

Miss Reno Rodeo 2026 – Lady in Waiting Pageant Rules

The Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant is held annually to select a young lady who has the **desire and enthusiasm to serve as a goodwill ambassador for the Reno Rodeo and the Reno Rodeo Association**. Miss Reno Rodeo's primary duty is to promote Reno Rodeo throughout the year within our "market area" by traveling for the Reno Rodeo Association.

The Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee is responsible for the ceremonies and activities necessary to select a titleholder. The Committee gives direction, support, and assistance to Miss Reno Rodeo during her reign. **The Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee has the authority to make provisions and waive eligibility, rules and/or requirements.**

Contestants agree to abide by all the rules, regulations, agreements and contracts set forth by the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee. Breaking any eligibility rules, regulations, agreements, or contracts will disqualify a contestant from the competition and cause forfeiting of any titles. Miss Reno Rodeo is responsible for carrying the title proudly and fulfilling the duties assigned by the Reno Rodeo Association to the best of her ability.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Contestants must be at least 19 years of age but not more than 25 years of age as of the first day of January of the year of competition. Birth Certificate copy shall be furnished upon request.
2. Contestants must be a natural born female citizen of the United States of America.
3. Contestants must reside within a 175-mile radius of the Reno city limits (in the state of Nevada) as of January 1 of the year of competition and commit to all assigned queen functions. The Miss Reno Rodeo titleholder must remain living within that designated area during her reign. If you are enrolled at an institution outside the 175-mile radius of the Reno City limit as of January 1 of the competition year, you are not eligible to compete for Miss Reno Rodeo unless you are enrolled online and residing within the 175-mile radius. Miss Reno Rodeo is a local competition, and the duties are a year-round obligation best suited for young women who live and study locally willing to commit to the obligation.
4. Contestants must be single and never have been married or entered into a marriage contract that was annulled.
5. Contestants must not be pregnant, or become pregnant during the coming year, and may not be the mother of a child.
6. Contestant has not authorized any person, firm, or corporation to use her name, photograph, likeness, present or future title in connection with an endorsement or advertisement of any commercial product or service.
7. Contestants must be honest and reliable with good moral standards and integrity.

8. Contestants must not have engaged in any act, which if made public, would be reasonably likely to cause harm or damage to the contestant's reputation or to the goodwill and reputation of the Reno Rodeo Association or Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant.
9. A contestant may have never posed nude or semi-nude, for any sexually explicit, suggestive, or compromising pictures, files, publications, or movies, or posted such images on any internet or social networking sites, such as, but not limited to, Snap Chat, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, OnlyFans, etc. Contestants may have never worked in a sexually explicit industry, such as, but not limited to topless dancing, stripping, or prostitution.
10. Contestants who have competed for Miss Rodeo America, Miss Rodeo USA, or the equivalent senior national title, or have previously held a senior level state title are not eligible to run for Miss Reno Rodeo.
11. Contestants shall not have been disqualified in any previous Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant nor have they forfeited the Miss Reno Rodeo title.
12. The Miss Reno Rodeo Chairman and/or Committee, have the right to refuse any contestant's application. If a contestant is refused entry into the contest there will be no appeal process.
13. Contestants shall abide by the laws of the jurisdiction she is in. Shall never have been convicted of a felony crime (or equivalent, while a juvenile). Shall not have pending criminal charges (other than minor traffic violations--with the exception of DUI, Aggravated DUI and Reckless Driving) or have adjudicated criminal sentences pending against her. Contestant shall disclose to the Miss Reno Rodeo Chairman her criminal history other than minor traffic violations, if requested.
14. A Miss Reno Rodeo titleholder who violates any of the eligibility rules during her reign will relinquish all rights and privileges of her title at the request of the Committee.

Any concerns about the applicability of this provision should be discussed with the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Chairman prior to signing the application.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Acceptance of the Miss Reno Rodeo title presupposes her voluntary relinquishment of a certain amount of freedom in personal choices and activities while competing for or holding this position of public scrutiny and responsibility.

