



Dear Potential Miss Rodeo USA Contestant:

We are pleased that you are considering running for the title of Miss Rodeo USA! If you are interested in entering, here are the key things for you to do:

1. **Complete and/or Submit the following:**

- A. 2017 Application Form
- B. 2017 Waiver
- C. 2017 Size Chart
- D. Entry Fee
- E. 8x10 Color Photo (Hard Copy and Digital Format) (SEE BELOW)
- F. 5x7 Color Photo (Hard Copy and Digital Format) (SEE BELOW)
- G. Ticket Reservation Form
- H. Hotel Fee (SEE BELOW)
- I. Entry Fee

If A. – D. are postmarked by October 31 – \$250.00

If A. – D. are postmarked by November 15 – \$350.00

If A. – D. are received in office by December 10, the entry fee is \$450.00.

- *If you are submitting an application between December 1st-10th, please let the Contestant Application Coordinator, Katie Woods-Boggeman know by phone or email (contact information below) when she can expect your application.*
- *If you are entering after December 1, there may be limitations on your exposure within pageant publications due to deadlines, including headshots, biographies, and advertisements.*
- **No entries allowed after December 10, 2016.**

- J. Entry fees must be paid in full, in the form of a cashier's check or money order, and should be payable to "Miss Rodeo USA"

K. PHOTOGRAPHS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1st, 2016. Please note that we prefer they be mailed in with your application. If you have applied and need to send them at a later date, please share this information with the Contestant Application Coordinator, Katie Woods-Boggeman.

L. Complete the Advertising Requirements on or before December 1, 2016. See additional attachments for details.

2. **Ad Sales:** This is a separate competition. **However, all contestants are required to sell at least one full-color ad (or the value of full page {\$550}) in the MRUSA/IFR Souvenir Program.** Details are provided in a separate attachment. High ad sales (over a minimum of \$1,000 in sales) will receive a custom trophy saddle.
3. **Scrapbook:** The Annual Scrapbook Competition is a fun way to share your rodeo queen history with others and the judges. This is not part of the official scoring for MRUSA, but is a separate cash award for the winner. While an award is offered, this is an optional category to participate in.
4. **MRUSA Auction:** Contestants will attend two auctions; one in conjunction with the IFR Gala and the other at an MRUSA Pageant event. **We ask that each contestant bring 2 items total for these auctions; one silent auction item and one basket/packaged item.** The silent auction item will be featured at the IFR Gala. The basket/packaged item is recommended to have a theme (such as your state, hometown, or rodeo). You will be asked to briefly describe the contents of the basket at the MRUSA Pageant event where it is presented. These can be sponsored items! Use your creativity and your resources from local sponsors, artists, designers, and friends.
5. **Clothing:** We have provided a **TENTATIVE** schedule for you. It gives a brief description of what you should plan to bring as your competition wardrobe. We do not expect this to be a competition where the contestant with the most expensive wardrobe wins. If the schedule says jeans: wear jeans. You may always accessorize with a vest or jacket – that is your choice. More details on the final schedule will be provided. However, the tentative schedule should provide a basic idea of the number of outfits you will need. It is perfectly fine to repeat all or part of an outfit.
6. **Additional Clothing Not Brought with You.** Bring everything you need for your competition wardrobe with you to registration on Monday because items won't be allowed to be delivered to you throughout the week. (Only cards and flowers will be accepted). We understand that emergencies happen (zippers break, buttons pop, etc), therefore we recommend you bring back up outfits or items that help you fix the situation such as sewing kits, double stick tape, etc. We also encourage contestants to share if needed and desired. This also will apply to the sponsor items provided. Be prepared with a few different color undershirts, a pair of leggings, miscellaneous accessories, etc.

7. **State Shirt:** We ask that you design a shirt based on your hometown, state, or current title. The guidelines for this are:
 - Shirt must be white, long-sleeve, cloth (not leather)
 - Shirt should be mostly created by you – please do not send to a designer and have them completely design and create your shirt. Many contestants use fabric paint and stones. Some of the very best shirts over the years were created and crafted without the help of expensive designers.
8. **Western Fashion Events:** There are events on the Schedule that are Western Fashion Events. Our goal is to help reduce the cost of your wardrobe. For these events, jeans or slacks are a welcome option. You can be as trendy as you would like with this outfit (skinny jeans inside your boots, retro slacks or pants, colored jeans, a dress off the rack, sponsor clothing, etc.) and you can accessorize however you would like (blazers, jackets, jewelry, belts, etc). Have fun with these outfits!
9. **Hotel Information:** You will be sharing a room with another MRUSA Contestant. Our host hotel is the Wyndham Garden, Oklahoma City Airport, in Oklahoma City.

