



# Miss Rodeo Colorado Official Rules & Regulations

## Who is Miss Rodeo Colorado?

Miss Rodeo Colorado is the ideal western American young woman. She symbolizes the youth of Colorado who wish to promote the sport of rodeo.

## What are the qualities of a Miss Rodeo Colorado contestant?

The Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant is not a beauty contest; however, it strives to find a representative who will act, speak, and dress in a manner consistent with the prestige the title deserves. This young woman would have the following qualities:

1. Desire to be a leader in her community and promote the state's great Western Heritage and Western way of life.
2. Love of horses and everything they represent.
3. Desire to act as the official representative of Rodeo to the general public, including the following traits:
  - Unexcelled sportsmanship
  - High moral and ethical character
  - Careful and humane treatment of animals
  - Understanding of the sport of Rodeo
  - Ability to speak intelligently, with dignity, and sincerity to explain and sell Rodeo to anyone; even someone who knows nothing about the sport
  - Willingness to travel across the state of Colorado and to Mountain States Circuit Rodeos
4. Interest in furthering her chosen career through higher education and special training.
5. Appreciation for the rewards she receives and the value of the many sponsors of the Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant.

## Official Rules and Regulations

### General

1. The Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee has complete authority over the entire Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant and all events and activities that involve the contestants.
2. Pageant eligibility requirements are:
  - must be female
  - must be single and never married and/or pregnant or publicly engaged
  - must be 19 years of age by January 1 of the pageant year and not over 26 years of age by December 31 of the year of your reign
  - must show proof of legal residency of the State of Colorado for one year prior to pageant (auto insurance, Colorado tax return and/or driver's license or other proof as requested by the Executive Committee)

- must sign the entry application
  - must sign the liability waiver
  - must agree to comply with all Pageant rules as established by the Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee with the possibility of disqualification for infractions
  - may not have held any other state rodeo queen title
  - must not have been convicted of any crime or misdemeanor, excluding minor traffic offenses
3. All problems or complaints are to be referred immediately to the Pageant Director. Breaking any rules and/or conduct unbecoming Miss Rodeo Colorado by a contestant may lead to disqualification from the pageant.

## **Preliminary Competition**

1. Because it is a statewide event, the Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee reserves the right to hold a preliminary competition to screen the applicants vying for the title of Miss Rodeo Colorado. The preliminary event will have a contestant portion and an exhibitor portion. Exhibitors will be held to the same guidelines and rules as contestants.
2. A \$100.00 entry fee is required for the preliminary competition for both contestants and exhibitors. This fee must be paid by certified check or money order.
3. All entry applications for contestants and exhibitors must be postmarked by the deadline of March 14. Mail applications and entry fee to the Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant, Attention: Nyla Bristow, 7512 Plateau Road, Greeley, Colorado 80634. Delivery must NOT require a signature.
4. The preliminary competition will be held in April. Contestants and exhibitors will be judged on personality, appearance, and horsemanship categories. A complete schedule of events will be mailed to contestants after the entry deadline.
5. Each contestant and exhibitor must bring her own horse and riding equipment, which may be borrowed.
  - Animal head gear must meet American Quarter Horse Association rules
  - A tie-down may be used
  - Spurs may be worn at the discretion of the contestant during the preliminary competition
  - No stallions may be used
6. The finalists selected at the preliminary competition will return to participate in the final competition held in conjunction with the Greeley Stampede to compete for the Miss Rodeo Colorado title. Exhibitors will receive comments from judges to use for personal growth opportunities in preparation for future title opportunities.

## **Final Competition**

1. A \$200.00 entry fee is required. Contestants may obtain a sponsor; however, it is not mandatory. Funds must be in the form of a certified check or money order.
2. Entry fee must be received by the June 1st deadline. Mail applications and entry fee to the Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant, Attention: Nyla Bristow, 7512 Plateau Road, Greeley, CO 80634.
3. The final Pageant Competition will be held in conjunction with the Greeley Stampede. The final contestants will be guests of the Greeley Stampede for the duration of the pageant. Food and lodging will be provided and contestants will be chaperoned.

