

## QUEEN COMPETITION ELEMENTS

### Written Test (25 points)

- Know your rule book, national sponsors, current queen, national student officers and board of directors, rodeo equipment, and terminology

### Horsemanship Pattern (50 points)

- Wear Blue Denim Jeans and Plain White Shirt/Blouse (no ruffles, accessories or tuxedo shirts)
- Practice pattern

### Lunch with the Judges (no judged score sheet, but makes an impression)

### Impromptu Question (25 points)

- Introduce yourself, and shake hands with each judge
- Prepare by being aware of what is going on in the world (news and other hot topics)
- Always repeat the question with your answer

### Modeling (25 points)

- Current queen will read your biography, model while it is being read

### Speech (50 points)

- Speech topics should be on your country, state/province, or anything with a western theme
- Length should be 2 minutes

### Personal Interview (50 points)

- Be professional, relaxed and informed.

### Other Scoring

- Personality 25 points
- Appearance 25 points

### Auction (not judged)

- Each contestant and current queen help with the auction

### Rodeo Fly-bys

- Prior to Friday and Saturday's rodeos, contestants will be introduced and take a lap waving to the crowd

## HORSEMANSHIP

- **Clothing** – blue denim jeans, plain white cotton blouse or shirt (no ruffles, accessories or tuxedo shirts)
- **Hat** – Your hat should never, ever come off, nor should you touch your hat while riding. Use bobby pins, hairspray on your forehead (don't apply makeup on your forehead) or double sided tape to keep it securely on your head. If it is raining, you may use a clear plastic hat cover.
- **Make-up** should be brighter and more visible, similar to what an actor would wear on stage. Not everyone looks good in screaming red lipstick though, so select a color that is bright and brings attention to your smile. Experiment with different colors, and don't forget the lip liner.
- **Hair** should be pulled back for horsemanship. Buns are not appropriate, but a neat pony tail will keep your hair in place for a more professional look. There is no such thing as too-much hairspray.
- **Accessories** – Earrings should not distract from your overall appearance, but enhance the look. Avoid huge, dangly hoops that can fly up and be distracting. Do not wear necklaces or bracelets.
- **Groom your horse well.** It is better for your horse to be good natured and well behaved than it is to be beautiful. That said, you should still try to make your horse look as good as it can. Its hooves should be polished and you should spend time making the coat shine.

