Contestants *will* be judged according to their ability to execute a correct pattern. You may choose to ride one handed, or with two hands, but once a pattern is started with your chosen hand-hold, you *will lose* points if you switch hands. Breaking down to a trot to switch leads *is allowed*, but understand, judges may choose to award more points to a rider who properly performs a flying lead change. No spurs or chaps allowed.

Attire & Appearance - NO SHORT DRESSES/SKIRTS — CHECK WITH DIRETORS FOR APPROVAL BEFORE MAKING A PURCHASE! (if you are in doubt, text a pic to Amanda)

Please consider National High School Rodeo Queen Attire Rules

Attire at all times will require long sleeves, western boots, felt cowboy hat with hatband, and belt with buckle. Tips: Clothing should fit you well (not too big, not too tight). Color schemes should flow nicely. For example, if you are wearing dark jeans, a white belt is not a good choice. Google rodeo queen images to get an idea of traditional and current rodeo queen clothing hair and makeup styles.

[Unacceptable attire includes shorts, tank tops or sleeveless shirts, heels, tennis shoes, flip flops, jeans with holes of any size, sheer fabrics, plunging necklines, bare backs or bare midriffs.]

-Make-up should be age-appropriate.

-Hair should always be clean, neat and away from face. Hair for horsemanship must be tied back; hair for all other categories must be down.

-Fingernails and hands must be clean; a French manicure is not mandatory, but a nice finished look is very strongly recommended (especially for those who are competing for the queen title).

Personal Interview - Western dresses & skirts (should at least reach top of boot), western blouse, denim jeans any color (NO holes or worn spots), western boots, belt with buckle, felt cowboy hat with hatband. It is important to present in age-appropriate, modest clothing. Clothing choices powerfully influence our posture and personal presentation (think sweats vs an elegant dress). Choose an outfit that you feel good in, that is comfortable, but not so comfortable that you forget professionalism; and professional, but not so uncommon for your personality that it becomes a distraction to you during interview. This is close-up so make-up for interview should softer than you would choose for Horsemanship or Modeling. If in doubt, ask questions and ask for opinions from those who love you most.

Speech & Modeling - You must wear a dress or skirt; think western and elegant. Jackets are allowed; vests are not allowed in this category. Dresses/skirts must be long enough to cover the top of your boot when you walk. You may wear a leather dress if you choose to but there is absolutely no expectation that you will.

Horsemanship - Horsemanship is the time to show off your horse and your ability to ride with balance and control. The common recommendation for horsemanship attire is to limit attention to the rider's body by reducing the appearance of excess movement. Wear any colored denim jeans and western blouse /show shirt with no ruffles, frills or fringe, western boots appropriate for riding, felt cowboy hat and belt with buckle. Hair must be tied back. No spurs or chaps may be worn. Tips: this is a good time to wear makeup that stands out a little more, a little brighter lip color here is common. Tips: Darker jeans with coordinating belt; stud earrings instead of dangly, monochromatic outfits are helpful but not required. Ok to wear High School Legal horsemanship outfit.

Coronation - again, full western attire is required. You must be dressed and prepared to ride. Make-up and clothing suited for photos is recommended. Vests are ok to wear as this time. Wear what you would want to be seen in should you be hired for the job! Arrange to have horse ready in waiting as you will ride immediately upon exiting coronation.

DRA Royalty Grievance Policy

We want to honor the fact that every young lady who enters a pageant is bravely choosing to put herself at risk of heart-ache and deep disappointment if she does not win. If a contestant is very sincerely confused as to why, or believes there was extreme negligence on the part of the judges or pageant operation, we believe we need to know this. We value our contestants and want to do our part to help them leave this pageant better for the experience rather than bitter, and more prepared to try again!

1. All Judges' Decisions ARE FINAL – For obvious reasons, no decision will be over turned; we cannot hurt one to satisfy another. Though a grievance may be heard, pageant families must understand it absolutely will not reverse the outcome of the pageant results. Your courage in respectfully offering your opinion and asking your questions is welcomed for your edification and ours, to help each of us improve.

2. Complaints must be submitted according to the following guidelines:

Must be in writing;

Must be submitted with a filing fee of \$75.00;

Must be submitted after one full week and within two weeks of the close of the pageant;

Must be sent to both the Darby Rodeo Association and the Pageant Coordinator at the following addresses:

DRA, PO Box 279 Darby, MT 59829 and Amanda Zeman 5103 Hoblitt Ln N Florence, MT 59833.

Must include your name, address, phone number, and a detailed description of your concerns;

Must be signed and dated;

If you want a response or a hearing with the grievance board in person you must indicate this in writing with your complaint;

Complaints that do not follow these steps will be classified as invalid.

3. Complaint Review – your complaint will be reviewed by a committee of 2 DRA board members and one expert in the field of horsemanship. The review board will gather information; all parties involved will be notified of the complaint and offered opportunity to respond. The board will determine what action is necessary if any and report back to all parties involved. If you wish to meet with the review board for a personal hearing of your complaint you must indicate this in your letter.