

# 2026 Montrose County Fair and Rodeo

## Royalty Program Guide and Rules



# Purpose

The Montrose County Fair and Rodeo royalty strives to find a representative who will act, speak, ride and dress in a manner consistent with the prestige the title deserves.

The royalty program is designed to provide opportunities for young women to be advocates for the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo, the Montrose community, the sport of rodeo, and the Western way of life.

The royalty program prepares contestants to become future leaders of the Montrose community through leadership and organizational skills, public speaking, and community relations.

Selection to the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Royalty is a privilege and an honor. Rodeo royalty shall fulfill responsibilities with grace, dignity, and courtesy. Rodeo Royalty are role models who exhibit good moral character and social behavior.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to further honor and promote the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Royalty Program and the Royalty that have come before you.

## A. Definitions

1. Candidates: Young women who have applied to be considered for Royalty.
2. CPRA: Colorado Professional Rodeo Association
3. MCF&R: Montrose County Fair and Rodeo
4. PRCA: Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
5. Royalty: The young woman selected to represent the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo as either Princess or Queen.
6. Royalty Committee: Committee formed under the Montrose County Fair Board, for the administration of the Royalty Program.

## B. Eligibility Requirements

1. Each contestant must be a resident of Montrose County or attend school in Montrose County.
2. Each Queen contestant must be 15-18 years of age as of January 1, 2026.
3. Each Princess contestant must be 10-14 years of age as of January 1, 2026.
4. No contestant shall ever have been married or publicly married. No contestant may be engaged or publicly engaged.
5. No contestant shall be or ever have been pregnant.
6. No contestant may be a former Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Queen.
7. Contestants must be of good moral quality and be good role models in the community. Such determination shall be made at the exclusive discretion of the Fair Board/Royalty Committee, and may be based on a variety of considerations, including, but not limited to, the behavior of the contestant during the judging process, and how the contestant presents herself in public and on social media.

## C. Contest Procedures

### 1. Overview:

a. All judging will be under the sole authority of the Montrose County Fair Board and the Royalty Committee, and all determinations are solely within the discretion of the Board/Committee. Judging will be based on: 1) Appearance; 2) Horsemanship; 3) Personality and Interview; 4) Speech 5) Written Test Speech; and 5) Posterboard

b. Scoring will be weighted as follows:

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1) Appearance              | 50 Points |
| 2) Horsemanship            | 50 Points |
| 3) Personality & Interview | 50 Points |
| 4) Speech                  | 50 Points |
| 5) Written Test            | 25 Points |
| 6) Posterboard             | 25 Points |

2. Appearance:

a. The purpose of the Appearance portion of the contest is to select the young woman who scores the highest in:

1) Poise: The candidate is expected to display appropriate etiquette and behavior in a variety of situations.

2) Grooming: The candidate is expected to be neat, clean, and appropriately dressed at all times.

3) Attire: The candidate is expected to have neat, clean, and appropriate clothing for all events, including appropriate Western style rodeo clothing. Specifically, the following attire is required for all events:

a) Western dress is always expected during the pageant.

b) Western style boots must be worn with all outfits and may not be fashion boots.

c) A Western style cowboy hat must be worn with all outfits during the competition. Hats must be clean, in good condition, and of good quality.

d) A variety of sleeve lengths and collar styles are permissible, but blouses must not be sleeveless and must be Western style. Revealing or transparent blouses are not allowed, and no cleavage may be shown. Long sleeve Western style blouses must be worn at CPRA or PRCA rodeo events.

e) Appropriate undergarments must be worn to ensure modesty.

f) Western style denim jeans (any color) may be worn during the pageant.