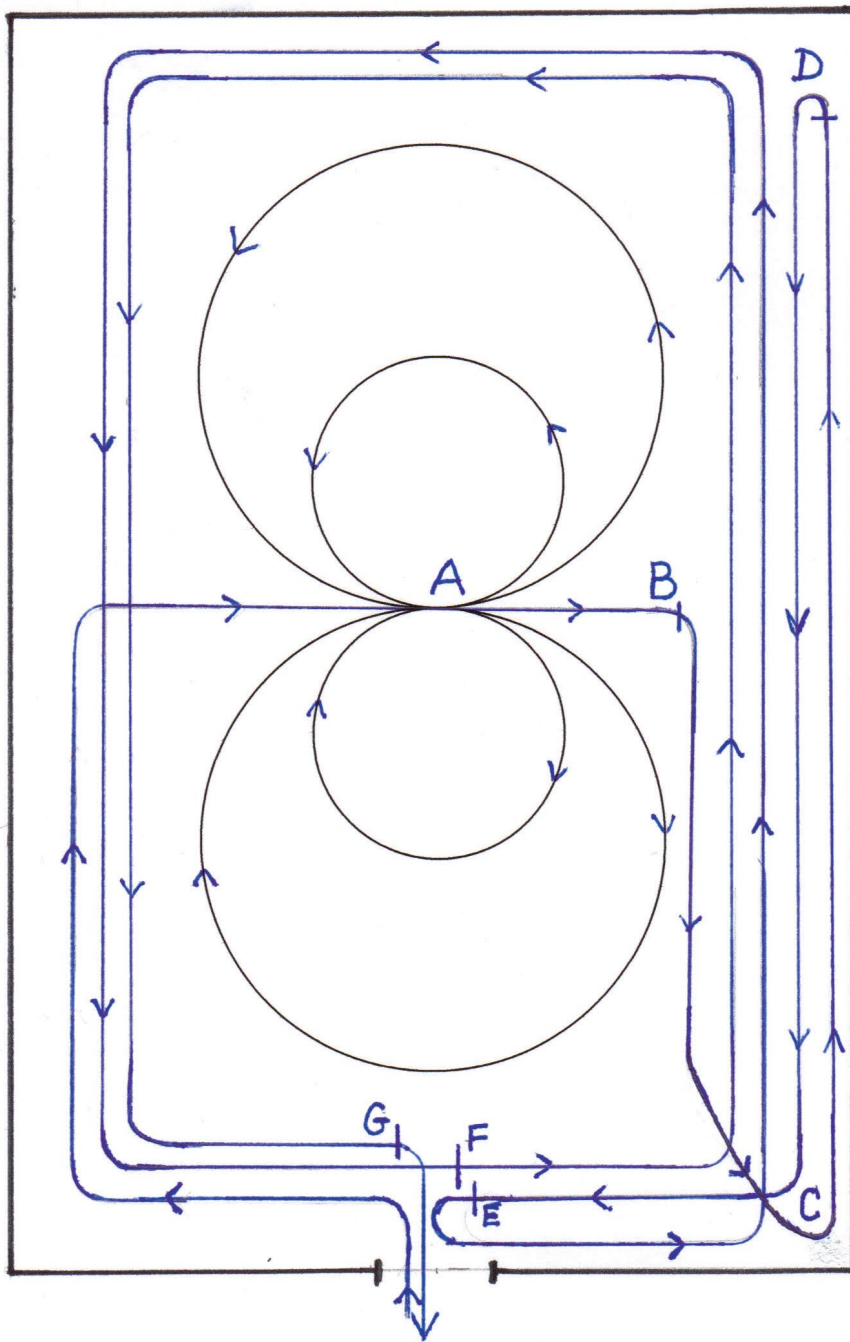
Baby oil his nose, around his eyes, and his ears to make him look brighter.

Make sure to wash him well the day before or the day of and braid his mane and tail until it dries, then comb it out for beautiful waves.

- **Clean your tack** even if it isn't flashy, it'll make it shine and stand out. Invest in a simple saddle pad that compliments both your horse and your outfit along with your tack.
- **Practice...** Make sure you have a copy of the pattern that you will be riding. This will be given out at orientation or by the program coordinator.  
Try and remember the pattern but do not practice it as a whole with your horse too much. Break it into sections and work on pieces, if you rehearse the full pattern too much your horse will anticipate instead of listening to you.  
Practice with your horse using the same tack that you will use in the competition so that both you and your horse will be able to do the pattern easily.
- **Posture...** sit up straight, shoulders back
- **Differentiate** the speeds as indicated in the pattern. Make sure your circles are circles and there is a marked difference between the large and small circle...use the whole arena.
- **Smile** and appear relaxed, not stiff

## HORSEMANSHIP PATTERN

Pattern has a possible 50 point score per judge.



Enter the arena and walk to Position A. Begin figure 8 work to the right at a fast lope and make the larger figure 8. Reduce speed and go into the smaller figure 8. Stop at Position B. Trot to Position C. Begin fast pace at Position C, coming to a stop at Position D. Turn away from fence at Position D and proceed to the Exit gate at a fast pace doing a presentation ride. Stop at gate. Make a 180 degree turn to the left (towards gate) at Position E. Take flag from contest personnel and circle the arena once at a speed of the contestant's choice. Stop at the gate and hand flag to contest personnel at Position F. Make a second circle around arena as a presentation ride. Come to a sliding stop at the gate at Position G and exit the arena.

A horsemanship pattern is simply a set of skills put together in a specific order. Avoid practicing the pattern over and over and over again as your horse will begin to anticipate the next step. Instead, practice each aspect of the pattern individually and run the pattern in its entirety a few times. A good way to memorize patterns is to work them on foot yourself, and to visualize you and your horse making the perfect lead change, stop, back, rollback, turn, etc..

