

MISS TEEN RODEO USA NATIONAL PAGEANT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Objective

The objective of the Miss Teen Rodeo USA Pageant is to select a national representative for the International Finals Youth Rodeo, its sponsors and supporters. Miss Teen Rodeo USA should be able to speak intelligently and with authority on the sport of rodeo, IFYR policies, her sponsors and the world around her.

Contestant and Miss Teen Rodeo USA Qualifications

- Pageant Representation: Miss Teen Rodeo USA is an open pageant. Current rodeo queen title not required.
- Age: I will not be less than 13 years of age, nor will I be more than 17 years of age, on the date of the beginning of the National Pageant. Upon request, I will provide a copy of a government issued identification (such as a birth certificate, driver's license, passport, etc.) verifying my age.
- Residency and Citizenship: I am a resident and citizen of the United States of America.
- Education: I am currently enrolled in junior high or high school, or a recent high school graduate (current year).
- Gender: I am female and have always been female.
- Marital Status: I am not currently married and have never been married. I have never participated in a situation where it could be determined that I am or have been married by common-law or cohabitated with another person in lieu of a marriage contract. I have never entered into a purported marriage ceremony or obtained a divorce or annulment of any true or purported marriage.
- Marital Engagement: I am not currently engaged and I agree not to become publicly engaged during my term as Miss Teen Rodeo USA.
- Parental/Guardian Status: I am not pregnant nor have I ever given birth to or adopted any child. I am not the guardian of any person.
- Good Character: I am of good moral character. I have never committed or been involved in an act of moral turpitude.
- No Criminal Record: I have not been convicted or charged with any criminal action, regardless of whether a felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic offenses). I agree to provide proof of any charge against me, or the resolution thereof, for any criminal action for which a penalty may be assessed.
- Health: I am in good health and I do not have any health concerns which would prevent me from fully participating in this contest or from serving as Miss Teen Rodeo USA, if selected.
- Substance Abuse: I do not use any illegal or controlled substances (other than prescription medications and then only in the manner prescribed. I do not abuse alcohol or other dangerous substances. I agree to submit to a random or targeted alcohol or drug test upon suspicion by MRUSA that I am or have been under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances during the National Pageant or during my term as Miss Teen Rodeo USA, if selected.
- Contractual Obligations: I am not under any contractual obligation which would interfere with my ability to participate in this contest or interfere with my ability to perform as Miss Teen Rodeo USA, if selected. I agree to provide copies of any and all contracts to which I am a party if requested by MRUSA.
- No other Competitions: I do not currently hold a title from any pageant or competition that would interfere with my ability to serve as Miss Teen Rodeo USA, if selected. I agree to notify MRUSA of any title I currently hold and agree to forfeit such title, if requested by MRUSA, if I am selected to serve as Miss Rodeo USA.

- No Competitions/Conflicts during the term of the agreement to serve as Miss Teen Rodeo USA: I agree that if I am chosen as Miss Rodeo USA, I will not enter any beauty, talent, modeling, or other such competition during my term as Miss Teen Rodeo USA, nor will I make any public appearance of any kind without the express written consent of MRUSA.
- No Agent Status. I will not incur any bill, obligation or liability on behalf of the MRUSA or the IFYR.
- No Other Acts Detrimental to Reputation: I have not engaged in any act, which if made public, would be reasonably likely to cause harm or damage to my reputation or to the goodwill and reputation of MRUSA/IFYR.
- If I have any concerns about the applicability of and of these provisions, I acknowledge I have been advised to discuss this with a representative of MRUSA prior to signing this agreement.
- Ability to Perform: To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing that will interfere with my ability to compete in this contest or to perform the obligations of Miss Teen Rodeo USA, if selected.
- Any resolution of any questioned provision shall be documented in writing.

Contestant and Miss Teen Rodeo USA Disqualifications

- Contestant attempts to influence or trouble any of the judges.
- Family or personal acquaintance of the contestant attempts to influence or trouble any of the judges.
- Contestant fails to fulfill obligations as directed by the Miss Teen Rodeo USA Pageant Officials.
- Contestant displays any conduct detrimental to the title of Miss Teen Rodeo USA or the IFYR.
- Contestants must be in good financial standing according to the Miss Rodeo USA Association before Orientation or will not be permitted to compete (entry fees, etc).
- Contestant's behavior is inappropriate, offensive or problematic to IFYR, MRUSA Officials, volunteers, judges or other contestants - MRUSA Board of Directors will vote on disqualification. If unanimous, contestant will be disqualified.
- **NOTE: If contestant is disqualified for any reason, contestant will not receive any reimbursement for their participation. Including but not limited to entry fees or hotel expenses.**

Pageant Rules

- Contestants must attend all Miss Teen Rodeo USA events.
- Contestants will abide by all official pageant directives.
- Most of the Miss Teen Rodeo USA functions are open to family and friends but contestants must always sit together with their MRUSA chaperones during the function.
- Judges reserve the right to inquire to the Miss Teen Rodeo USA Pageant Officials regarding contestant's behavior and attitude throughout the week
- Each contestant will be given equal time for events (interviews with judges, on camera, live on FB or otherwise) and will be timed to ensure equal opportunity.
- When questions are created for the contestants by the judges or the Miss Teen Rodeo USA Pageant Officials, fairness regarding level of difficulty will always be a top priority.
- The Miss Rodeo USA Association will appoint a Head Judge to oversee and guide judges through the pageant schedule. They DO NOT judge the contestants with score sheets, nor do they influence the judges in any way. They are critical to the organization of the pageant to answer questions of the judges, provide transportation, explain MTRUSA Pageant events, etc. They also act as a Miss Teen Rodeo USA Pageant delegate in the rare instance that a judge is acting in a questionable manner that would compromise the integrity of the pageant.