4. Horses will be provided to contestants for the horsemanship competition.
5. Spurs are not allowed during Horsemanship I or II competitions.
6. At the conclusion of the Pageant, Miss Rodeo Colorado and a runner-up will be named. The winner will be required to sign the Miss Rodeo Colorado Contract.
7. The Miss Rodeo Colorado Lady-in-Waiting will be required to stay following the contest to meet with pageant officials and sponsors. The length of stay will be announced to finalists following the preliminary competition.
8. Should the new Miss Rodeo Colorado be unable to complete her reign, the title will automatically be relinquished and the crown and all awards and benefits derived from the Pageant must be forfeited and returned.

## **General Information**

The prestigious Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant has a home with the Greeley Stampede in Greeley, Colorado. Miss Rodeo Colorado reigns over the Greeley Stampede as official royalty and serves as official hostess to the Miss Rodeo Colorado contestants, Stampede contestants, and visitors.

As sponsor of the Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant, the Greeley Stampede has pledged to make it a memorable experience for spectators and contestants alike, and in turn, asks for full cooperation. The Greeley Stampede is very confident that the Miss Rodeo Colorado chosen each year will represent her state in a grand manner while promoting the "Sport of Professional Rodeo" and the Greeley Stampede throughout her reign.

The pageant will be intense and demanding. This is a time when one's entire attention and energy should be given to competing; a time of total concentration. The winner will go on to represent the state in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant and will have many fantastic opportunities before her.

If there is anything the Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee can do for any contestant to make her preparations and/or stay at the Greeley Stampede easier, please do not hesitate to ask. The Executive Committee can be reached by contacting the National Director or the MRC President.

Miss Rodeo Colorado's official reign will begin January 1 of the following year and will run for one year. During the period from her selection to the official start of her reign, she will be known as "Miss Rodeo Colorado Lady-in-Waiting" and will be called upon to make appearances in that capacity. She will compete at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant during the year of her reign.

## **Schedule**

Upon receipt of each contestant's application and entry fee (following the March 14th deadline), the MRC President will forward all pertinent information regarding the preliminary competition to the contestant for the preliminaries.

Finalists will be notified as to the required check-in time for the pageant and will be provided an agenda of the various activities and judged events.

The contest is limited in time and there is much to be accomplished; thus, contestants are asked to be prompt and the judges will not tolerate any tardiness.

## Chaperones

All contestants will be under the constant supervision of chaperones. The chaperones will be there to see to needs and to escort contestants to and from functions pertaining to the pageant. Contestants are not to go anywhere without the permission and accompaniment of a chaperone. Any infraction will be reported to the Executive Committee, who will then take appropriate action (up to and including dismissal from the pageant).

## Judging

All judges are carefully selected and are invited to judge this pageant because of their ability and expertise. The judges will be instructed to visit with all contestants as much as possible in order to get to know them.

Should a judge be approached by any contestant's family, friends, or others whose intent is to influence or harass, that judge will report the contact to the Executive Committee and appropriate corrective action will be taken.

As in all competitions, whether it be a pageant or a game of sport, there can be only one first place winner. However, everyone who participates is a winner and an enriched individual because of this experience. In this instance, each contestant can do much in her own area to promote the great "Sport of Rodeo" and to create future interest in Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageants.

In the case of a tie in the final scoring, the high score in personality will determine the winner. Any tie still existing, will be settled by the judges in a special meeting.

## Transportation

Each contestant is responsible for transportation to and from the pageant. All transportation needs during the pageant (i.e. for functions outside of Island Grove Park) will be provided by the Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee.

## Clothing

This is not a clothes contest; however, contestants are expected with few exceptions, to be in "full" western dress at all times.