While the pattern may call for sliding stops and spins, judges are not expecting NRHA patterns. They are going to be looking for the following in a pattern:

- Size and speed differences in circles
- Circles, not trapezoids or some other unidentifiable shape
- Correct leads and the knowledge to correct a missed lead
- Straight stops with the rider having a solid seat and quiet hands
- Rollbacks, turns and/or spins that are executed correctly
- The use of the arena and markers as specified in the pattern
- Completing the pattern as written

It is more appropriate to do slower, correct stops and turns than to attempt a sloppy sliding stop and out of control spins. Of course, working with your horse can optimize your ability to perform correct sliding stops and spins, which will add more points to your overall score. Always remember though, not all horses are equally athletic and 15-foot sliding stop with fast spins may not be up your horse's alley. Do the very best you can with what you have and you will achieve a prize better than any pageant title or award - the prize of self pride and accomplishment.

### **Presentation Ride/Fly-bys**



Having a safe, dependable horse to rely on when making a queen's run and having the skill and confidence to ride a variety of horses when you are unable to use your own at a rodeo will help make your reign all the more memorable for all of the right reasons.

Contestants should sit squarely in their saddles with their waving arms in a good, solid position and their head and eyes are in a position where they are catching the crowd but are also able to see what's coming ahead. Their riding hand is solidly around the reins and is in a position that will allow them to pull their horse up if the need arises.

It is NEVER appropriate to perform a queen's run with no hands on the reins. Let's go back to horsemanship 101 and

remember that you are on an animal that at any time can spook and run away from what it feels is about to eat it or who could step wrong and go to the ground or heaven forbid suffer a heart attack. If you do not have a hand on your reins while doing a queen's run you are not only putting yourself and your horse in danger but others as well. If you want to ride without hands become a trick rider. Until then keep one hand on the reins, your eyes looking ahead of you and the other hand greeting the crowd.

- Ride a good, broke horse. You are not a saddle bronc rider nor are you a trick rider. If at all possible warm your horse up well before heading into the arena, especially if it's early in the season and it's cool out. If your horse does act up reach down and get his head to get control of him and then carry on with your run.
- Check your cinch before making your run and stay in the center of your saddle to keep it where it belongs.
- Make eye contact with the crowd but also keep an eye on what's up ahead. I've seen queens take out stock contractors and others who weren't paying attention and stepped into the arena. You can do this by keeping your horse's ear in your vision while looking at the crowd. This also prevents you from turning your head too far and becoming unbalanced.
- Keep your arm down and out in front of you while you wave. Again, this helps keep your balance in the saddle if your horse moves out from under you unexpectedly.
- Lean a bit forward during your run. This will depend upon the speed at which you are making the run. The faster the run the more lean you'll have but always stay square in your saddle.
- SMILE! And the bigger the better. It seems like such a simple tip but you'd be surprised at how many girls don't smile while doing a queen's run.
- Keep your hat on. There is no such thing as too many bobby pins.
- Use some common sense concerning arena conditions. Fast is fun but it can also be dangerous.
- Use the entire arena. YOU are in control of your horse; don't allow him to cut the corners. During a pageant you'll have points deducted for not using the entire arena.
- Making the queen's run is about the best part of being a rodeo queen. Always remember it is a privilege to be allowed into the arena to do so. It is not your right and the tone you (and your supporters) take with a committee and arena personnel can have a lasting effect. Be courteous, be safe, be gracious and your run will be fantastic!

## **OUTFIT SELECTIONS**

### **Be particular about choosing your clothing:**

- Pick clothes that make you feel confident
- Hat, boots, and clothing must be clean throughout the competition. Clothing should be well pressed and neat.
- Pay attention to detail in your appearance
- Support High School Rodeo sponsors with your attire whenever possible.

### ***What to Wear When...***

**Horsemanship** – (covered in detail on previous page)

**Lunch with the Judges** - Don't wear white. Lunch is not judged, but does give the judges an opportunity to see you interact with them and your peers. It is more relaxed, a few rhinestones, but still elegant and professional. Black is a good choice.

