



MISS RODEO USA CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: 2156 CR 1610, Marlow, OK 73055

Email Address: missrodeousainfo@gmail.com

Quick Contacts: Sherry Smeenk 605-645-8325

Trisha Shields 918-559-8287

Jamie Harrison 405-892-2826

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. If you have questions at any time, please don't hesitate to call or email for clarification. We are here for you!

APPLICATION CHECKLIST (further details about each listed below):

- 1. *Application*
- 2. *Notarized waiver*
- 3. *Size chart*
- 4. *Photo (Headshot)*
 - a. *High resolution JPEG file*
 - b. *Printed 8x10 color photo*
- 5. *Entry Fee*
- 6. *Hotel Fee*

Items 1-6 due together at entry date of contestant's choosing.

For Oct 31st Entry (\$250)	For Nov 15th Entry (\$350)	For Dec 15th Entry (\$450)
-Items 1, 2, 3, 4a emailed by Oct. 31, 2018	-Items 1, 2, 3, 4a emailed by Nov 15, 2018	-Items 1, 2, 3, 4a emailed by Dec 15, 2018
-Items 4b, 5,6 postmarked (mailed) by Oct 31, 2018	-Items 4b, 5,6 postmarked (mailed) by Nov 15, 2018	-Items 4b, 5,6 postmarked (mailed) by Dec 15, 2018

- 7. *Ad Sales*
 - a. *Ad Sales Form per ad*
 - b. *Payment for ads sold*

Regardless of your application entry day (Oct 31, Nov 15, or Dec 15), all ads and ad money collected MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE MRUSA ASSOCIATION BY DECEMBER 1, 2018

APPLICATION CHECKLIST: Additional Details

1. Application

- a. The application can be found at <http://www.missrodeousa.com/application.html>
- b. Download the Word document and fill out the application in its entirety. Available space for each answer is limited; please keep content within each provided table and do not alter the application format. In addition, **text size is to be no smaller than size 12 point.**
- c. Save your completed application (**as Word document – do not change the file type**). Email it and all other applications documents to the MRUSA Association at missrodeousainfo@gmail.com.
- d. **Please pay attention to word limit on some questions within the application!**

2. Notarized waiver

- a. The waiver can be found at <http://www.missrodeousa.com/application.html>
- b. Download the PDF document and print. Sign and have the document notarized
- c. Scan document (with signature and notary stamp/signature). Scanned document is preferred but if you must, you may take a photo of the waiver. If submitting a photo, please ensure it is legible, clear and a high resolution JPEG.
- d. Email it and all other application documents to the MRUSA Association at missrodeousainfo@gmail.com.

3. Size Chart

- a. The size chart can be found at <http://www.missrodeousa.com/application.html>
- b. Download the Word document and fill out the form in its entirety. We highly advise you to be honest on this form! You will likely be wearing sponsored items at Miss Rodeo USA Pageant events such as fashion shows, therefore you will want your clothing to fit properly. The form will not be public information.
- c. Email it and all other application documents to the MRUSA Association at missrodeousainfo@gmail.com.

4. Photos

- a. High resolution image
 - i. Email a **high resolution image** of your headshot to the MRUSA Association at missrodeousainfo@gmail.com
 - ii. **Provide official Photographer Copyright Waiver with image if necessary**
 - iii. If photo is not of high enough quality, the photo will be rejected and may affect your contestant status.
- b. Printed 8x10 headshot
 - i. Provide one 8x10 printed headshot (head and shoulders) via mail. Use address above (2156 CR 1610, Marlow OK 73055).
 - ii. **When mailing, this MUST BE POSTMARKED by the corresponding date of entry.** (ex: For entry by October 31st and payment of \$250 application fee, your headshot must be postmarked on or before October 31st.)

- c. Other:
 - i. While it is common that contestants will wear their current title's crown in their headshot, it is not a requirement.

