



2026 Rodeo Queen Contest Rules and Guidelines

Contest Rules, Qualifications and Guidelines and the Rodeo Contract must be read in full before entering this contest. Interested parties must be able to meet and adhere to these rules and requirements. Not doing so may deny one the right to compete for the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo Queen title.

Age Division: Ages 15-18 as of January 1, 2026.

Entry Fee: \$150.00 non-refundable payment. Checks should be made payable to the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo.

Contest Date: Times TBD on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Schedule to follow but *must* be at the Tri-State Fairgrounds this entire time.

Entry Requirements:

- Entry Form
- Payment
- Rodeo Release and Indemnification Agreement - completed and signed.
- Contract - fully signed and executed. This is what is expected of title holders in their year of reign.
- Photographs – 2 different 5x7 vertical headshots in color. No black and white photographs. Picture must be with cowboy hat on and only of the contestant (no horses). Professional photographs are not required. Please list name, address and age on the back of each photo. Hard copies will be used for the judges, but please send digital copies to lindsay@tristateexpo.com

Entry Deadline: Saturday, August 15, 2026. All completed entries must be postmarked by this date and mailed to the following address: Tri-State Exposition, Attn: Lindsay Robertson, 3301 SE 10th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79104. Entries can also be hand delivered.

Late or Incomplete Entries: Entries that do not include the items listed above will not be considered complete. Entries not received by the stated deadline date or that are not complete will be dismissed. Entry Fee is non-refundable.

ALL ELIGIBLE CONTESTANTS AND TITLE HOLDERS MUST:

- Have been born a female and compete as a female.
- Be a legal resident of the United States and live within 200 miles of Amarillo.
- Be a student in good standing.
- Not be, have been or become married, nor have had a marriage nullified.
- Not be, have been or become pregnant.
- Not drink alcohol, smoke, vape or do any drugs.
- Have not been or become convicted of a misdemeanor or felony of any kind or have any other involvement in any type of delinquent or criminal activity.
- Have read and executed all entry forms, consents, waivers, and release forms prior to competition.

- Represent themselves for the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo Queen title.
- Attend every event on the contest schedule and be prompt. Any exceptions must be approved by the contest director. Failure to appear at an event can result in contest disqualification.
- Provide a horse for Horsemanship and the Parade *if* contestants will ride horseback in the Parade.
- All contestants must attend the Awards Ceremony. For any contestant to receive gifts or awards they earn, they must be present at the Awards Ceremony. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of gifts or awards. Any exceptions must be approved by the pageant director.
- Contestants and their parents/guardians/guests must abide by all rules and regulations of the contest and exhibit good behavior and sportsmanship. Any contestant/parent/guardian/guest demonstrating poor sportsmanship or being disrespectful, argumentative, or unruly will be asked to leave which will result in immediate disqualification.
- All contestants and their parents/guardians/guests or anyone acting on behalf of a contestant should not approach or communicate in ANY way with judges at ANY time. All questions must be directed to Contest Coordinator(s) or their designee for clarification. The names of contest judges are not disclosed prior to the contest.
- Consult with the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo Queen Coordinator, Dianne Nichols, if currently holding another title to determine eligibility.
- Special Note - The Tri-State Fair & Rodeo Queen title holder is not eligible to compete in the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo Queen contest after a completed reign.

SELLING OF TICKETS:

Each Rodeo Queen contestant is required to sell a minimum of 20 Thursday Combo tickets, which include gate and rodeo admission, as part of the contest. Contestants can earn up to 5% of their overall score for meeting this requirement, with deductions applied for each ticket sold below the 20-ticket minimum. Contestant ticket collection forms will be submitted the Lindsay Robertson and the Events Manager will handle all payment collection. Contestants are responsible for actively selling the tickets and ensuring that payment is submitted to the office. The deadline to turn in tickets & payment is September 9. If the Events Manager is unable to collect payment from a purchaser due to incomplete submission or delayed payment, deductions may also be applied.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO RULES:

If the contest rules are not followed or are broken at any time, the coordinator of the contest may disqualify and remove a contestant on the grounds of breaking the rules provided to them prior to entering the contest. Miss Rodeo Tri-State title holder must follow these same rules and guidelines before and during their reign of title. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of their title and prizes.

IN CASE OF TIE:

In the case of a tie, the highest score for Interviews & Speech between the tie-holders will be used to determine winner.

Scoring Breakdown:

Queen Judging and Scoring
Horsemanship – 25% Appearance – 25% Personality – 20% (5% based on ticket sales) Interviews & Speech – 25%

FAIR AND RODEO APPEARANCES:

The contestant will be available for appearances on behalf of the Amarillo Tri-State Fair & Rodeo and be prepared for autograph signings, photographs, and media interview opportunities to promote the Amarillo Tri-State Fair & Rodeo, the sport of rodeo, and the agriculture industry as a whole. Any PRCA rodeo attended as a queen during the year of my reign will be done as Miss Amarillo Tri-State Fair & Rodeo. The contestant will attend a minimum of 5 additional promotional appearances representing Amarillo Tri-State Fair & Rodeo throughout the year. At least two of these appearances must be during the second half of the reign. Additional appearances may be requested and/or offered by the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo. Title holders are not limited to the above representations.

Contest Details:

Horsemanship: 100 points possible

All contestants will compete in Horsemanship. Each contestant will be allowed ONE chaperone in the staging area of the arena at Horsemanship. All other guests can be seated in the bleachers away from judges. Contestants failing to exhibit control over their horse at any time will be removed from this phase of competition for the safety of all participants.

Contestants will ride the predetermined pattern and then ride to the judge; dismount, have a short exchange with the judge and then remount. Contestant will then make a Queen's Run, then a Flag Run, you **MUST** have a flag boot/holder for making your flag run. Contestants will be judged on their riding skills and abilities, posture, smile, etc., details of the pattern, their response to questions and the cleanliness/appearance of themselves and their horse and tack.

Appearance: 100 points possible

Throughout the contest, contestants should wear classy, timeless Western attire that reflects the spirit of rodeo. Contestants can (but not required to) have a selection of outfits for each activity. Example: interview, luncheon speech, Exceptional Rodeo, Horsemanship, etc.

Contestants will also be asked to introduce themselves to the audience, sharing their name, age, interests, activities, and other personal details with poise and clarity over the microphone.

Personality: 100 points possible

Contestants will be evaluated throughout the contest as part of the Interviews, Speech and Personality score. Each contestant will participate in a private, personal interview with the judges, where they will engage in conversation on topics such as rodeo, horsemanship, personal interests, and activities.

Judges will assess contestants based on both verbal responses and non-verbal cues, considering their poise, authenticity, and enthusiasm during the personal interview, public speech and interaction at the Exceptional Rodeo.

Ticket sales: See rules listed above for how this will influence into score with contest.

Interview & Speech: 100 points possible

The contestant will prepare and memorize a speech about what the “Western Way of Life” means to her.

The speech must be 2 minutes long. The contestant will be allowed a 5 second window each direction but any variance over/under may be cause for point deductions. Have fun making the topic your own and unique to you.

Private interviews with panel of judges will last approximately 15 minutes and cover topics related to your roles at the future Miss Tri-State Rodeo Queen, information from your application and importance of agriculture and western way of life.

Parade: No points possible

Contestants will participate in the parade and are required to ride horseback. Rodeo Queen Coordinator, Dianne Nichols, will notify contestants where they will be riding in the parade prior to the day of the parade.

Please also see the 2026 Rodeo Queen Contest Wardrobe Requirements to review requirements prior to, during, and at the Tri-State Queen Contest.