**Impromptu Question** – Wear something that will make you stand out in the judge's mind, but not too over the top. Remember you are not the only one running, and you want to be remembered. This is one of your only chances to be in front of the judges without competition. Take advantage of this! You will be on stage.

**Modeling/Speech** – Elegance is the key. While you want to show your personal style, stay away from being too over the top with your choice. Monochromatic dresses generally work best. Avoid long fringe as it will add to nervous movement and if it is near your hands, you may unintentionally play with the fringe.

**Personal Interview** – When selecting an outfit for your personal interview, think of how a professional would interview for a professional office position. Interview outfits are toned down when it comes to fringe and rhinestones.

**Accessories** – A quick way to ruin a good outfit is by choosing the wrong accessories. Accessories should not be the first thing people see on you, so choose them wisely. Many necklines do not require a necklace. If you opt for a necklace, it should match the style of earrings you are wearing. Avoid overdoing the accessories. While bunches of bangle bracelets, multiple rings, and long strands of beaded necklaces may be trendy, they often do not reflect a Western image and may make many outfits too busy.

Your belt should match or blend with your jeans or the color that is being worn at your waist line.

## IMPROMPTU QUESTION TIPS

**Introduce yourself**, smile and relax.

**Prepare** – Have friends or family ask random rodeo related questions and practice answering without hesitation or stammering. Don't use filler words "umm" or "like" Questions may begin with...***describe a time when...***, or ***if you encountered...*** Judges are looking for poised, thoughtful, complete, and concise answers.

**Take a moment to think** about your response. Always repeat the question with your answer.

**Smile, Relax**, and thank the judges when finished

## MODELING

- The current queen will read your biography while you model (bio form included in this packet)
- Use the whole stage, know where the edges are.
- Practice ending in the center of the stage as the bio ends.
- Do not try moves that you haven't practiced. Keep it simple and fluid rather than too many complicated maneuvers.
- Utilize YouTube and other resources for examples.

## SPEECH

- Speech Topics should be on your country, state/province, or anything with a western theme
- Length should be 2 minutes
- Relax, use facial expression, hand gestures, project your voice, and use inflection. Don't stand glued in one location, but don't move so much that it is distracting
- Speak as if you were telling a story to a friend. Incorporate a little humor if possible.
- Practice your speech. You want to appear confident and natural. Give your speech to your family or practice in front of the mirror.
- Be memorable (in a positive way 😊)



## PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Each contestant will have individual time with the judges...

- Introduce yourself
- Prepare...keep up with current events. Read both the national and local sections of the newspaper. During the interview, you will want to be well informed on rodeo sponsors, current events, rodeo rules, horse anatomy, animal welfare, NFR finals, etc. Have family members or friends ask you questions.
- Smile and thank the judges for their time when finished.

## HAIR TIPS



Rodeo queen hair must be styled at the pageant as you plan to wear your hair as the titleholder. This means if you have no intention of breaking out the hot rollers once you are crowned the queen don't bother to use them during the pageant. While ginormous 1980's and 1990's hair is not necessary soft curls give a feminine appearance. Practice using hot rollers or your choice of curling iron beginning weeks before the pageant. You should learn to do "wings" at your ears.

During the horsemanship portion of the pageant your hair **MUST** be pulled back into a ponytail if it is long enough to do so. This avoids the "flying albatross" appearance long, untamed hair can give. There are several different ways to pull your hair back but what is most important is that it stays pulled back. Rodeo queens **NEVER** wear their hair in a bun.

Good quality hairspray will go a long way in maintaining the curl in your hair throughout the day. You will need to experiment with different brands to find one that works best on your hair. A tip to keep your hair in place is to apply hairspray, then blow dry on hot and low. This will freeze your hair solid.



## MAKE-UP TIPS



Girly-girl or not, not wearing make-up is not an option when you are competing for and holding rodeo queen titles. If you are not accustomed to wearing make-up it is best to begin learning to apply it several weeks, or months, before the pageant. Seek out a professional to help you with colors and styles of make-up.