Wardrobe limitations are as follows for the final competition:

- Five (5) dressy outfits – pantsuits, suits, skirts and dresses
- Three (3) hats
- Four (4) pair of western boots
- No limit on shirts and jeans (colored jeans are included here and are acceptable), but should be within reason
- Any MRC sponsored pageant attire will not be counted against the above-mentioned items

This does not imply that you are required to bring this many articles. However, it does mean that you are not allowed to bring more articles than stated. This rule will be strictly enforced. Chaperones and/or the Executive Committee will check clothing for compliance as to the limits.

For check-in and the get acquainted time with the judges, contestants will be required to wear a Roper or Stetson pant and shirt that can be purchased off the rack with no embellishments. No jackets or vests will be permitted.

For all horsemanship activities it is mandatory that contestants be in Roper, Stetson or Wrangler jeans (blue in color), form-fitting shirt with long sleeves (any color), hat, boots, and belt. Contestants shall wear a Roper, Stetson or Wrangler pant product for the horsemanship interview. A jacket and/or vest may also be worn.

The contestant's casual outfit for the Fashion Show must be Roper or Stetson jeans with a shirt and jacket or vest. These items may be embellished. The Trending Western outfit must be a dress or skirt.

No banners or tiaras of any type may be worn during the pageant other than the one supplied by the pageant, and chaps are not permitted.

## **Security**

As soon as a contestant has checked in, she is under the complete jurisdiction of the Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant officials. This status will remain until she is released by pageant officials. The pageant officials are not responsible for lost or stolen articles; however all necessary precautions will be taken to prevent loss.

## **Parents, Relatives, and Friends**

The Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant welcomes and encourages the presence and support of parents, relatives, and friends of the contestants but wants everyone to know there is very little unscheduled time during the pageant. All activities, including any free time, will be under the supervision of the Pageant Chaperones.

Visiting time between contestants and friends/family will be very limited during the contest. During the orientation, one of the very first events of the contest, specific times will be designated as appropriate for visits, with approval from the chaperones. Deviations from these guidelines will be noted and may be passed on to the Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee and the judges.

In case of an emergency, the chaperones and/or National Director and/or MRC President should be contacted and the above rules may be waived.

At no time will parents, relatives, or friends of any contestant be allowed to interfere with the Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant nor will they be allowed inside contestant hotel rooms or designated pageant areas.

## **Grievance Committee**

The Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Board will act as a grievance committee and will be available at all times to receive any type of grievance that may occur. All grievances or charges must be filed in writing with the MRC President at the earliest possible time to the alleged offense. If a grievance cannot be settled by the committee involved, the final decision shall be that of a board consisting of the Greeley Stampede Rodeo Chairman, the MRC President and the National Director.

## Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant Divisions

The judges for this pageant are instructed that the type of girl the Miss Rodeo Colorado Pageant seeks is one who exemplifies:

- Sincerity
- Integrity
- High quality appearance
- Intelligence
- High moral standards
- Maturity
- Public speaking ability
- Horsemanship ability
- Knowledge of professional rodeo
- Knowledge of current events

Contestants will be judged in three general fields—appearance, personality and horsemanship.

### Appearance

The aim of this judging division is to select the girl who rates highest in grooming, posture, poise, fashion sense, and who reflects a western image.

Judges will be looking for neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, hair, hats, boots, and other wearing apparel. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for the girl to be considered for Miss Rodeo Colorado.

A contestant's awareness of what is fashionable western dress is also a consideration. Particular attention will be given to color coordination and blending. Poise and ladylike behavior in every situation will be a final consideration in this category.

### Personality

The aim of this judging division is to select the girl who rates the highest in intelligence (good common sense), education, conversational ability, sense of humor, genuine interest in other people and a noticeable consideration of others, projection, showmanship, and a happy outlook on life in general.

Showmanship is defined as being able to present oneself, while projection is the ability to project one's personality whether it be from horseback in the arena, on television, or before an audience.

Questions asked by the judges in this division will pertain to the "Sport of Rodeo", current events, and personal interests.

## **Horsemanship**

The aim of this judging division is to select the girl who rates the highest in riding ability (control of mount, the way each situation is handled), mounting and dismounting, balance and position of hands, feet and seat.