Wyndham Garden Oklahoma City Airport
2101 S. Meridian Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
405-685-4000

We will reserve every contestant a room arriving Monday, January 9 and checking out Sunday, January 15. Do not reserve your own room for those nights. If you plan to arrive early or stay late, please call the hotel and reserve those nights separately. You may also find that the Wyndham is full for nights such as Sunday, January 8th – if so, we encourage you to find of the many neighboring hotels with great rates (such as those listed below).

Each contestant will have a roommate, and will share a "two double-bed" room. The combined room rate is *approximately \$100. Consequently, each contestant will pay \$50 per night, for a total of \$300 per contestant (this will be confirmed and published on the website shortly).* To expedite getting everyone into their rooms, you will pay your hotel fee when you register with the Pageant on Monday. **DO NOT check-in at the front desk.** The hotel fee should be payable to: Miss Rodeo USA, by either cashier's check or money order.

- You may certainly pre-pay this amount with your application fee, or mail it separately; however, please DO NOT mail the hotel fee AFTER December 10, 2016, so that we have time to resolve any issue if it gets delayed through the holiday mail process. If you would like to pay for your hotel after December 10th, please let the Contestant Application Coordinator, Katie Woods-Boggeman, know that you will pay for your room at the time of check in.

Your friends and family will be responsible for reserving their hotel room and will not be allowed to stay at the pageant host hotel, the Wyndham. We encourage friends and family to stay at one of the following nearby hotels. Please reserve family/friend rooms early!

Wingate by Wyndham (2 doors north of the Host Hotel)
2001 S. Meridian Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
405-682-3600

Candlewood Suites (nearby behind Chili's restaurant)
4400 River Park Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
405-680-8770

Because hotels will be at maximum capacity during the IFR, there are several other quality hotels nearby. If you Google "Hotels on South Meridian Avenue in Oklahoma City", you will find multiple choices. We do not have an association with any other hotels, but most have rates ranging from \$69 - \$140 per night, without tax. Many offer suites. Again, we don't get a special rate at hotels not listed above, but you may find comparable alternatives nearby.

10. **Application Form:** The application is provided in a PDF format that you can edit online or print. If you choose to retype the application, please do not make changes to the format or the order of information. It should be submitted on regular white paper.
11. **MRUSA, IFR, IFR Gala, and Ladies Luncheon Ticket Information:** Tickets for MRUSA Events will be available at the door on a first come first serve basis. We ask that you fill out the Ticket Reservation Form with your application with an approximate number of those who will need tickets for each event. *Please note, this is for a head count and tickets won't be available to purchase until Dec. 1, 2016.*

Tickets for IFR/IPRA events may be purchased at the door or in advance through www.ipra-rodeo.com/ifr. Ticket information for the Ladies Luncheon and IFR Gala information will be forthcoming through the IPRA office.

12. **Horsemanship:** Horsemanship will include two set patterns. You'll find the official MRUSA horsemanship pattern on the Miss Rodeo USA website. Following the first pattern and speaking with the judges in the arena, the contestant will perform a queen run/presentation run. The second pattern will be given to you the morning of the horsemanship competition in the format of printed instructions. Contestants will have equal amount of time to study the second pattern before performing. (*Judges reserves the right to request additional maneuvers or rounds, including carrying a flag.)