A natural look is the preferred look for rodeo queens. Avoid heavily lined eyes, heavy blush and garish lipstick. However, different settings require different styles of make-up. The make-up you wear for horsemanship and fashion shows will be different than the make-up you wear for personal interviews.

Junior and teen queens should opt for a much more natural look with a touch of mascara, little to no eyeliner, and softer lipsticks.

Always apply your make-up in private and if at all possible refresh it in private as well.

## PREPARATION AND EXPECTATIONS

There is no way in which you can predict every question that will ever be asked of you at a rodeo queen pageant. However, with proper preparation you can prevent panic and anxiety.

Study sessions do not need to be marathon sessions. You can do anything for 15-minutes a day, this includes:

- Reading the rulebook of the association sanctioning the rodeo you are hoping to represent.
- Listening to the news on the radio instead of music.
- Reading articles in a horse related magazine (Our favorites are Equus, Western Horseman and Horse and Rider.)
- Reading a chapter in an equine science book.
- Watching a video on rodeo, horsemanship or a related topic
- Taking an online equine science or horsemanship course.

- Surf the web for rodeo news, NFR results, etc.

**Practice good sportsmanship and have a positive attitude. Smile; be polite and encouraging to other contestants.**

If you win the title of Michigan High School Rodeo queen, duties include:

- National High School Rodeo competition
- Grand Entry at all rodeos
- Representation at expos
- Ambassador at community events, parades, etc. (*as schedule permits*)
- Mentor for future contestants

**Remember to have fun; the queen contest is an awesome experience that will prepare you for your future!**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Emergency Supplies:
  - Boot Polish
  - Scissors
  - Thread/Needle
  - Tape
  - Deodorant
  - Toothbrush/Paste
  - Mints
  - Wet Wipes
  - Hairspray
  - Bobby Pins
  - Safety Pins
  - Tide Stick
  - Chapstick
  - Curling Iron
  - Lotion
  - Crackers & Water

**BIO IS AVAILABLE ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE** *(Form can be filled in electronically)*

**2012 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RODEO QUEEN CONTEST – CONTESTANT BIOGRAPHY**

USE TYPEWRITER OR COMPUTER TO COMPLETE. NO HANDWRITTEN COPIES. USE THIS OFFICIAL FORM ONLY. NO OTHER RESUME, COMPUTER ALTERED BIOGRAPHY OR ADDITIONAL PAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ONLY THIS PORTION WILL BE READ FOR THE MODELING COMPETITION.

STATE/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

2011-2012 GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ HOMETOWN: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

RODEO EVENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL RODEO? \_\_\_\_\_

SPEECH TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE USED BY THE JUDGES:**

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ACTIVITIES: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU HAD ONE WISH COME TRUE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? \_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL RODEO: \_\_\_\_\_

ANY OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT YOURSELF, SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL RODEO: \_\_\_\_\_

Must be returned with photographs within 5 days of your State/Province Finals Rodeo to:  
National High School Rodeo Association, 12011 Tejon Street, Suite 900, Denver, CO 80234

## STUDY GUIDE RESOURCE

### **Beginner Rodeo Queen Study Guide Compiled by Bobbie Ward-Hinds for RodeoRoyalty.com Updated June 2012**

This study guide is tailored to those just beginning their pageant journey in local pageants. The other study guides on the site are extensions of these basics. There are thousands of questions that can be asked in a rodeo queen interview or for impromptu questions. Use this study guide to jump start your preparation and add to it by asking parents, 4-H leaders, vets, farriers, trainers and others involved in rodeo and the equine field what questions they would ask if they were judging a rodeo queen pageant.

The interview portion of the pageant is simply having a “get to know you” conversation with the judges. Most are not intentionally intimidating and truly want you to enjoy the process. Relax and have fun with the process. They may ask some silly questions like “If you were a flavor of ice cream what flavor would you be?” just to break the ice. And if a judge asks “Which side of the horse has the most hair?” relax and tell them, “The outside.” then give them a big smile.