The horses will not be judged – only the contestant's ability and skill. The MRC Executive Committee and judges reserve the right to ask contestants to exchange horses during any horsemanship competition.

Horsemanship judging will be done with contestants in Roper, Stetson or Wrangler jeans (blue in color), and form fitting shirts (any color) with long sleeves. Any color accessories may be used (hat, boots, belt, etc.).

Patterns to be used in horsemanship are located at the end of this document. The outgoing Miss Rodeo Colorado will set the pattern(s) to be used for this division.

Contestants may be required to bring saddles, horse blankets and grooming supplies, which they may be required to use. The horse owners will provide headstalls.

Each contestant will be privately questioned on the following categories in a horsemanship interview: knowledge of the "Sport of Rodeo", saddles, bridles, bits, tack, equine anatomy and diseases, and the care and feeding of a horse.

## **Written Test**

A written test will be given over information pertaining but not limited to the sport of rodeo, the Greeley Stampede, and Miss Rodeo Colorado.

## **Rules of Conduct for Miss Rodeo Colorado**

Miss Rodeo Colorado should exhibit high moral standards and lady-like behavior in every situation.

She must be willing to attend all meetings and appearances scheduled by the Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee.

Miss Rodeo Colorado must wear the banner, tiara, MRC belt buckle, and western attire whenever serving in the capacity of Miss Rodeo Colorado. The belt buckle and tiara must be worn in all publicity pictures.

With regard to attitude, she should represent a pleasant personality and be willing to help in any way that will better promote Colorado, rodeo, and the Greeley Stampede. It is her responsibility to answer questions about rodeo, etc. It may be repetitive, but it is part of the role of Miss Rodeo Colorado.

As mentioned earlier, Miss Rodeo Colorado is constantly in the public eye. It is of utmost importance for her to look her best at all times. Her appearance not only reflects how she feels about herself, but also about the title. Three areas stressed are posture, make-up, and grooming.

Miss Rodeo Colorado should have a polished and professional look. Remember that make-up can enhance appearance if properly applied. At the same time, it can detract if not used correctly. Color analysis should be considered in order to coordinate wardrobe and make-up. Hair should be clean and well-trimmed. Hands should be manicured.

Miss Rodeo Colorado should be up-to-date with current western fashions. She is viewed as a trendsetter; therefore, she must be aware of new styles.

Here are some additional pointers:

**Hat:** Hats should be appropriately shaped for the individual. The MRC Executive Committee reserves the right to change the shape of Miss Rodeo Colorado's hats if they feel it necessary. No straw hats are to be worn. Hats should not be worn on the back of the head – even if requested by a photographer. The tiara must be insured through a personal insurance policy.

**Boots:** Boots should be kept clean and polished. They should be cowboy/western boots. No roping boots should be worn with skirts. Boots should coordinate with an outfit.

**Pants:** Pants should enhance the figure by being neither too tight nor too baggy. Colored jeans may be worn. Distressed jeans with holes - regardless of whether it is part of the design of the product - are not permitted.

**Shirts:** Shirts should be long-sleeved, form fitting and be appropriately modest.

**Belts and MRC Buckle:** The MRC buckle is part of the official outfit (i.e., tiara, banner, etc.) and should be worn at all times.

**Jewelry:** Jewelry should be appropriate for the occasion.

Miss Rodeo Colorado should be willing to listen and take advice pertaining to wardrobe, make-up, hair, etc. The advice is not meant to be criticism but rather a way to improve weak areas.

Being Miss Rodeo Colorado is a full-time job and should be treated accordingly. There are five areas with specific rules:

**Boyfriends/Partners:** There shall be no outward display of affection, i.e. kissing or handholding, etc. in person or on social media, and no presence of a boyfriend/partner when acting in an official capacity as Miss Rodeo Colorado. Boyfriends/Partners are not allowed to travel with Miss Rodeo Colorado. In addition, Miss Rodeo Colorado shall not have ever been married and cannot be currently married. She is not engaged to be married nor will she become publicly engaged to be married during her reign.