13. **Children's Center Visit:** This is an annual trip to visit children who are undergoing many different physical challenges. We will be visiting the Children's Center with some of the IFR personnel. If you have not taken the flu shot this fall/winter, you will need to wear a hospital facemask for this visit. *We encourage you to get a flu shot, but it is certainly not required.* They will have masks available at the center.
14. **Pajama Party and Gift Exchange:** Each Contestant brings a small gift for the other contestants and the reigning MRUSA. Please do not bring gifts for our staff or the Judges. These gifts should be inexpensive. Make something, have them sponsored or donated, or bring something from your hometown. These should be FUN – not a financial burden.
15. **Commentary Cards:** You will need to provide commentary cards for some of your outfits. These should be brief, fun, and entertaining. This is a great opportunity to showcase your personality. They will be read while you are modeling, so consider the time you would need to model the outfit appropriately. These should never exceed one minute. Please use 3x5 cards, **written clearly with dark ink or typed.** Each card should have your name, title and spot to add your contestant number once given.
16. **Communication with Family:** During the actual pageant, you will not be allowed to communicate with family and friends. This is primarily for safety reasons. This sometimes catches contestants off guard, so please be prepared to turn in your cell phones and laptops/iPads at registration. You will have a television in your room, but will not have access to a telephone. Your family and friends may send cards or flowers to you during the week. Cards of encouragement are acceptable, but all cards will be read by the chaperones before being delivered to a contestant. Any questionable cards containing criticism or coaching will be delivered to the Head Judge by the chaperones. When our contestant group is scheduled to eat at an Oklahoma City restaurant, we encourage family and friends to join us. You will not be able to interact with your family, but will be able to say hi or share a smile or wave across the room.

Emails: During the pageant, friends and family can send words of encouragement by submitting emails to missrodeousainfo@gmail.com with the contestant's name in the subject line. They will be printed out each evening and delivered to the contestants. As with cards, the emails will be read and delivery is at the discretion of the Miss Rodeo USA Board of Directors.

17. **Meals and Restaurant Gratuity:** **All of your meals are provided during pageant week.** However, when we visit a local restaurant, we ask that you bring several one dollar bills to offer as a gratuity for the waitstaff, as they are not getting paid extra to provide service and they look forward to our group every year.
18. **People's Choice Award:** People's Choice contest, the format and ability to vote will be announced after the final deadline when the Miss Rodeo USA Association has received all 2016 applications.

19. **Scoring:** At the culmination of the 2016 Miss Rodeo USA pageant, each contestant will receive their scores and any comments provided by the judges via mail.

We are excited about your interest in becoming part of our Miss Rodeo USA family. Please let us know if we may answer any questions for you.

Application submission and questions regarding the application/pageant preparation:

Katie Woods-Boggeman
Contestant Application Coordinator
893 CR 1465
Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455
Phone: 903-466-1945
Email: woods.katieann@gmail.com



TICKET RESERVATION FORM

Platform Speech Event – Cattlemen’s Steakhouse (Stockyard City)

*This event includes a lunch, platform speeches by the contestants, and impromptu questions on stage about the contestant’s platform.

Anticipated No. of Tickets: _____

State Speech Event– Remington Park

Formal plated dinner provided. Contestants will present a speech about their state/sponsor/hometown, will model outfits and answer questions on stage.

Anticipated No. of Tickets: _____

IFR Gala and MRUSA Auction – Location TBA

*MRUSA does not sell tickets to this event. However, we will provide an anticipated headcount to the IFR office.

Anticipated No. of Tickets: _____

IPRA Ladies Luncheon

*MRUSA does not sell tickets to this event. However, we will provide an anticipated headcount to the IFR office.

Anticipated No. of Tickets: _____

***WE DO NOT CHARGE ADMISSION TO MRUSA HORSEMANSHIP EVENTS
Tickets will be available for purchase Dec. 1, 2016 and at the door of most events.**



PHOTO GUIDELINES

- Your headshots should include your crown, if possible. It is not required.
- Outside headshots can work – they just aren't always the best option. Getting the lighting right outside can be a challenge and the background may distract from YOU. They can work, it just presents a bigger challenge.

If you are taking pictures for ad pages, outdoor photos are great. Be creative! Use these photos as an opportunity to show the judges the different sides of your personality.

FORMAT FOR THE RIGHT SIZE. Your headshots must be received in an electronic file, preferably a jpeg or other photo format. Please size them accordingly. If you tell your photographer you need both an 8x10 format and a 5x7 format they will know what to do.

HIGH RESOLUTION: Your photographs need to be high resolution. This is mandatory. Low resolution photos will not reproduce well in print. We want you to look your best.