

Darby Rodeo Association

Royalty Pageant

Welcome!

Contestants, moms, dads, 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 our aim to prepare both contestants and "queen moms" for their next pageant, whether that be another attempt at DRA Royalty, Rockin' RC Rodeo, and 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 in the creation of this program.

For those of you who are new to this "queen thing", we want you to know we've been there; we 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'll provide you with advice, coaching and rodeo queen information websites so that you can inform and prepare yourselves best as possible within your means. Success in this pageant is not necessarily dependent upon affluence, leather dresses and finished reining horses. It **will** depend on your horsemanship skills, maturity, attitude, respect for others, 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; appear with Darbacious the bull at media events; 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! We look forward to working with all of you ~ Call or email any time with questions!

Warm regards,

Robyn Turner

Pageant Coordinator (406)381.4469 darbyrodeoroyalty@gmail.com

2020 Pageant Date August 14 - 15

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 headshot in western attire and your signed and notarized release form to the DRA Royalty Pageant Coordinator at 845 Gash Creek Rd. Victor, MT 59875. \$25 entry fee payable to Darby Rodeo Association. Postmarked by August 2, 2020.

Title Competing for: Lil Miss ____ (7 - 10) Princess ____ (11 – 15) Queen ____ (16 - 20)

Name: _____

Grade: ____ Birthdate: ____ Age as of July 30, 2020 ____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Email: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

School attending/attended: _____

Have you participated in a rodeo royalty pageant before? _____

Past crowns/titles held: _____

Note to contestant families:

Contestants are allowed one (1) chaperone pass to DRA events. All other family members must please pay admission. You may purchase family member tickets from the pageant director or at the gate.

Application Check list

Completed Application ____

Notarized release form ____

5x7 headshot photo in western attire ____

\$25 entry fee ____

Darby Rodeo Association

Royalty Pageant Application

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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, Rules & Liability Release

- Current title holders **may** be considered only with permission from both pageants (call or email Robyn) - Out of respect for other pageants, and in effort to encourage your growth as a leader who has made a commitment to an organization, ***we do not encourage*** current title holders to enter this pageant. However, the DRA pageant **may** consider a variance only if the two royalty directors agree there will be no conflict between schedules.
- All Contestants must be between the ages of 7yrs and 20yrs as of July 31, 2020 and reside within 60 mins of Darby.
- 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 (DRA) during her reign.
- All Contestants/Title Winners agree to not engage in public displays 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.
- NO STUD HORSES, NO GREEN BROKE HORSE PROJECTS WILL BE ALLOWED - PLEASE RESPECT THIS RULE FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY - No Exceptions.
- 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.
- Little Miss will not carry a flag; during events she will appear on horseback in the arena only AT THE ROYALTY DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION.

- All Contestants acknowledge that, should they win the title for which they are competing, they will receive a prize buckle, sash and crown to keep. Queen may be loaned a set of perpetual chaps and crown to be returned at the end of her reign in GOOD condition; no other prizes are promised, some may be awarded to Contestants according to event categories depending on sponsorship funds available.
- FREE ADMISSION TO EVENTS IS NOT A RIGHT NOR GUARANTEED - All Royalty court members are allowed one (1) chaperone to DRA events who will be awarded free admission. All other family members must pay admission. DRA event tickets may be purchased at the gate, or from the Royalty Coordination. It is understood that guest appearances do not guarantee free meals or admission and royalty and their chaperones must be prepared to pay admission as guest royalty if asked to do so. **(please initial that you have read this)**

_____ (Parents/Guardians initial here)

Darby Rodeo Association

Royalty Pageant

Contestant Eligibility, Rules & Liability Release Continued

All Contestants must submit the following no later than August 2, 2020:

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

All Contestants agree to be available for *ALL* DRA events and appearances especially the following:

- August 21 – 23, 2020 - 406 Rodeo
- August 2021 - Stamey Concert & Fundraiser
- June 2021 - Senior Pro Rodeo
- July 2021 - Elite Bull Connection
- 2021 Pageant

All Contestants/Title Winners agree that failure to attend events listed above may result in forfeiture of title and prizes.

- 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.
- 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.
- All Contestants/Title Winners will use the formal grievance procedure to address concerns they may have about the pageant or situations that may arise during their reign.

Liability Release: I _____, the parent/guardian of _____, (Contestant) do hereby release, waive, discharge, and agree not to bring legal action against the Pageant Coordinator, pageant judges and volunteers, Darby Rodeo Association, Darby Rodeo Association Board members, Town of Darby, Town of Darby employees, and 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.

- _____
- Contestant signature and date Parent/Guardian signature and date

State of Montana County of _____ This instrument was signed and sworn to before me on this _____ day of _____, _____

by _____

Print name of signer(s)

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

Contest

Darby Rodeo Association

Royalty Pageant

Contest Category Overview (*points and details subject to change*)

Entry fee: \$25 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 half an hour to complete an age appropriate 25 question written test on subject matter relating to Darby Rodeo Association sponsors, PRCA rodeo events & rules, and horse anatomy & 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 those who may need help with reading.

Prepared & Impromptu Speaking (2 min) (25 pts) - Contestants will have two minutes to deliver an *original* speech or poem prepared by themselves (and/or with the help of their family).

Speech topic for Lil Miss: *"What do you love about Rodeo and Why?"*

Speech topic for Princess: *"How has Rodeo given back to its community?"*

Speech topic for Queen: *"You are Miss Rodeo Montana. You have two minutes. How can you help rodeo recover after the pandemic?"*

Contestants may not re-use in full or in part any speech that has been delivered in a previous pageant. Contestants will have up to 1 minute to answer each extemporaneous question. Contestant will be judged on confidence, composure, clarity, projection, speech content relevant to age, and relevance of answer to questions, and ability to deliver within the allotted time frame

Appearance & Modeling (50pts) - 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 (55 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, crops or chaps allowed.

NO STUD HORSES OR GREEN BROKE HORSE PROJECTS OF ANY KIND ALLOWED.

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Contest Attire (some details may be subject to change)

Order of Judged Activities

Meet & Greet/Orientation (Friday), Personal Interview (Friday), Speech & Modeling (Friday), Horsemanship (Friday), Written Test (Saturday Morning), Coronation (Saturday evening)

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

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 be 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.

Coronation - again, full western attire is required - You must be dressed and prepared to ride. Make-up and Clothing suited for photos is recommended. 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 heartache 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 and more prepared to try again, rather than bitter.

1. All Judges' Decisions ARE FINAL – For obvious reasons, no decision will be overturned; 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 Robyn Turner, 845 Gash Creek Rd., Victor, MT 59875.

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.