1. Contestants/Queen must conduct themselves/herself in a proper ladylike manner and always portray high moral standards. While identifiable as Miss Reno Rodeo or pageant contestant, Contestants/Queen will not be permitted to drink alcoholic beverages, use, or possess illegal

substances, paraphernalia, use tobacco products, or use inappropriate language or profanity. She shall not become publicly intoxicated or associate notoriously with any person(s) in a manner that brings disrepute to her title, the Miss Reno Rodeo Committee or Reno Rodeo Association. She shall not participate in public displays of affection. She shall not attend or frequent places of questionable repute or moral turpitude. She shall not participate in inappropriate internet or social networking behavior at any time during the pageant, during the Reno Rodeo, or when representing Reno Rodeo in the community.

- a. Contestants must list all social networking/ public websites they are a party to expecting the Miss Reno Rodeo Committee Chairman or pageant judges to verify content.
2. Contestants/Queen will not display body piercings (except for earrings on the lobes) on any visible part of her body, tongue, nose, eyebrow, etc. Tattoos must always be covered.
3. Each contestant will have one 8"x10" color photo. Photos must be head and shoulder pose (no action) in western attire. Western attire will include a western blouse, suit or dress, hat, and accessories. All photos must be taken by the Official Miss Reno Rodeo Photographer, Fred Cornelius of Cornelius Photography. The cost of this photo is included in the non-refundable entry fee. It is the responsibility of the contestant to have their photo session completed on the date provided in application. The photos will be sent to the Miss Reno Rodeo Committee by Fred Cornelius. The photos will be for publicity purposes and the Pageant Committee cannot guarantee their return and will not be responsible for the expense to replace them.
4. Each contestant is required to submit a **NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00** entry fee with her application. This should be payable to the Reno Rodeo Association.
5. All applicants must complete the application process by turning in the application forms both online and physically **before 4:00 pm on March 28, 2025**. Late applications will not be accepted. Contestants will receive an information packet after that date.
6. Each contestant must attend a mandatory orientation meeting on **Thursday, April 3rd at 6:00 pm** at the Reno Rodeo Association Office.
7. A pageant judge may not be approached by a contestant or related individual with the intent to influence or harass. Action of this type can result in disqualification of the contestant.
8. The Contestant/Queen must be prepared to provide the appropriate horse and tack necessary for the horsemanship competition, and/or Reno Rodeo parade, and/or Reno Rodeo Performances, and/or any activities throughout the year promoting Reno Rodeo. The horse shall be in good health, groomed, clean with hooves properly trimmed and/or shod. Obvious injuries or lameness shall be treated before being ridden. The contestant/Queen shall ensure that food and water are made available for her horse and shall not abuse it in any way. Proof of Coggins, Brand Inspection, and Health Certificate will need to be provided with the horse.
9. At Coronation, contestants may not leave the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant until the awards are presented (after coronation ceremonies). The pageant is not officially complete until contestants

are checked out (return contestant sash and any other items provided by Reno Rodeo and Miss Reno Rodeo Committee) with the Miss Reno Rodeo Chairman or designee. They must abide by all pageant rules until they check out. Contestants not following these guidelines will jeopardize future eligibility, any runner-up status and/or awards.

10. Contestants will provide their own transportation to and from pageant activities unless otherwise noted on the schedule of events.
11. Contestants must provide their own wardrobe and agree to follow the wardrobe requirements. Each contestant should have at least one complete western dress outfit, one complete horsemanship outfit (as outlined in the requirements), and one complete coronation outfit. Please see the wardrobe requirement section in the rules for more information. It is up to the contestant as to how many outfits she brings to the pageant.

PAGEANT DIVISION RULES

Awards will be given to the contestant, scoring the highest during all pageant activities in the following categories: Horsemanship, Appearance, Personality, Speech, Written Test, and Photogenic. The overall winner will be crowned Miss Reno Rodeo with the next highest individuals receiving First and Second Runner-up. Other awards include but are not limited to: Miss Congeniality and Western Spirit.

HORSEMANSHIP- The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates the highest in:

1. **Horsemanship-** including control of horse, proper arena etiquette and the way each situation that might occur is handled including knowledge of cattle pushing (if required)
2. **Equitation-** balance and effectiveness-ability and position of hands, feet and seat when riding at a reasonable rate of speed for the activity.
3. **Pattern-** understanding of leads and proper execution of a specific pattern.
4. **Mounting and dismounting.**
5. **Queen presentation ride and flag run.**
6. **Knowledge** of horsemanship and horse science. The following categories may be used in impromptu questions and interviews: tack, horse science (including feeding, grooming, parts of the horse, health care, etc.), professional (PRCA) rodeo, history of rodeo/ Reno Rodeo, rodeo terminology, explanation of rodeo events, championship rodeo standings and current issues of the pro rodeo circuit and/or the PRCA.
7. **Showmanship-** including how well a contestant projects her personality to the audience from horseback.