Know what you have put on your application and don’t embellish your application answers. Many times the majority of the questions in the interview will come from this information. Be able to explain the activities you participate in. Often these questions will begin with, “Tell us about...”.

Be familiar with local, state and national current events. There is no excuse for not knowing what is going on in the world around you. At the very least you should be listening to a news program daily and/or scanning a news website for headlines.

As the rodeo queen it is your job to promote the next year’s rodeo (or possibly the current rodeo depending on when the pageant is held). You need to know the following information even as a contestant:

- Performance location, dates and times
- Ticket prices and where they can be purchased
- Contract acts (announcer, clowns, specialty act, etc.)
- Who the stock contractor is
- The officers of the rodeo committee
- The association(s) sanctioning the rodeo
- Any other events taking place with the rodeo (parade, concerts, etc.)

Also be able to name the reigning queen, the queen coordinator, pageant personnel and pageant judges. You may also want to know the reigning state queen who will represent your state at the Miss Rodeo America pageant along with the reigning Miss Rodeo America and Miss Rodeo USA (know the difference between the two pageant systems).

If you are competing in a pageant at a rodeo sanctioned by the PRCA or the IPRA be able to name the reigning world champions, the location of their national finals and where the association headquarters are. The same is true if you are competing for your state high school title and you should know your state and national officers and event directors. The information contained in this study guide is for personal use only.

### **Basic Rodeo Knowledge**

Name the events held at a rodeo. Note that rodeos sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association may not have the same events as a rodeo hosted by a regional association or High School or Little Britches. You should know what association is sanctioning the rodeo and the events that will be held at the rodeo hosting the pageant you are competing in.

- Which of these events are timed events and which are roughstock events?
- Which of these events is known as rodeo's "classic" event and why?
- What is a rigging and what event is it used in?
- What is the mark-out rule?
- What is the name of the long piece of rope used in the saddle bronc riding?
- How can a roughstock rider be disqualified?
- What is the purpose of the bell on the bull rope?
- How long must a roughstock rider ride his animal to make a qualified ride?
- What is the purpose of the flank strap and what is it made of?
- What is the barrier? What does it mean to "break the barrier"? Is there a penalty for doing so and if yes, what is the penalty?
- How long must a calf stay tied in the tie-down roping? (Different associations have different times.)
- What is the piggin' string?
- What are the legal head catches in tie-down roping and team roping?
- When would a team roping team receive a 10-second penalty? A 5-second penalty?
- What timed event is for women?
- What is the three-barrel pattern completed in barrel racing known as?
- What is slack?
- What is the average?
- What is a go-round?

- Describe the roles of the following rodeo personnel:

Stock Contractor	Producer	Barrel Setter
Judge	Photographer	Veterinarian
Pick-up Man	Chute Boss	Rodeo Queen
Timer	Specialty Act	Committee Chair
Secretary	Barrel Man	Bullfighter
Sound Man	Clown	Arena Director
Announcer	Gate Man	Event Director

### Basic Horsemanship and Equine Science

Stay up-to-date with your equine science knowledge by subscribing to and reading *Equus*, *Horse and Rider* and *Western Horseman*. The following are very basic and as a horseman you must always be studying and learning about equine science and training methods.

Know the following about your horse:

- Registered name (if applicable)
- Association(s) registered with (if applicable)
- Age
- Height
- Weight
- Shoe size (Yes, shoe size, ask your farrier if you don't know.)
- What type of bit you are using and why
- What you feed your horse, how much and why
- Vaccinations given and why

Know all of the parts of the saddle and bridle.

Know all of the external parts of a horse.

Know the vital signs of horses: Heart rate, Respiration rate, Temperature

Be able to explain the various types of colic, their symptoms and treatment.

Name some external and internal parasites and how they are treated.

Identify the various types of hay and the pros and cons of feeding each kind.

Describe some safety measures you take when working around and riding your horse.

The judges may ask you about your pattern during a follow-up interview. They will want to know what you liked and what you didn't like about how you performed the pattern and if you would change anything about how you rode.