5. Entry Fee

- a. If application items (1-6 on the Application Checklist) are:
 - i. Received by: October 31 – \$250.00 entry fee
 - ii. Received by November 15 - \$350.00 entry fee
 - iii. Received by December 15 - \$450.00 entry fee
 - 1. As a courtesy, if you are submitting an application between November 16th-December 15th, please inform the Miss Rodeo USA Association when we can expect to your application by emailing missrodeousainfo@gmail.com
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. No entries allowed after December 15, 2018**
- b. Entry fee payment
 - i. Entry fees are non-refundable
 - ii. Payment can be made via
 - 1. PayPal – Download “PayPal Instructions” from the Miss Rodeo USA website, <http://www.missrodeousa.com/application.html>.
 - 2. Cashier's Check - Payable to “Miss Rodeo USA Association”. Please mail to address above (2156 CR 1610, Marlow OK 73055)
 - a. Please add memo indicating what the payment is intended for.
For example: entry fee, hotel fee, ad sales, etc
- c. Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable once received by the Miss Rodeo USA Association.

6. Hotel Fee

- a. Contestants will be responsible for payment of their hotel accommodations. You will share a room with another MRUSA contestant; therefore you will be responsible for half of the total nightly cost of \$100. At \$50 per night for 4 nights (Tuesday through Saturday) plus tax, **please provide payment for \$225.00 for the pageant hotel fee.**
- b. Hotel fee payment
 - i. Hotel fees are non-refundable
 - ii. Payment can be made via
 - 1. PayPal – Download “PayPal Instructions” from the Miss Rodeo USA website, <http://www.missrodeousa.com/application.html>.
 - 2. Cashiers Check - Payable to “Miss Rodeo USA Association”. Please mail to address above (2156 CR 1610, Marlow OK 73055)
 - a. Please add memo indicating what the payment is intended for.
For example: entry fee, hotel fee, ad sales, etc

7. Ad Sales

- a. Requirements
 - i. As part of the MRUSA Pageant eligibility requirements, each contestant is **required to sell at least one full-page ad (or the value of a full page {\$750})** in the MRUSA/IFR Souvenir Program.
 1. If ads equaling \$750 are not sold, the contestant is still responsible for providing payment of \$750 to the Miss Rodeo USA Association to ensure eligibility as a contestant – with or without ad in the program
 - ii. Details regarding the ad sizes and prices, as well as the “Ad Sales Form” that must be filled out per ad sold, can all be found at <http://www.missrodeousa.com/application.html>.
- b. Deadline
 - i. Regardless of your application entry day (By Oct 31, Nov 15, or by Dec 10) **all ads and ad money collected MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE MRUSA ASSOCIATION BY DECEMBER 1, 2018**
- c. Submitting Ads
 - i. All finalized print-ready ads are to be emailed to the MRUSA Association at missrodeousainfo@gmail.com, no later than December 1
- d. Collecting Ad Money
 - i. Ad money can be paid/collected from ad purchaser via
 1. PayPal – Download “PayPal Instructions” from the Miss Rodeo USA website, <http://www.missrodeousa.com/application.html>.
 2. Check - Payable to “Miss Rodeo USA Association”. Please mail to address above (2156 CR 1610, Marlow OK 73055)
 - a. Please add memo indicating which contestant sold the ad
- e. High Ad Sales Award
 - i. This is a separate competition that does not affect the contestant’s overall score in the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant. The contestant who sells the most ads (highest monetary value over a minimum of \$1,500 in sales) will receive a custom trophy saddle.

PAGEANT PACKING CHECKLIST (further details about each listed below):

1. *Payment*
2. *Tickets*
3. *Auction Items*
4. *Scrapbooks*
5. *PJ party items*
6. *Commentary cards*
7. *Gratuity/Tip money*
8. *Handy Items to Pack*
9. *Event Clothing*

PAGEANT PACKING CHECKLIST: Additional Details

1. Payment

- a. All payments have due dates BEFORE the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant begins. If any payments remain at the time of orientation, the contestant is responsible for payment including entry fees, hotel fees and all ads sold in order to be considered eligible to compete.

