

# PAGEANT INFORMATION AND RULES

We would like to remind all who are involved that the Director and Board of Directors for the New Mexico Rodeo Pageant and Scholarship Association (NMRPSA) are all volunteers who donate many hours without any kind of monetary compensation. They do this willingly out of passion and for their love of the young women who compete.

## ENTRY DEADLINE

Entry deadline is August 1, 2026, and no late entries will be accepted. The entry fee must accompany the official entry form along with one 8 x 10 color photograph as well as all required materials listed on the entry form. Please use Priority Mail and provide us with the tracking number in case of mis-delivery.

## CONTESTANT AD PACKAGES

Each contestant is required to sell advertisements to be placed in the official pageant program. The minimum sales goal for each contestant is two full pages. See advertisement packages under forms.

## BIRTH CERTIFICATES

A good clear photocopy of the contestant's birth certificate will be sufficient. A copy of a baptismal certificate will also be acceptable.

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

A host hotel to be named will serve as pageant headquarters. All contestants must stay at the host hotel.

## ELIGIBILITY

- ◆ In the Miss Rodeo New Mexico and Teen Miss Rodeo New Mexico divisions (ONLY) it is required that, before a contestant can participate in the Miss Rodeo New Mexico pageant, she must have held a previous title or have attended a seminar (such as the Borderland Queen Clinic or the Miss Rodeo America Seminar).
- ◆ In all divisions girls holding titles from other pageants will not be eligible to compete in the Miss Rodeo New Mexico pageant.
- ◆ The contestants in the Miss Rodeo New Mexico Lady-in-Waiting (2027 titleholder) who would compete in 2027 for Miss Rodeo America 2028 will:
  - Have reached the age of 21 years by November 1, 2027 and will be no older than 26 years of age by December 31, 2027. Upon request she will provide a copy of a government issued identification (such as a birth certificate, driver's license, passport, etc.) verifying her age.
  - Have not been previously married and/or pregnant or have a child.
  - Be a resident of the State of New Mexico for at least one year, with proof if applicable, such as driver's license, voter registration, etc.
  - Not have been a prior contestant in the Miss Rodeo America pageant.

- Not be a titleholder in any other regional or national pageant from the day she is elected through the entirety of her reign.
- Not compete in other pageants during her reign except to represent New Mexico at the Miss Rodeo America pageant.
- ◆ The contestants in all age groups:
  - Must not have initiated any pending lawsuit or legal action, nor have such action brought against her. Must not be charged with and/or determined to have committed any crime.
  - To earn a title in any of the three age divisions, a contestant must score a minimum of 70% of the possible points.
  - Must be of the correct age:
    - **Teen** - Have obtained the age of 16 years and shall not have exceeded the age of 19 years by January 1 of the year of competition. Teen will be selected at the pageant and will assume Lady-In-Waiting status until January 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - **Princess** - Have obtained the age of 11 years and shall not have exceeded the age of 15 years by January 1 of the year of competition.
    - **Little Miss** - Have obtained the age of 6 years and shall not have exceeded the age of 10 years. (See section below regarding Little Miss competition)
  - Must have executed all consents and/or waivers of liability presented as conditions to competition.
  - Shall abide by all rules of the Miss Rodeo New Mexico Pageant.
- ◆ All contestants in all age groups must be in attendance at every Miss Rodeo New Mexico Pageant event. Newly crowned royalty must remain available for all pageant events through contract signing.
- ◆ A current MRNM titleholder of any age group, including Little Miss, must wait one year before competing for any Miss Rodeo New Mexico title.

## LITTLE MISS COMPETITION

The Little Miss portion of the pageant will require participation in all the categories EXCEPT HORSEMANSHIP. They will substitute a 1.5-minute prepared speech for the extemporaneous question. Little Miss contestants will be asked to model a western outfit of their choosing. This can be either a western dress, a “western trendy” outfit, or pants and western shirt, all with boots, cowboy hats and belts. They will be interviewed on stage and asked a simple question by the MC. At the end of the “contest” all will be declared winners. This portion of the competition is for young girls between the ages of 6 and 10 and will be conducted in this manner to encourage them and to build their interest in being part of the Rodeo Queen family.