**Alcohol:** None allowed.

**Tobacco:** None allowed.

**Appearance:** Miss Rodeo Colorado should always be presentable, i.e. no hair curlers while driving official vehicles. During your reign, you may be recognized as Miss Rodeo Colorado even when not making official appearances. With this in mind, hair, clothing and make-up should always be appropriate for this image.

**Parents:** In general, parents should not be seen or heard. While we encourage parents to be supportive of their daughter as Miss Rodeo Colorado, their actions should always be in the background.

**Social Media:** Any social media sites shall uphold the described values and integrity of the Miss Rodeo Colorado program. Judges may look at these sites.

When Miss Rodeo Colorado receives an invitation to attend a rodeo, luncheon, etc., she is expected to respond within 5-7 days. When unable to attend, she should express thanks for the invitation. When able to attend, she should include in the thank you an offer to help in any way possible, i.e. model, speak, attend a luncheon, and act as hostess.

General conduct at rodeos, luncheons, etc. is as follows: Miss Rodeo Colorado will be attired, at all times, in the official outfit; she will be ladylike in her manners (avoid cursing, making off-colored remarks, talking or laughing loudly, or making negative remarks); and, if unusual circumstances occur, it is the responsibility of Miss Rodeo Colorado to notify at least one member of the MRC Executive Committee (Example: An incident which could be embarrassing to the pageant or Miss Rodeo Colorado or to either party's image). This is for mutual protection.

Miss Rodeo Colorado is expected to interact with as many people as possible at functions and should be especially cordial to other rodeo royalty.

Miss Rodeo Colorado should allow enough time to arrive at any designated location on time. If it is a rodeo performance, she should arrive at least one hour prior to the performance time.

Miss Rodeo Colorado is required to speak on numerous occasions and she needs to be prepared at all times. She should carry an outline speech with her. It should include personal information, information about rodeo, and information about the Greeley Stampede. The MRC Executive Committee may ask to approve major speeches. Miss Rodeo Colorado should always carry promotional pictures and biographical information for newspapers, rodeo committees, etc.

Upon arriving at any rodeo, Miss Rodeo Colorado should contact a committee member and talk with them about doing media interviews. She should contact the announcer and make sure he knows she is present. She should supply the announcer with a 3x5 card that includes the following information: her name, hometown, age, brief personal history (college, career goals, etc.) and the fact that she will represent Colorado and the Greeley Stampede in the Miss Rodeo America pageant.

Miss Rodeo Colorado should also contact the stock contractor, as it is her responsibility to arrange a horse for the Grand Entry, parades, etc. If no horse is available, she should seek out a contestant who might be of assistance. She should ask the stock contractor if there are ways she can be more a part of the event; i.e. running the cattle out of the arena. Once approved, Miss Rodeo Colorado should make sure that she is a help rather than a hindrance to the event. She should make sure that she stays out of the way of the contestants. During the Grand Entry and Serpentine, she should wave to the crowd and acknowledge small children and senior citizens especially. She should not sit on the fence with the cowboys or behind the chutes, and she should not criticize the stock contractor, rodeo committees, officials, horses, equipment, schedule of events, etc.

## **What financial commitments are expected of Miss Rodeo Colorado?**

The Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee will cover certain expenses during her reign. The majority of expenses are the responsibility of the reigning Miss Rodeo Colorado. Fundraising and securing sponsors are a major part of being Miss Rodeo Colorado. The contract signed between Miss Rodeo Colorado and the Miss Rodeo Colorado Executive Committee outlines in more detail the financial commitments of the Committee and the responsibilities of Miss Rodeo Colorado.

## **What opportunities are available to Miss Rodeo Colorado?**

While spreading goodwill for her community, her state, the Greeley Stampede and the "Sport of Rodeo", Miss Rodeo Colorado is garnering a rich life experience and is laying a solid foundation for her future. In addition to the opportunity of competing for Miss Rodeo America, she will receive western clothing, riding equipment, accessories and scholarship monies. Earning and holding the title of Miss Rodeo Colorado are challenging ventures – but the potential rewards are endless.