2. Tickets

a. Pageant Events

- i. Tickets for all pageant events will be made available online for purchase at Eventbrite.com
- ii. 2019 tickets will be posted and available for purchase shortly. Contact the Miss Rodeo USA Association at missrodeousainfo@gmail.com for updates at any time.
- iii. Event tickets will also be available at orientation and at the door prior to pageant event (subject to availability)

b. IPRA Events

i. Gold Buckle Gala & Ladies Luncheon

1. Tickets will be available directly through the IPRA office. For further information, we encourage you to contact them directly at 405-235-6540.
2. Arrangements are being made to sell these event tickets along with Miss Rodeo USA Pageant event tickets online through Eventbrite.com. However this is not a guarantee. To be sure you get your tickets, we encourage you to contact the IPRA office. Contact the Miss Rodeo USA Association at missrodeousainfo@gmail.com for updates at any time.

ii. International Finals Rodeo Performances

1. Tickets are available at the State Fair Jim Norick Box Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the box office at 405-948-6800 or online at www.okstatefair.com

3. Auction Items

- a. 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.
 - i. The silent auction item will be featured at the IFR Gala.
 - ii. 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.

- iii. **Please provide a typed list of all items within your basket and the approximate total value.** You will turn in this list at orientation before the pageant begins.

4. *Scrapbooks*

- a. The Miss Rodeo USA Pageant 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.
- b. While an award is offered, this is an **optional category** to participate in.

5. *PJ Party items*

- a. During the PJ Party, each contestant brings a small gift for the other contestants. (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.

6. *Commentary Cards*

- a. 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.
- b. **Outfits that you need commentary cards for, to be turned in at orientation:**
 - i. Platform Speech outfit
 - ii. State Speech outfit
 - iii. State shirt outfit
 - iv. Fashion Show: Western Fashion Forward outfit
 - v. Fashion Show: Outfit of choice
- c. Please pack additional index cards to write commentary cards for sponsored outfits that you may receive at the pageant.

7. *Gratuity/Tip money*

- a. 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 wait staff, as they are not getting paid extra to provide service and they look forward to our group every year.

8. *Handy Items to Pack*

- a. Items to accompany sponsored clothing, such as under tanks/shirts (white and black), tights or leggings, extra accessories (jewelry/belts), etc.
- b. Alarm clock (backup to the one in the hotel)

- c. Small sewing kit for emergencies
- d. Clothing rack and extra hangers to stay organized in shared hotel room
- e. Blank index cards for additional commentary cards
- f. Additional Dietary Needs: If you require any special dietary needs such as gluten-free, sugar limitations, etc we will do our best to accommodate. However, please pack snacks and small meals to bring to the pageant (microwave and fridge available in contestant's hotel rooms).
- g. Medicine: It is not uncommon for contestants to get sick during the week, primarily due to being tired. It is wise to pack cough medicine, anti-nausea medicine, and/or any other common medicine you could need.

9. *Event Clothing (Tentative outline – subject to change)*

- I. Registration/Orientation/Interview #1/Lunch
 - a. One outfit – no time for outfit change
 - b. Recommendations: Jean/pant or skirt outfit; may be accessorized with jacket or vest. This is your first impression outfit – from orientation to first interview – make it a memorable one! You likely will be traveling in it (in and out of the van) for lunch or potential museum tour.
- II. PJ Party
 - a. Recommendations: Comfortable PJs! Please be sure they are appropriate because judges, staff and IPRA members may be present. i.e. no overly short shorts, skimpy tank tops, etc.
- III. Interview #2/Media Interviews/Lunch
 - a. One outfit (or two) – *possible* time to change between interview #2 and media interviews. Time not promised and please do not depend on.
 - b. Recommendations: Jean/pant outfit; may be accessorized with jacket or vest. Jackets are common during Media Interviews, as we ask you to dress as if you were Miss Rodeo USA being interviewed at a news conference.
- IV. Platform speeches
 - a. Requirements: Formal rodeo queen dress
 - b. Recommendations: Dress can be made of any material, leather is not a requirement. Professional style dresses, such as those with jackets, are often worn at this event but not a requirement.
 - c. **NOTE: Commentary card needed**
- V. Horsemanship/Interview #3
 - a. One outfit – no time for outfit change
 - b. Requirements: Jean outfit; no chaps, vests or fringe permitted. Contestants will remain in this outfit for the interview that follows the horsemanship competition. Remember, you will likely mount and dismount in the arena, be sure the fit of your jeans allow for this!