The Little Misses are required to help with fund raising, attend the Gala, be present at the Queen’s Trunk Show, and attend the Pageant the following year. They do not have any other mandatory appearances during the year but will be encouraged to represent the Miss Rodeo New Mexico program at age appropriate events in their local communities and schools.

## JUDGING GUIDELINES

Contestants will be judged on the over-all effect of their performance. This includes, but is not limited to, appearance, personality, skill, charisma, gracefulness and knowledge.

- ◆ **Judges:** Three to five well qualified judges will judge all categories of the pageant.
- ◆ **Score sheets:** will be signed and sealed in an envelope after each category is judged.
- ◆ **Ties:** Ties will be broken by the highest personal interview score, then by the highest horsemanship score. If a tie still exists, the judges will be asked to rank the contestants as to who they think will do the best job as a titleholder.
- ◆ **Scores are not distributed after the pageant.** Contestants will receive Judges comments, if available.

## JUDGED CATEGORIES

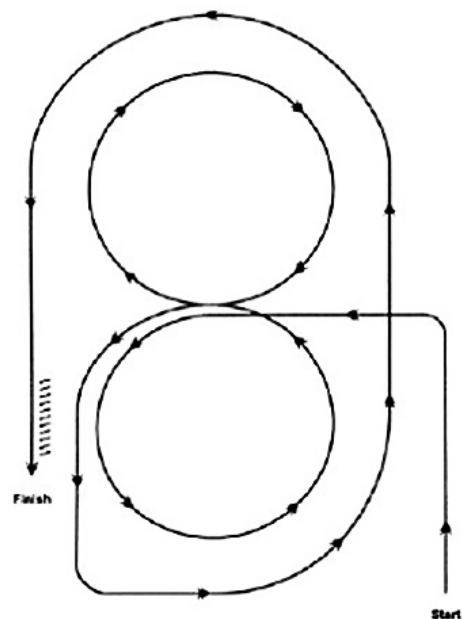
- ◆ **Horsemanship:** Contestants shall be prepared to compete in the horsemanship pattern as set forth in this document. **Contestants shall wear a white buttoned or snapped long-sleeved western shirt and denim jeans, western hat and boots.** Teen and Princess contestants shall ride a horse of their choosing, keeping in mind the safety of other riders. Horsemanship judging includes: control of the contestant's mount and the way she handles any situation which may occur; balance or the ability to sit properly in the saddle; positions - positioning of hands, feet and seat; mounting and dismounting - "Queen mounts" are acceptable, but only if they are performed properly. The skill of the contestant will be judged, not the horse or the equipment. All tack should be clean and in good working order - any safety issues with tack will be grounds for disqualification. To stay within Miss Rodeo America guidelines, contestants will not be allowed to use spurs, whips, or other aids during the horsemanship phase of the competition.

Patterns are as follows:

- **Princess Horsemanship Pattern.**

- Hot Lap upon completion of pattern. Contestants provide their own horse.
1. Extended jog along the side of arena, then to center
  2. Begin lope at center of arena and lope left circle on left lead
  3. Change leads at center of arena and lope right circle on right lead
  4. Change leads and continue loping around end of arena
  5. Once on the straight, increase speed and continue around end of arena
  6. Stop and back

