

THE THERMOPOLIS  
COWBOY RENDEZVOUS  
PRCA RODEO



## Rodeo Royalty Guidelines, Rules and Expectations

### WHAT TYPE OF GIRL WE ARE LOOKING FOR

1. A young lady who wishes to be a leader in her community and further promote the western way of life on a local, state, and national basis.
2. A young lady who loves horses and everything they represent and who is a shining example of what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication.
3. An ambitious young lady who is interested in furthering her career.
4. A young lady who wants to act as an official representative of rodeo while portraying good sportsmanship, high morals, ethical character, and reflecting careful and humane treatment of animals. She should be able to understand the sport of rodeo in its entirety, enough to be able to explain and promote rodeo to anyone with whom she may come in contact, and be able to speak intelligently, with dignity and sincere interest in rodeo. While the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen/Sr. Princess contest is not a “beauty” pageant, royalty should act, speak, and dress according to the prestige the title deserves.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE

1. Miss Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen- Any young lady who has reached her 19th birthday as of January 1st the year of competition and who has not passed her 24rd birthday as of December 31st of the year of competition and must be a legal resident of the State of Wyoming is eligible to compete. Anyone who wins the Queen title must maintain a Wyoming residency for the purpose of competing in the Miss Rodeo Wyoming Pageant.
2. Miss Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Senior Princess- Any young lady who has reached her 16th birthday as of January 1st the year of competition and who has not passed her 18th birthday as of December 31st of the year of competition, who is a resident of Hot Springs County and whose parent or guardian pays taxes in Wyoming will be eligible.
3. Contestants will provide proof of residency or age upon request.
4. Contestants will pay an application fee of \$50.00 for Queens/\$25.00 for Sr. Princess.
5. Contestants must be single, must never have married, must never have been pregnant, and must not be sharing living quarters with the opposite sex or significant other with whom they are not related to and must not have been convicted of a felony nor have a criminal record.
6. Due to the nature of the contest, contestants must own their own horse or have access to a horse for her to use throughout her reign. Providing a horse is not the responsibility of the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo committee.
7. There is no limit to the number of times an individual can compete in the Miss Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen/Sr. Princess as long as the contestant meets eligibility requirements.
8. A title holder may not compete for the same title two (2) consecutive years.
9. Contestants must comply with all rules of the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Queen/Sr. Princess Pageant and execute all applicable waivers of liability. Breaking any of the rules or improper conduct will disqualify the contestant.

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. Throughout your reign, “significant others” cannot be a distraction while you are performing your duties. They cannot “hang out.” This is not acceptable as your first priority is fulfilling your duties as Queen/Sr. Princess.
2. You are an example to young impressionable girls, and as such, you must ALWAYS conduct yourself in an exemplary manner.
3. Be very careful about what you post on Facebook, Twitter, etc. in the way of pictures and attitudes portrayed. Inappropriate posts may constitute a revoke of title and reign.
4. Please work with Cassie Owsley as she is the lead team member for the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen Committee. Keep her informed as to your schedule and availability.
5. When your Royalty responsibilities are complete and your reign, please return all of the clothing, chaps, etc to Cassie Owsley in clean and pressed condition. Please take good care of these items so that they can be passed along to the next court. Any items damaged or not returned **WILL BE CHARGED TO YOU** and payment for these items will be due within ten (10) days of invoicing.
6. The Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen and Sr. Princess are the Public Ambassadors for The Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Committee and Queen Committee and Hostess to all the visitors for the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Celebrations. As such they are expected to participate in ALL events, including sponsorship visits, set up, rodeo performances, meet and greets, “Wild Bunch” activities, parades and grounds clean up.
7. Appearances in Rodeos – you must arrive on time and well dressed in queen fashion. Always keep in mind you represent the town of Thermopolis, the Big Horn Basin and the Great State of Wyoming! Always conduct yourself in a professional manner recognising that you are an example and a role model for others. The following events/activities are **MANDATORY** for the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen/Sr. Princess unless otherwise noted or cleared by the committee:
  - a) The Miss Rodeo Wyoming Queen Clinic (March) or any approved Queen clinic (Queen only- Sr. Princess participation is encouraged but not required.)
  - b) Participate in and host all Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Activities. (Rodeos, parades, and public events. )
  - c) Hostess for all visiting queens and dignitaries during the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo.
  - d) Attend all functions required by the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Committee.
  - e) Attend at least three PRCA approved rodeo circuit rodeos detailed on Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen Schedule.
  - f) Participate in Community Activities. (Christmas Festivities, Moonlight Madness, Bill Smith Horse Sale, Pageant Days Parade, Big Horn Basin Activities as coordinated with committee.)
  - g) Participate in promotion activity such as visit to school or 4-H horse program meeting.
  - h) Coordinate and participate in all fundraising activities.