Other considerations in Horsemanship include, but are not limited to the following:

- Understanding and skill of *the contestant* will be judged, NOT the horse or equipment.
- Contestants may be required to bring their own western saddles to be used on the horses provided by the Pageant Committee. ALL other tack will be provided by the owner of the horse.

- If the Pageant Committee elects NOT to provide horses, each contestant will be required to provide her own horse, which can be ridden in a bridle (not a snaffle bit) with one hand on the reins. The expectation will be that the contestant's horse will be used as a draw horse for another contestant.
- Horsemanship patterns will be provided to the contestants in their information packet and one of these patterns will be used in the competition. The pattern is selected by the judges and announced just prior to the horsemanship competition.
- The second portion will be a freestyle pattern or pushing cattle depending on selection by the committee that will be set prior to the first day of pageant. It should highlight the contestant's horsemanship skills and or cattle knowledge/skill. If a pattern is selected, it will be timed and **should be no longer than 2 minutes**. This time does not include the fly by/queen run. The pattern must include but not limited to:
 - Change of speed
 - Lead change
 - Stop
 - Spin/pivot
 - Back up
- Deductions will be made for patterns longer than 2 minutes. The deduction will be 1 point for every 5 seconds over time.
- There will be three go-rounds in this competition with the draw order announced at the Judges Reception.
- NO SPURS and NO CHAPS will be allowed in the competition.
- Judges may talk to the contestants, or ask horsemanship questions in the arena, during the Horsemanship Lunch and/or during Horsemanship Interviews.
- All contestants will be asked to do rail work at a walk, extended jog and lope, make a presentation run at a reasonable speed, ride a specific pattern, and carry a flag during a flag run. Flag boots will be available for use. Please notify the pageant director at contestant orientation if flag boot is needed.
 - For your safety, if you are requested to bring a horse, please make sure the horse you bring is familiar with carrying a flag.
- Other arena work will be at the discretion of the judges.
- Tack need not be expensive or flashy, but must be clean, safe and properly cared for.

*Judging in the mounted portion of horsemanship begins when the contestants enter the arena for rail work.

APPEARANCE- The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

1. **Attractiveness**
2. **Grooming:** including meticulous care in neatness and cleanliness, in every detail, such as complexion, hands, fingernails, hair, hat, boots, and other apparel.
3. **Posture:** including carrying themselves straight and tall with self-confidence and poise.
4. **Poise and ladylike behavior** in every situation: This should include handling each situation with grace, style, and proper etiquette.

5. **Western Fashion Sense:** including western outfits that are fashionable, tasteful and properly fit to the contestant and the pageant event. Attention will be given to a contestant's ability to use color and style to enhance her personal features. Additional information is in the **Wardrobe Requirements** within these rules.
6. **Proper fit of Clothing:** including figure flattering styles altered for a personal fit, and properly fitted and shaped hats. Judges will be looking for versatility and imagination and a contestant's ability to carry out a "total look" rather than an excessive number of outfits.
7. **Knowledge** of the Western Clothing industry: including knowledge of the major western wear manufacturers, the latest trends in the western wear industry, and the companies that sponsor PRCA rodeos.

PERSONALITY- The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates the highest in:

1. **Conversational Ability** in varied areas with an emphasis on grammar, enunciation, and speaking etiquette.
2. **Intelligence and common sense**
3. **Sense of Humor**
4. **Self-Confidence, high moral standards, sincerity and integrity**
5. **Genuine interest** in other people and consideration of others.
6. **Self-Projection** or the ability to project one's personality in a natural way whether on horseback, on stage, or in personal interactions.
7. **Positive** outlook on life.
8. **Promptness and cooperation.** Please note that if a contestant fails to arrive on time for *any* pageant event, she may be disqualified. Tardiness is not a desirable attribute.
9. **Maturity**
10. **Academic** background and career goals.