- g) Accessories must also be Western Style, including belts, buckles, hats, gloves, boots, skirts, blouses, jackets, dresses, suits, jumpsuits, split skirts, vests, and other accessories.
- h) Chaps are only permitted when used during a speech.
- i) Western style dresses must be at least knee length.
- j) No visible tattoos or body piercings, other than single hole earrings, are permitted.
- k) Jewelry pendants may be long or short. If they are short, they must be no longer than one inch, and should hang above the opening of blouse. If the pendant is a long style, it must be worn on the outside of clothing. Any jewelry with symbols must be respectful to all who will see them in public.

b. Overall Appearance Considerations:

- 1) The contestant's posture and poise are important. She should have an awareness of fashionable Western dress and style with particular attention given to proper fit, style, color and coordination that enhance her overall personal appearance.
- 2) Judges will observe a contestant's posture, how she sits, walks, models her outfits, the style she projects, and her overall appearance and behavior.
- 3) Judges will also be looking for individuality, imagination, versatility, creativity, and how the contestant presents overall.

3. Horsemanship

- a. The purpose of this division is to select the young woman who scores the highest in:
  - 1) Control of a mount and handling in a riding pattern chosen by the committee.

- 2) Ability to sit, saddle-balance, position of hands, feet, seat, mounting and dismounting.
  - 3) Overall presentation.
- b. Attire for this event is as follows: long-sleeved solid colored shirt with collar, jeans, belt, boots and cowboy hat. Chaps are prohibited. Hair must be tied back.
  - c. For this event contestants are required to use their own horse or leased horse. It is recommended that the contestant choose a horse that is controllable in most situations and suits her riding ability. If a horse has any special needs, the contestant is responsible for providing and taking care of those needs.
  - d. If a leased horse is used, a copy of the lease must be attached to the application. The horse must be leased for the full term of her reign if the contestant is selected as royalty.
  - e. The 4H rulebook pertaining to all rules and equipment will be followed.
  - f. The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged, and not the horse. However, it is recommended that the contestant ensures the horse and tack are clean and ready for competition. All equipment must be in working order.
  - g. Contestants may be asked to saddle the horse in front of the judges. Contestants will be required to carry a flag around the arena and will be required to do a "Queen wave" as she is introduced in the arena.
  - h. The pattern for the horsemanship competition will be posted on the day of the competition. Contestants will be required to mount and dismount as well as execute the pattern outlined. Judges will also ask questions regarding the contestants' tack, horse, the pattern, or other equestrian topics.
  - i. The royalty coordinator, management or Fair Board may, at its discretion, expel any person or persons abusing any horse on the grounds at any time,

and prizes will be forfeited. In any of the horse portions of the pageant, willful abuse or horses showing signs of undue stress or inhumane treatment must be penalized. Any horse exhibited in a class that has evidence of abuse, a cut or abrasion showing clear evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area, must be considered to be ineligible to receive a title. If a body condition score of 3 or less is assigned to any horse by the royalty committee or royalty coordinator/ fair board, judge or veterinarian, that horse is ineligible to compete in any activity.

#### 4. Personality & Interview

- a. The purpose of this division is to select the young woman who scores the highest in the following areas:
  - 1) A general ability to present herself to and converse with people of various backgrounds in a courteous, diplomatic, and positive manner.
  - 2) Intelligence and knowledge of current events.
  - 3) An ability to present herself in a gracious and sportsman-like manner in a variety of situations, such as formal occasions, the riding arena, or before an audience.
  - 4) A mature and positive personality, a general sense of humor, and the ability to adapt in various situations and in meeting a variety of people, all while promoting the Western way of life.
  - 5) An ability to promote Montrose County Fair and Rodeo in an authentic way in public events as a Rodeo Queen or Princess.
- b. Personality may be assessed by unidentified Judges at any time on an ongoing basis throughout the Fair week. Points will be awarded based on how well the contestant interacts with other contestants, how she interacts with Fair personnel, whether she is respectful and willing to help others, and her general attitude, with consideration of how she would represent Montrose County in the future if selected as Royalty.

- c. Judges will conduct both formal and informal interviews during the Fair week.
  - 1) The interviews may consist of a variety of questions, including some complex questions designed to assist the Judges in understanding the background, knowledge, and character of contestants.
  - 2) Contestants are expected to be able to converse on a variety of topics in addition to the sport of rodeo, particularly current local, national or global events.
  - 3) Each contestant should be prepared for a private interview with the judges.
- d. Attire for the private interview is Western style dress clothing, which should include a belt, boots, and a cowboy hat. Contestants may choose to wear a dress, skirt, or pants for the interview.