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## **FUNDRAISING**

1. The Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen committee will pay for the Queen's participation in the Miss Rodeo Wyoming Queen Clinic as well as the contest entry fee. Required travel will be subsidized pursuant to availability of funds. Any other monies may be from sponsors, or at your own expense. The queen is responsible for acquiring \$1000 minimum in personal sponsorship. All of the sponsors will write checks to "Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen" and will be run through the committee bank account. She must submit a receipt and voucher for reimbursement. In the event that we advance money (for gas or travel expenses, etc.), she must submit receipts for payment of those expenses upon her return and reimburse the committee for an overages.
2. It will be the responsibility of the Queen and Sr. Princess to sell raffle tickets (as available) and solicit sponsors; each girl will be required to sell a minimum 25 tickets individually in addition to selling at community functions such as the Bill Smith Horse Sale, etc.
3. Any other fundraising is encouraged and enhances the experience and opportunities of the Queen and Sr. Princess during their reign.

## **JUDGING GUIDELINES**

1. Best attempts will be made by the Committee to have a three to four judge panel consisting of highly qualified professional individuals whom may or may not be from Thermopolis or the surrounding area.
2. The Committee reserves the right to have a secret judges behind the scenes (watching such things as behavior, manners, and personality).
3. Judges may attend any or all pageant events that are not scored; therefore you should be yourself at all times.
4. Scores are tallied by at least two (2) members of the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA PRCAQueen Committee.
5. Contestants competing for these titles must receive 70% of the possible points in each division to be crowned. If no contestant receives the necessary percentage, the title will not be filled. In the event of a tie for any of these titles, the contestant who receives the highest combined total horsemanship score will be crowned.
6. Formal complaint and grievance process – Any complaint that is filed in regard to the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen/Sr. Princess pageant operations or issues must adhere to the following. All complaints must be submitted in writing including name, address, daytime phone number of the person filing the complaint, signed and dated. The complaint should include as much detail about the subject as possible in order for appropriate action to be taken. All complaints may be submitted to the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Queen Committee and will be reviewed by them. Research and information will be gathered about the situation and involved parties will be notified about the complaint and given the opportunity to provide a response. The governing committee will vote and determine any necessary action to be taken. If a response to the complaint is desired please indicate so in your letter.

## **PAGEANT DIVISIONS**

1. **Appearance**
  - a. Attractiveness – This includes inner beauty.

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- b. Grooming – Neatness and cleanliness in every detail, such as complexion, hands, hair, hats, boots, and other wearing apparel. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for a girl to be considered.
- c. Poise and Posture – Lady-like behavior in every situation.
- d. Knowledge of proper western attire - Contestants are expected to appear in “full western attire” at all times unless otherwise specified. When competing in the horsemanship portion of the contest, contestants are to dress in jeans and a plain fitted western shirt. Contestants are also to wear boots, hat and belt. No excessive bling jewelry is allowed. During the modeling and speech portions of the contests contestants are encouraged to use their attire appropriately to enhance or ephasize their personality: this includes western dress, western skirt and blouse or jacket combination, or western jeans with long sleeved western blouse and/or jacket. All outfits should include western hat, boots, and belt. – Contestants should be aware of current western trends and what is fashionable western dress, with particular attention given to color coordination (how the use of various color combinations can enhance appearance and eye appeal.) This is not a clothing contest. It is not necessary to invest in an excessive amount of expensive clothing. Judges will be looking for versatility, imagination, how a contestant’s clothes fit and how they suit her personality. The length of skirts, pants, and a good crease and hat shape are essential in the “total look”. Dresses, skirts and blouses should reflect a positive and prudent western image.
- e. Contestants shall provide a 3x5 card to be read during the modeling portion of the contest. See sample attached to the application form.