Judging

The Miss Teen Rodeo USA contestants will be judged in many areas during the national pageant. The scheduled activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Personal interviews
- Impromptu speeches
- Prepared speeches
- Modeling
- Written exam
- Horsemanship
- Rodeo performances

Judging Criteria

- Horsemanship 30%

- The horsemanship division accounts for 30% of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in her knowledge, riding and showmanship abilities.
- The purpose of the horsemanship division is to judge the candidate on one's ability to ride a horse, including but not limited to equitation skills, hands, and ability to sit a horse, and one's ability to properly tack a horse. Miss Teen Rodeo USA contestants are responsible for providing their own horse/tack.
- An important aspect of horsemanship division is the way a queen presents herself – appearance and personality are a must in this division as well as riding ability.
- The horsemanship competition consists of a set pattern provided by the Miss Teen Rodeo USA Association. The reigning Miss Rodeo USA will demonstrate the required horsemanship pattern prior to the competition. The contestants will be allowed to warm up their own horses. Equal time will be permitted for each contestant to perform the set pattern.
- The contestants should dress as they would if they were Miss Teen Rodeo USA riding at a rodeo during her reign. Chaps and spurs are not permitted. The contestant should not wear anything that will inhibit the judges' view of her hands or seat. The contestant should be sure that her hat will not come off during her presentation of the horsemanship patterns.
- Safety remains the number one priority during the Miss Teen Rodeo USA horsemanship competition.
- Should an unfair situation arise through no fault of the contestant, a re-ride can be granted and the scoring done on the re-ride. This must be a unanimous agreement between judges and the Miss Rodeo USA Board of Directors.

- Public Speaking 25%

The public speaking division accounts for 25 percent of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in public speaking events. Those events include the following:

- Prepared Speech: Each contestant presents a speech about their home state, town, a sponsor, or "What USA Means to Me". This speech is timed and must be between two and three minutes in length. Deductions in scores due to time specifications neglectation are at the discretion of each individual judge. Judges will be notified of the speech time but a sound/alarm will not sound. Notes or cue-cards will not be allowed.
- Impromptu Questioning: Each contestant will answer impromptu questions about either current events, rodeo rules and regulations or situational issues. These questions typically arise during one or more of the scheduled modeling events.

- Platform: Each contestant should have a platform that they will promote throughout the year and be able to answer questions about that platform.

Public speaking is judged on the same guidelines set forth under the personality division.

- Personality 20%

The personality division accounts for 20 percent of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in:

- Education
- Conversational ability in various areas
- Sense of humor
- Personality appeal – ability to project yourself to others on short appearances
- Rodeo and overall knowledge
- Genuine interest in other people – noticeable consideration of others
- Projection – ability to project your personality whether it be from horseback or before any audience.
- Disposition
- General culture
- Grammar
- Quality of voice expression – this includes enunciation voice inflection

- Appearance 20%

The appearance division accounts for 20% of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in:

- Attractiveness and facial beauty
- Figure
- Grooming – This includes neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, hair, boots, hats, etc. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for contestant to be considered for Miss Teen Rodeo USA.
- Photogenic Quality
- Posture
- Poise and lady-like behavior in any situation
- Clothing (fit and style)
- General Appearance

Written Examination 5%

The written examination division accounts for 5% of the total judging. The written examination is

- Knowledge of the Miss Rodeo USA Association, including its administration, its regulations, its contestants and former winners (you don't have to know them all) and its sponsors.
- Knowledge of the International Finals Youth Rodeo, including its administration, contestants, event rules and sponsors.
- Knowledge of current events in our nation and the world
- General knowledge of livestock and care of livestock (including typical illnesses) and horsemanship/rodeo tack

The written examination is designed to test whether a particular contestant has the knowledge necessary to handle the role of Miss Teen Rodeo USA the day she is crowned. It is NOT a test of trick questions. It will only cover information that is readily available through the MRUSA office/website, the IPRA office/website, the IFYR website, general veterinary/horse care sources, general tack sources, and typical sources for current events.

- Miss Teen Rodeo USA goes to work only minutes after she is crowned. She must be able to speak intelligently about the organizations and sponsors she represents and the world around her.

All contestants will be granted equal time to complete the written examination.

Scores

The scores of each contestant will be determined by the judges during the pageant activities. The scores in the different divisions will be multiplied by the appropriate percentage factor and totaled.

In the event of a tie for the first place, the contestant with the highest score in horsemanship will be declared the winner. If this still leaves a tie, the contestant with the highest score in personality will be declared the winner. If this still leaves a tie, the contestant with the highest score in appearance will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, each judge will cast a secret ballot for the winner from the contestants who are tied. The contestant with the most votes will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, a designated Judge will declare the winner.

All score sheets are tallied by a Certified Public Accountant and will be kept on file for a period of one month. In the event of a dispute, the claimant may submit a grievance. If a grievance is filed, the scores will be opened for verification of the results.

At the culmination of the Miss Teen Rodeo USA Pageant, each contestant will receive their personal scores and any comments the judges provided via mail no more than 30 days following the pageant.