5. Written Test

- a. Each contestant shall be given a written test. Some questions will include equine knowledge, the sport of Rodeo and the Montrose County Fair.

6. Speech

- a. Contestants shall prepare and present a three to five-minute speech on a given topic. A penalty will be assessed if the speech is less than three or more than five minutes.
- b. Judges will score contestants for creativity of content, and poise, presence, and delivery of the speech.
- c. Attire for the speech presentation is Western dress clothing to include a belt, boots, and a cowboy hat. Contestants may choose to wear a dress, skirt, or pants for the interview.

7. Posterboard

- a. Each candidate must submit a poster board no later than the first day of the Fair.

- b. Poster boards should include relevant experiences and hobbies of the contestant, such as rodeo involvement, 4-H and FFA involvement, school activities, hobbies, or employment. Candidates may include photographs, awards, or any other information on their posters to help represent their experiences.

#### 8. Crowning

- a. The Royalty will be decided based on the scoring system identified in section D.1. The Fair Board retains exclusive discretion regarding ratings and naming Royalty.
- b. Royalty will be named at the Crowning Ceremony held during Fair week.

### D. Duties and Expectations

#### 9. Expectations

- a. Expectations of All Royalty:
  - 1) The Royalty's reign begins upon crowning during the current year Montrose County Fair and Rodeo and continues until the end of the following year's Montrose County Fair and Rodeo.
  - 2) The Queen and Princess are role models for children and young ladies, as well as representatives of Montrose County Fair and Rodeo. As such, Royalty is expected to act, speak, and dress appropriately, portray excellence in sportsmanship, display high moral and ethical character, and demonstrate careful treatment of animals at all times.
  - 3) Royalty is expected to attend certain mandatory events, as well as some optional events, outlined below in section E.2.
  - 4) While representing the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo as Royalty, Royalty is required to wear her sash, crown, belt buckle, and Western attire. However, if Royalty is showing a project at the Fair, she should not wear her crown or sash.
  - 5) Royalty shall carry flags for all rodeos and parades as requested.

- 6) At least one member of Royalty must attend monthly fair board meetings.
- 7) Royalty shall assist with gathering sponsorships for their representing year, while promoting and advertising current sponsors when appropriate.
- 8) Royalty shall send thank you notes to all sponsors.
- 9) No Royalty member may take a leave of absence during her reining year, unless approved by the royalty committee/ royalty coordinator or fair board.

b. Additional Expectations of Queen

- 1) The Queen shall oversee the visiting royalty for each rodeo and other events at the Montrose County Fair and Montrose county events.
- 2) The Queen shall work with the coordinator to organize appearances and implement activities regarding Fair Royalty.
- 3) When at other events, the Queen shall follow the instructions of the event organizers and coordinators and assist the Princess in doing the same.
- 4) The Queen is responsible for turning in the biographies for Montrose County royalty at all rodeo's she attends.
- 5) The Queen is responsible for coordinating clothing for Royalty for each scheduled appearance.

c. Additional Expectations of Princess

- 1) The Princess is expected to work closely with the Coordinator and the Queen in planning and making appearances.
- 2) If the Queen is removed from her role or steps down from her title, the Princess will step into the role of working closely with the royalty coordinator/ fair board.

d. Expectations of Parents

- 1) Parents of Royalty are responsible for getting their daughter and horse to each event in a timely manner.
- 2) Families assume all liability while traveling to and from appearances, as well as any other damage or injuries occurring while representing the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo. By agreeing to allow their child to be considered as a candidate for Royalty of the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo, Parents explicitly release Montrose County and the Montrose County Fair Board from any liability regarding related activities.
- 3) The Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Board welcomes and encourages family, relatives, and friends to attend all events open to the public. The Fair Board believes that the support of family and friends is very important to the success of the Royalty. However, the behavior of parents, relatives, and friends must be appropriate at all times, and not detract from the occasion.
- 4) If any parent has a complaint regarding an event, he or she must follow the complaint procedure outlined below in section F.