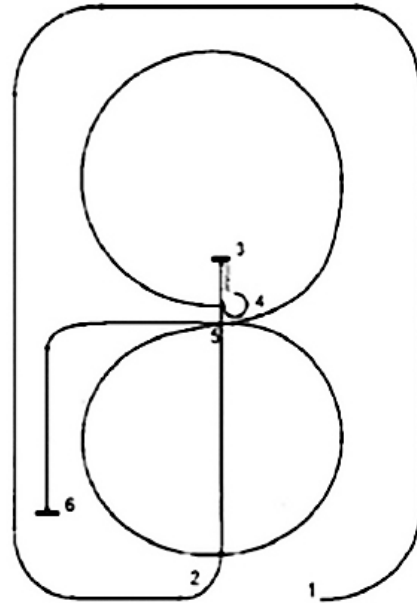
### Pageant Divisions: Horsemanship Pattern 1



- **Teen Horsemanship Pattern.** Hot Lap upon completion of pattern. Contestants will provide their own horse.

1. Circle the arena, on the left lead, at an extended lope
2. Guide left and lope down the center of the arena with moderate speed
3. Pass the center of the arena, stop and back to the center
4. Execute a  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn to the right and lope a circle, to the right, with moderate speed
5. Change leads and lope a circle, to the left, with moderate speed. After completing the circle, continue loping on the left lead toward the end of the arena
6. Stop and pause to show completion of pattern

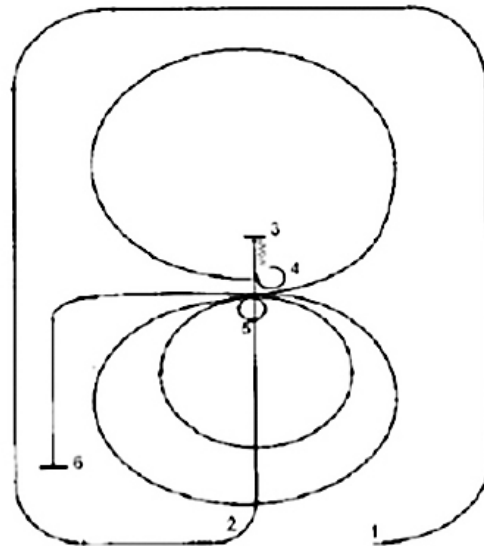
**Pageant Divisions: Horsemanship Pattern 2**



- **Miss Horsemanship Pattern.** Hot Lap upon completion of pattern. Contestants will DRAW horses.

1. Circle the arena, on the left lead, at an extended lope
2. Guide left and lope down the center of the arena with moderate speed
3. Pass the center of the arena, stop and back to the center
4. Execute a  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn to the right and lope a circle, to the right, with moderate speed
5. Stop in the center, execute a  $360^\circ$  turn, to the left. Lope a small slow circle, to the left, followed by a larger, faster circle to the left. At the center of the arena, rate back to the slower speed and continue loping on the left lead toward the end of the arena.
6. Stop and pause to show completion of pattern

**Pageant Divisions: Horsemanship Pattern 3**



- The Miss Rodeo New Mexico Pageant judges committee reserves the right to make alterations and/or additions to these patterns.
- All contestants will also do a flag run and a Queen's run.

- After the set pattern has been completed, Teen and Miss contestants will participate in a set of elements to be announced at a later date.
- It will be the judges' option whether or not to require a demonstration of mounting and dismounting, saddling and unsaddling, or any other horsemanship skills.
- ◆ **Personal Interview:** Each contestant will have a personal interview before the panel of judges. This may include discussion of personal opinions as well as current affairs.
- ◆ **Horsemanship Interview:** Each contestant will have a horsemanship interview before the panel of judges. This will be based on horsemanship and rodeo knowledge.
- ◆ **Media Interview:** The media interview will take place onstage. The contestants will be asked questions pertaining to the sport of Rodeo.
- ◆ **Current Events Question:** The current events question will be asked onstage. The contestants will be asked about current events on the local, state or national area.
- ◆ **Fashion Show:** The Fashion Show will take place onstage. Contestants will model a western style dress or skirt and blouse.
- ◆ **Written Test:** Contestants will take written test pertaining to Rodeo, Horsemanship and Current Events. Test will be age appropriate for each division.
- ◆ **Extemporaneous Speaking (Miss and Teen contestants):** The Extemporaneous portion of the competition will take place onstage. Contestants will be given several topics to choose from and will have 10 minutes to reflect and gather their thoughts prior to giving a short talk in front of the assembly.
- ◆ **Prepared Speech (Princess and Little Miss contestants):** Contestants will present a prepared speech no longer than 1.5 minutes in length.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Personal Interview	100 points
Horsemanship	100 points
Horsemanship Interview	50 points
Media Interview	50 points
Fashion Show	50 points
Current Events Question	50 points
Extemporaneous Question (Miss & Teen)	50 points
Prepared Speech (Princess & Little Miss)	50 points
Written Test	100 points