- VI. Gold Buckle Gala
 - a. Requirements: Formal rodeo queen dress
 - b. Recommendations: Dress can be made of any material, leather is not a requirement. Can be a dress already worn for platform speeches or state speeches – this is common! If an option, this is a great place to wear a flashy, attention-getting formal dress.

- VII. Interview #4/MRUSA Reception/Ladies Luncheon
 - a. One outfit – STATE SHIRT
 - b. Requirements: We ask that you design a shirt based on your hometown, state, or current title. The guidelines for this are:
 - i. Shirt must be white, long-sleeve, cloth (not leather)
 - ii. 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.
 - c. **NOTE: Commentary card needed**

- VIII. Fashion Show
 - a. Two outfits (plus sponsored outfits provided during pageant week)
 - i. Western Fashion Forward Outfit -
Recommendations/Requirements: The goal of this particular outfit is to highlight today’s western fashion choices. Your outfit may be off the rack, custom made or a combination of the two. Creativity is highly encouraged! This outfit should represent your fashion forward thought and how you portray it on stage.
 - ii. **NOTE: Commentary card needed**
 - iii. Outfit of choice – This can be any outfit you want to wear again or haven’t had a chance to wear within the pageant – something that makes you feel good and looks good on stage! This can be a pant outfit, something vintage, another fashion forward, a sponsor collaborated outfit, formal rodeo queen dress, etc.
 - iv. **NOTE: Commentary card needed**

- IX. IFR –Perf #1
 - a. Recommendations: Jean/pant outfit with blouse/jacket/vest. If you would like to re-wear your State Shirt outfit for a bit more exposure, we encourage it (but it is not required)!

- X. Interview #5
 - a. Recommendations: jeans/pants/skirts/dress with blouse/jacket/vest. Clothing that reflects a professional nature, such as jackets, are often worn. This is likely your only interview with the opportunity to change before and after if you have an outfit designated specifically for interview purposes.

- XI. State speeches
 - a. Requirements: Formal rodeo queen dress
 - b. Recommendations: Dress can be made of any material, leather is not a requirement.
 - c. **NOTE: Commentary card needed**

XII. IFR – Perf #2/Dinner/Perf #3

- a. One outfit (or two) – *likely* time to change between Perf #2 and Perf #3. You may change or remain in the same outfit if you'd like
- b. Recommendations: Jean/pant outfit with blouse/jacket/vest.

XIII. Move out/OG&E Kids Day/Coronation/Awards

- a. One outfit – no time for outfit change. You will wear the same outfit in the morning as you will for crowning in the afternoon and the Awards ceremony to follow.
- b. Recommendations: Jean/pant outfit with blouse/jacket/vest. As always, you may re-wear anything from earlier in the week. Remember, this is what you will be wearing in your first pictures as Miss Rodeo USA if you are crowned in the arena, pick something you really like!

XIV. GENERAL/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING CLOTHING:

- a. We have provided a **TENTATIVE schedule outline** for you. It gives a brief description of what you should plan to bring as your competition wardrobe. This is not 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. It is perfectly fine to repeat all or part of an outfit.
- b. There are three events considered “formal attire” – where dresses are requested (state speech, platform speech and Gold Buckle Gala). You may bring more such as for fashion show “outfit of choice”, but they aren’t required. You may mix and match your wardrobe and can certainly wear the same dress or outfit twice.
- c. Please bring a couple of casual/fitness outfits for use during the week, such as shorts, running pants and t-shirts.