10. Events

a. Required Events

- 1) Montrose County Fair and Rodeo and Parade:
  - a) Royalty must be available the week before the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo during their reign in order to assist with publicity and help with the royalty contest.
  - b) Royalty must be available during the week of Fair of their reigning year to assist with activities held in Friendship Hall and livestock area, for activities during events.
- 2) Ouray County Fair – Ridgway
- 3) National Western Stock Show - Denver

- 4) Cattlemen's banquet - Montrose
  - 5) Woolgrower's banquet - Montrose
  - 6) Cancer Walk - Montrose
  - 7) Cattlemen's Days Parade and Rodeo – Gunnison
- b. Royalty may also be asked to assist with other community activities as requested by the coordinator and/or Royalty Committee.
  - c. Alternate Events:
    - 1) Delta County Fair - Hotchkiss
    - 2) Rimrock Rodeo – Fruita
  - d. Additional events may be added by Coordinator, Committee or fair board.
  - e. Other events, parades, or rodeos are encouraged.

#### 11. Behavioral Expectations of Royalty

- a. During her reign, Royalty is expected to always act in a manner befitting her status. Whether Royalty has violated this expectation is within the sole discretion of the Montrose County Fair Board and Royalty Coordinator. The Montrose County Fair Board and the Royalty Coordinator reserve the right to revoke Royalty's title for violation of this provision at any time during the Royalty's reign. Should such a revocation occur, Royalty will be required to forfeit her title and return all royalties, including but not limited to your crown, sash, and buckle.
- b. Royalty is not permitted to become married or publicly engaged during her reign. Including photographs.
- c. If Royalty has a romantic partner, she is always expected to conduct herself with decorum while with her partner. She is prohibited from public displays of affection with that partner while acting in an official capacity as Montrose County Fair & Rodeo Royalty. Including photographs.
- d. Royalty is not permitted to become pregnant during her reign. Should Royalty become pregnant, she will immediately forfeit her title and return

her crown, sash, buckle, and any other benefit or gifts received from the pageant and title.

e. Royalty must abstain from drugs, vaping and alcohol.

f. Royalty's use of any social media sites (such as but not limited to: Facebook, snapchat, Twitter, etc.) shall be in accordance with the above-described values and integrity of the Montrose County Fair and Royalty program. The MCF&R Royalty Coordinator and/or Committee Officers may look at these sites, and Royalty is expected to permit the Coordinator and Committee access to these sites. If the MCF&R Royalty Coordinator or Committee is blocked or refused access to any of these sites that a member of Royalty has an account for, it is grounds for immediate removal of title and crown.

g. The Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Royalty are required to sign a contract and the MCF&R consequence matrix within the application stating that they read and understand all the rules and requirements of this document.

h. If a royalty member is removed from her title, she must immediately return her crown, sash, buckle, and any other benefit or gifts received from the pageant and title. If she fails to do so, she must pay the amount that each award is worth to the MCF&R royalty account.

#### E. Complaints

1. Complaints may be submitted by a candidate or the parent or guardian of a candidate.
2. A complaint must be submitted in writing and must be signed and dated by the complainant.
3. A \$75.00 fee must accompany the complaint. If the complaint is sustained, the fee will be returned to the complainant. If the complaint is found to be without merit, the fee is forfeited.

4. Complaints will be handled by the Montrose County Attorney's Office, in accordance with the Objection Rule, as written in the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Open Fair Book.
5. Rulings on complaints are final.
6. Complaints not submitted in accordance with this procedure will be disregarded.



Montrose County Fair & Rodeo

Queen/Princess Candidate Application

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach:

- A short, type-written description of your activities and interests. Include why you would like to be involved with the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Royalty Contest. This may be shared with the judges or the public.
- Proof of horse ownership or lease.

- Application and accompanying documents due by JUNE 28, 2026 5:00pm
- I hereby certify that all information included in this application and attachments are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby certify that I have read and agree to abide by the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Royalty Program Guidelines and Rules.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of the candidate named in this application. I hereby certify that I have and agree to abide by the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Royalty Program Guide and Rules. I hereby indemnify and agree to hold harmless Montrose County and the Montrose County Fair Board for any injuries or damages which arise out of my child's involvement with the Montrose County Fair and Rodeo Royalty Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date