A contestant, even if she is the only one in her division, must receive no less than 70% of the available points in order to be crowned.

## PAGEANT WARDROBE

Contestants are expected to appear in “full western attire” at all times unless otherwise specified. Examples are: western pants and long-sleeve shirt or blouse; vest and/or jacket; western skirt and blouse or shirt; or western dress; all with hat, boots and belt. Shirt-tails shall always be tucked in unless the style indicates otherwise.

All dresses, skirts and blouses must reflect a western theme. Evening gowns or cocktail type dresses are not acceptable.

Dress for the horsemanship competition will be a white snapped or buttoned long-sleeve western shirt, denim jeans and western hat, boots and belt. NOTE: “Fashion” or “modern” type boots are not acceptable, and chaps, jackets, vests or gloves are not permitted. All riding attire should be neat and fit properly.

Any event designated as “western trendy” will indicate the following type of wardrobe: Clothing that would be worn to a “western” theme party and could be either a dress or pants. Will also include western hat, boots and belt.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Lodging for the Miss Rodeo New Mexico Elect contestants will be paid for by the NMRPSA while at the pageant.

Teen, Princess and Little Miss contestants will be required to provide their own lodging and chaperone.

The contestants will be under the supervision of the NMRPSA staff until the close of the pageant. Contestants are not allowed to use cell phones during the period of the competition.

Parents and relatives of contestants are welcome to attend certain events at which the contestants will be present. This does not include the interview portion of the competition.

A Miss Rodeo New Mexico grievance committee will be available to receive any type of grievance or complaint. The proper procedure to file a grievance is to put the complaint in writing and submit it and a check for \$50 to the National Director. A meeting will be set up to discuss the grievance with all concerned and every attempt will be made to expedite a resolution to the grievance.

## AWARDS AND BENEFITS

Contestants should be aware that titleholders do not receive a salary.

Titleholders will receive an official crown, trophy buckle and sash, as funds are available. All crowns are perpetual and will be returned at the completion of the titleholder’s reign.

*The New Mexico Rodeo Pageant and Scholarship Association Board reserves the right to revise these Rules at their discretion and without prior notice.*



## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The following grievance procedure is applicable to both the Miss Rodeo New Mexico Pageant and to the New Mexico Rodeo Pageant and Scholarship Association:

A New Mexico Rodeo Pageant and Scholarship Association grievance committee will be available to receive any type of grievance or complaint. The proper procedure to file a grievance is to put the complaint in writing and submit it and a check for \$50 to the National Director. A meeting will be set up to discuss the grievance with all concerned and every attempt will be made to expedite a resolution to the grievance.

The grievance committee will be comprised of the National Director, President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer.

The written complaint should contain a description of the incident(s), decision, behavior in question, the time and date of the incident, the names of any witnesses, your signature and the date of the complaint.

Grievances will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Any Grievance will be taken seriously, handled impartially and fairly.

Grievances will be dealt with promptly.

If the complaint is substantiated appropriate action will be taken.

If the complaint is unsubstantiated, you will generally be given an explanation as to why that finding was made.

Depending on the nature of the grievance, it may be required to be turned over to legal counsel. Legal fees incurred by MRNM that are the result of the grievance filed against the Organization will become the responsibility of the grievant to pay.