SPEECH- The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates the highest in:

1. **The ability to communicate** with an audience using appropriate and correct sentence structure, vocabulary, grammar, and projection.
2. **The ability to prepare** for a speech.
3. **Self-Projection** on stage: including delivery, voice, manner and use of a microphone.
4. **The ability to present** a speech in which the content is well developed, interesting, understandable and aligns to the speech topic.

Other considerations in Speech include but are not limited to:

- Prepared speeches must be a minimum of **two minutes** but not longer than **two and a half minutes**. Deductions will be made for speeches that are shorter than two minutes or longer than two and a half minutes. The deduction will be 1 point for every 5 seconds under or over time.
- Contestants will be given a speech topic. Contestants are encouraged to speak from the heart and showcase their unique personality.
- No props or visual aids will be allowed.
- Contestants may also be asked to present a short biography of themselves in the form of a short speech (30-60 seconds) and to introduce themselves at various activities.

- Impromptu dialog will be judged separately from the speech but may be done at the same event.

★ **SPEECH TOPIC - To be announced at the Orientation Meeting**

PHOTOGENIC- The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in:

1. **Ability to photograph-** including strength of character, personality and wholesomeness.
2. Photos used to judge photogenic *must* be taken by the Official Pageant Photographer and will be submitted to the Miss Reno Rodeo Committee by the Photographer.

Other Considerations in Photogenic include but are not limited to:

- Photo sessions must be completed by the date noted in the application. Early scheduling of photo sessions is recommended.
- We encourage contestants to bring friends or family to offer support during the photo session.
- Contestants are encouraged to bring more than one outfit, accessories, and makeup to the photo session.

WRITTEN EXAM- A written exam will be given during the pageant. This exam may cover but is not limited to Reno Rodeo Information and History, PRCA information/rules/history, MRA information/history, general information about Reno, Equine Science, etc. Questions may be asked in the form of, but not limited to: True/False, Multiple Choice, Fill in the Blank, Matching and/or Essay. Each question will be worth 1 point unless otherwise noted on exam.

CONGENIALITY- This category is chosen by the contestants and will not affect the judges scoring of previously listed categories or the selection of Miss Reno Rodeo. The title of Miss Congeniality should go to the contestant most friendly, helpful and supportive of all the other girls. In the event of a tie, the head judge will act as a tie breaker.

WESTERN SPIRIT- This category is chosen by the judges. The score is separate from the previously listed categories and does not affect the selection of Miss Reno Rodeo. This award goes to the contestant who most exemplifies the western way of life through her life, family and values.

JUDGING- The Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee will use the following procedures for judging:

1. Qualified Judges will be chosen for the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant.
2. Decisions of the judges are final.
3. In the event of a category tie, the decision will be made by the head judge. However, no points will be added to or subtracted from contestant's scores. The final result may not be a tie.
4. In the event of a tie for Miss Reno Rodeo or a Runner-up, the decision will be made by the pageant judges. Again, no points will be added to or subtracted from the total points earned.
5. Contestants will vote on the selection of Miss Congeniality and pageant judges will select the winner of the Western Spirit Award. There will be no extra points given for these awards.
6. The services of a Certified Public Accounting firm will be used to tally the judging sheets.

7. Pageant officials will not have access to completed judging sheets. A head judge will be chosen. The head judge will put completed score sheets from all of the judges in a sealed envelope and sign the seal. The sealed envelope will be delivered to the accountant.
8. An individual's scores and judge's comments will be available to her not less than thirty days or no more than 60 days after the pageant if requested.