**2. Personality**

- a. Intelligence-Good common sense
- b. Educational-Conversational ability in rodeo and other areas, with special emphasis on grammar and enunciation.
- c. Attractiveness-Not necessarily meaning physical beauty, but rather should note whether the contestant radiates self-confidence without making an issue out of it. She should also show maturity, high moral standards, sincerity, and integrity.
- d. Caring and Compassionate Nature-Genuine interest in other people, the pageant, and in rodeo, and a noticeable consideration of others.
- e. Self-Projections - Ability to project one’s personality, whether it is from horseback in an arena or before an audience. Also to be considered are sense of humor, showmanship, ambition, desire, and enthusiasm.
- f. Personality reflections – To include the contestant’s style of attire, overall appearance, magnetism, and eye appeal.
- g. Public appearance – Includes public appearances of contestants where they will be asked to answer impromptu questions and speak. These categories require her to think “on her feet”, and show maturity, intelligence, wisdom, and imagination.
- h. Speech –Each contestant will be required to give a timed, memorized speech---Queen(3 minutes) Sr. Princess (2 minutes).The topic will be announced given to contestants in advance. Each contestant will be asked questions in a 1 ½ - 2 minute “ media interview.” Questions for the media interview will be the same for each contestant. Judging for speech and media interview will be based on content, delivery, and the time allotted for the presentations.
- i. Contestant must conduct herself in a lady-like manner at all times. Disorderly conduct will not be permitted. Any contestant giving another contestant any harassment or showing

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unsportsmanship character at any time during the contest may be disqualified. Any unnecessary interference of parents or others may result in disqualification of the contestant. No bribing or threats will be permitted.

- j. Any contestant not present for any part of the contest or being late without permissible excuse may result in disqualification.
- k. All contestants will be observed up until the time of crowning.

### 3. **Horsemanship**

- a. Horsemanship - Control of mount and the way any situation which may occur is handled. This includes execution of pattern, speed, and use of arena.
- b. Balance – Ability to sit a saddle.
- c. Positions of hands, feet, and seat.
- d. Mounting and dismounting
- e. Saddling – knowledge and ability, safety, confidence and ease, and awareness of properly fitting tack. This portion is optional and may be requested at the judge’s discretion.
- f. The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged and not the horse or the equipment.
- g. Contestants may be required to do a presentation ride, carry a flag and/or perform additional maneuvers such as stockmanship on horseback. Be prepared to ride the same horse the patterns were performed on also be prepared to switch horses with another contestant. The patterns will be posted prior to competition. Bring a flag boot.
- h. Equipment is optional. No bats or chaps are allowed.
- i. Attire for horsemanship is western pants and form-fitting blouse or shirt with long-sleeves (any color) with shirt tail tucked in. No vests or jackets. Gloves are optional, chaps are not allowed. For the horsemanship competition, boots, hat, jeans and snap or button down western collared shirt only, please – no embellishments such as fringe or sequins. All riding attire should be neat and fit properly. Showmanship should be considered, since a contestant’s personality does project from horseback to the audience and judges. Lace-up and “chunk” soled boots are prohibited for safety reasons. Contestants are encouraged to wear a Wrangler jean product since Wrangler is a major sponsor of Miss Rodeo America.
- j. There will be **ABSOLUTELY NO COACHING OR TRAINING** of either contestant or horse during the horsemanship competition. Any failure to comply with the rules of the pageant may result in the disqualification of the contestant.

### **JUDGED EVENTS**

- 1. Horsemanship - Horsemanship patterns will be included in the entry packet. The patterns will be posted the day of the contest, but it is each girl’s responsibility to know the correct pattern. Chaps will

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not be permitted during any part of the judged competition. Be prepared for a second round of horsemanship, contestants may be asked to switch horses with another contestant, perform a presentation ride, mount/dismount, unsaddle, and/or a flag presentation.

2. Interviews – each contestant will be interviewed privately by the judges. Questions asked may test the contestant's knowledge of the pageant, sponsors, rodeo, horsemanship, horse science, current affairs, or personal (goals, etc.), etc. This could also include knowledge of tack, horse care, feeding, diseases, anatomy, etc.; knowledge of professional rodeo, its history, organization, rodeo terminology or vernacular, standard events, championship standings, and awareness of the PRCA and WPRA.

3. Speech/Media Interview/Extemporaneous questions – Each contestant will be required to give a speech, as well as answer questions in a 1 ½ - 2 minute media interview. Extemporaneous questions will be asked at various times. They may cover such topics as rodeo, current events, horsemanship, personal, or fun. Judging for this section will be based on content, delivery, and allotted time frame.

4. Appearance/Modeling/Stage Presentation – The ability to show their outfit with poise and grace. You will be judged on your personality projection, ability to have fun, and how you handle yourself.

5. Written test – A written test will be given based on rodeo, horsemanship knowledge, and community knowledge. The score will not count toward the overall total score but will be reviewed by the judges.

6. Free ride- Contestants will also be asked to present a timed 2 minute free-style event on horseback. The timing will start after the set up is finished. For the free-style event there are no clothing limitations. Because this is free-style, your costume may also be free-style. Please provide a 3 x 5 card to be read during your free style event.