GENERAL PAGEANT INFORMATION

- *Speech guidelines*
 - State Speech
 - State speech to be performed without note cards. Time frame must be between 2-3 minutes in length. A buzzer/alarm will not sound, but the judges will be informed of the length.
 - Topic: State, hometown, or sponsor
 - Additional activities at State Speech event:
 - Modeling, impromptu question(s), verbal description of your auction item (basket/package item)
 - Platform Speech
 - Platform speech to be performed without note cards. Time frame must be between 1-2 minutes in length. A buzzer/alarm will not sound, but the judges will be informed of the length.
 - Topic: Personal platform that you will advocate for as Miss Rodeo USA
 - Additional activities at Platform Speech event:
 - Modeling and three impromptu question asked back-to-back without the option of repeating

- *Horsemanship*
 - Horsemanship will include two set patterns on two draw horses. 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.

- *People's Choice (Social Media) Award*
 - Once contestant photos are uploaded to website/social media (after December 10th), the "People's Choice" contest will begin. The winner of this contest will have their hotel fee paid/reimbursed by the Miss Rodeo USA Association.
 - Rules/details may change prior to posting contestant photos. The Miss Rodeo USA Association will inform you of any/all changes.
 - This is a separate contest that does not impact overall scores in the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant.

- *Fan Favorite State Shirt Award*
 - Requirements for State Shirt located in the above clothing section (Item VII.b.)
 - Award will be given for the audience's Fan Favorite State Shirt. This is a separate competition and the award will not affect the contestant's overall scores toward the Miss Rodeo USA competition.
 - Voting for Fan Favorite State Shirt *will likely* take place at the IPRA Ladies Luncheon

- *Hotel Information*
 - 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 Tuesday, January 15 and checking out Sunday, January 20. As a contestant, 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 Monday, January 14th – if so, we encourage you to find one 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. Contestants will split the cost of the room. Hotel cost listed above in the "APPLICATION CHECKLIST: Additional Details, #6"
 - When you arrive at the Wyndham the day the pageant begins, **DO NOT check-in at the front desk.** You will receive your room assignment and key from the Miss Rodeo USA Association upon registration.
 - Friends and family planning to stay in Oklahoma City
 - **IMPORTANT: 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. Many offer suites. Again, we don't get a special rate at hotels not listed above, but you may find comparable alternatives nearby.
- *Contact with Contestants*
 - Parents, family, friends, committee members and other supporters
 - During the actual pageant, contestants will not be allowed to freely communicate with family/friends. This is primarily for safety reasons. This sometimes catches contestants off guard, so please be prepared to turn in all electronic devices at registration that are on hand, such as phones, ipads and/or laptop computers.
 - When the 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.
 - During the pageant, contestants will have designated times that they may visit with family and friends. Some of these times will be scheduled and announced at orientation, other opportunities will be if time allows at each given event.
 - Items delivered to the contestants
 - Contestant's family and friends may send cards or flowers 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 excessive coaching will be delivered to the Head Judge by the chaperones.
 - **IMPORTANT:** with the only exception being medical necessity, contestants of the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant will not be allowed ANY DELIVERIES beyond cards and flowers. While items may feel like an emergency situation, such as additional clothing, snacks or convenience items – please do not ask for exceptions to this rule.
 - 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.

- **Photography**
 - Outside photography, whether professional or personal (camera or phone) is not permitted under any circumstance at the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant. A professional photographer and videographer will be on staff throughout the week to ensure all memories are captured and will have photos/videos for sale.
 - During designated times where family and friends are allowed to communicate with contestants (times/places shared at orientation), the pageant photographer will be available for group photos.

- **Scoring**
 - At the culmination of the 2019 Miss Rodeo USA pageant, each contestant will receive their scores and any comments provided by the judges via mail no more than 30 days following the pageant.

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, please refer to:

*** Primary Contact:**

Sherry Smeenk
Contestant Director
Phone: 605-645-8325
Email: sherry.smeenk@gmail.com

*** Secondary Contacts:**

Trisha Shields
Pageant Director
Phone: 918-559-8287
Email: trishashields5@gmail.com

Jamie Harrison
Chairman of the Board
Phone: 405-892-2826
Email: jamieharrisoniv@gmail.com

To submit application related documents via mail or electronically, please use the following information:

MISS RODEO USA ASSOCIATION
2156 CR 1610, Marlow, OK 73055
[**missrodeousainfo@gmail.com**](mailto:missrodeousainfo@gmail.com)