WARDROBE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each contestant should have at least one Western Elegance outfit including: a dress or skirt with blouse and/or jacket/vest, boots, hat, belt & buckle.
2. Each contestant should have one complete horsemanship outfit. Horsemanship attire will consist of long sleeved, collared Wrangler shirt ("off the rack") unadorned Wrangler jeans of any style, boots, belt, hat and accessories. Color and style have been left up to the discretion of the contestant. The horsemanship outfit will be worn for individual horsemanship interviews as well. Please note that there is to be no embellishments to the shirt and jeans after purchase. The items can be tailored to fit. No chaps or spurs.
3. Each contestant should have one complete coronation ceremony outfit. This outfit does not need to be different from the western dress or skirt outfit as listed above.
4. Each contestant should have one Trendy Western party attire themed outfit, boots, hat, belt & buckle. **NOT** a Western Elegant event. All dresses must have sleeves and sleeves should be longer than a cap sleeve. If a dress or top does not have sleeves, then a jacket with sleeves must be worn. The skirt length should not be more than 3" above the knee. No halter or prom type dresses. No midriff showing. Nothing extremely low cut either in the front or the back. The style you project with your outfit should **BE WESTERN**.
5. No crowns or banners from previous pageants are to be worn by contestants during the Miss Reno Rodeo pageant. The exception would be a contestant banner that may be provided by the pageant committee and required for some activities.
6. Contestants are required to write a description (one minute in length) of the outfits they will be using for the modeling segments during coronation. This must be typed with a minimum 14 pt. font and turned in to the committee chairman on **May 30, 2025**. No descriptions will be accepted after this date. Submitted descriptions are final. Failure to comply may be cause for disqualification.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARENTS, FRIENDS, AND RELATIVES- The Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant welcomes and encourages the presence of parents, friends, and relatives during the competition. The Pageant Committee requests *complete cooperation* from these supporters during pageant activities. **At no time during the pageant shall parents, friends and/or relatives disturb contestants or approach the judges.** During the pageant activities, the contestants will be required to be together as a group without coaching or other distractions by parents, friends, and/or relatives.

Some pageant activities are open only to Contestants, Committee and Judges. If parents, friends and/or relatives attend closed events, the contestant they support may be disqualified.

Parents, friends and/or relatives are invited to attend public pageant events and are responsible for obtaining tickets. An order form for tickets will be included in the contestant package as well as online.

Parents and/or relatives of the contestant who wins the title of Miss Reno Rodeo are welcome and encouraged to attend the rodeo each night and are responsible for obtaining tickets to each performance. Parents, friends and/or relatives are required to abide by the rules set forth by rodeo security and admissions and are only permitted where their ticket/designated wristband allows them to go.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS taken of contestants before or during the pageant will become property of Fred Cornelius Photography and the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee.

CHAPERONES and SECURITY: The Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee will select qualified individuals to act as chaperones during the pageant activities. Upon commencement of the pageant the contestants are under the jurisdiction of the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant for all activities.

SPORTSMANSHIP: The Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee expects each contestant to display the highest degree of sportsmanship during the pageant, during and following coronation and during the Reno Rodeo. Each contestant should be mindful that they are representing the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant, the sport of rodeo, the Reno Rodeo Association, as well as the City of Reno.

Unsportsmanlike conduct could result in disqualification and affect future eligibility to compete in the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant.

GRIEVANCES: Any grievances should be referred in writing to the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Chairman within 24 hours of a problem or incident. The Miss Reno Rodeo Chairman and/or Committee have full authority over the pageant and any decision made regarding rules and/or participation is final and may not be appealed. A grievance cannot be filed based on the outcome of the pageant.

STUDY INFORMATION: The Reno Rodeo website at www.renorodeo.com contains important information about the Reno Rodeo. The PRCA publishes a PRO RODEO MEDIA GUIDE, PRCA RULE Book, and the PRO RODEO SPORTS NEWS. These are just a few of the resources that provide excellent information for study material. For more information contact the PRCA at 101 Pro Rodeo Drive, Colorado Springs, CO. 80919 (719) 593-8840, or visit their website at www.prorodeo.com.

Miss Rodeo America information can be found at www.missrodeoamerica.com

The Reno Rodeo, Miss Reno Rodeo, PRCA, and Miss Rodeo America also have social media accounts that can be followed for current happenings.

Questions should be directed to Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Committee Chair:

Amy Callahan – a_dreiling@hotmail.com

Should any legal action be brought under this agreement, I understand and agree that any such

action may be brought only in the Second Judicial District Court or a court of competent jurisdiction in Washoe County, Nevada, that Nevada law shall govern any such dispute, and that the prevailing party will be entitled to attorney's fees and costs.

TO BE SIGNED AND TURNED IN:

I have read and understand the foregoing terms and agree to abide by the terms of this Agreement, the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Rules and, if applicable should I win, the Miss Reno Rodeo Contract. I further understand that I may be disqualified from the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant if I fail or refuse to abide by this Agreement and the Miss Reno Rodeo Pageant Rules and Contract.

DATED: This _____ day of _____, 20__.

(Print Name)

(Sign Name)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me

This _____ day of _____, 20__.

NOTARY PUBLIC