



Cattlemen's Days Inc. Rodeo Royalty Handbook Code of Conduct & Contract

**Revised and approved 3/9/2026 by Cattlemen's Days Inc. Policy Committee*

The Cattlemen's Days Inc. Rodeo Royalty (Queen, Princess & Jr. Miss) serve as ambassadors for the Cattlemen's Days Inc. celebration. The Royalty represents Cattlemen's Days Inc. as well as the community with the highest level of poise and integrity. Each lady recognizes the importance of promoting and preserving the Western Heritage of the Gunnison Valley. Cattlemen's Days Inc. is the longest consecutively running Rodeo in Colorado, with this term being the 127th year, thanks to the incredible individuals on the Cattlemen's Days Inc. Committee and those preserving the Western Heritage of the Gunnison Valley.

Selection to serve as Royalty is both a privilege and an honor. The chosen Royalty for the term of September 1st, 2026- August 31st, 2027 will fulfill the following responsibilities with grace, dignity, poise and respect always during her reign. The Royalty serves as role models who exhibit good moral character and social behavior.

Royalty Titles

All title holders must live in or have a permanent address in Upper Gunnison Watershed. Ladies may reign/hold each title ONCE, except the Cattlemen's Days Queen. She may hold the position twice, but there must be a gap year or more between reigns in which she participates in an Exhibition at the Miss Rodeo Colorado competition during her second term.

Cattlemen's Days Queen- She is no less than 16 years of age and no more than 24 years of age as of January 1st, 2027.

Cattlemen's Days Princess- She is no less than 12 years of age and no more than 15 years of age as of January 1st, 2027.

Cattlemen's Days Jr. Miss- She is no less than 8 years of age and no more than 11 years of age as of January 1st, 2027.

Qualifications

- Any young lady (ages 8-24) that lives within or has a permanent address in the Upper Gunnison Watershed. Please be prepared to provide proof of age and residency.
- To be able to attend Cattlemen's Days Inc. Events and other community events based on committee needs and/or agreement with the Royalty Coordinator.
- Must never have been married, and/or pregnant and remain as so during her reign.
- Must own her own horse(s) or have made prior arrangements for the use of a horse(s) for the entire year of her reign. If leasing a horse, you must provide a written lease agreement to the Royalty Coordinator.
- Must be able to provide her own transportation (parents included) of herself and/or horse if applicable to each event. Prior arrangements can be and are encouraged to be made with the Royalty Coordinator about transportation at least a week before events.

Royalty Competition/Tryouts

To be awarded a Cattlemen's Days Royalty Title, contestants must complete the Cattlemen's Days Royalty Competition. The competition will be fair, just, and consist of a written application with one letter of recommendation, horsemanship, a horsemanship question, a personal interview and impromptu questions.

- **Horsemanship:** The purpose of this portion is to demonstrate the ability as a horseman and rider. The horse's ability is not judged; however, candidates must demonstrate their ability to stay mounted and safe on a horse. The Royalty Coordinator reserves the right to deny the use of a horse which is not suitable for the role.
- **Personal Interview:** Each contestant will participate in at least one personal interview with the selected judges. Questions will include but are not limited to topics like rodeo, the community, current events, the PRCA, Cattlemen's Days, and personal questions.
- **Impromptu questions:** Each contestant will model, and answer one OR two questions selected by the Royalty Coordinator and Cattlemen's Days Committee.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Cattlemen's Days Royalty include learning about and promoting Cattlemen's Days and the Western Heritage of the Gunnison Valley. The titleholder is not required to own a horse, however, she must have the guaranteed use of a horse and transportation during her reign. If applicable, proof of lease and transportation agreements must be in writing and given to the Royalty Coordinator. All horses must be up to date with vaccinations and routine veterinary/farrier care. This is the responsibility of the ladies and families to ensure. It is the responsibility of the title holders to represent high standards of horsemanship, care, utilizing safe and well taken care of tack. There is a zero-tolerance policy for unsafe and cruel care of horse(s) used. The Cattlemen's Days Committee and Royalty Coordinator will determine if this becomes an issue and needs addressed.

Expectations

The Queen, Princess and Jr. Miss will attend numerous community events and rodeos to promote Cattlemen's Days Inc. Guidelines to ensure everyone's safety, the overall integrity of the Royalty Program and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association are as follows:

- **Behavior:** The Royalty Court, as individuals and jointly, shall always maintain a positive image. Each lady shall have a pleasant attitude and be willing to help promote Cattlemen's Days Inc, the PRCA, sponsors and the Gunnison Valley Community. At all times, each lady is to be considered in the public eye, including when not on official business, and it is the responsibility of each lady to uphold and maintain an outstanding image. The role of the Royalty is to be a Public Ambassador and to increase the public's knowledge of the sport of rodeo and specifically Cattlemen's Days Rodeo. She will remain 'lady-like' in her manners, avoiding cursing, negative remarks and inappropriate behavior. Royalty is encouraged to network with other rodeo committees, other rodeo royalty and the community such that Cattlemen's Days is well presented and widely known throughout Colorado. We are looking for a young lady who exceeds these expectations and goes the extra mile in all endeavors.
- **Supervision:** For her safety, the Cattlemen's Days Royalty will always be chaperoned by The Royalty Coordinator and/or appointed volunteer (this can include parents). There shall be a designated chaperone at all events, and the chaperone is in charge of decision making. Parents are always welcome at events and to accompany their daughters, however, is not required. Parents/guardians shall respect the decisions of the Royalty Coordinator. The Royalty Court will be perceived as a team and should remain together and travel together when possible. All arrangements will need to be approved by the Royalty Coordinator no later than a week in advance.

- **Dress Code:** Cattlemen’s Days Royalty is consistently in the public eye. It is valued that the ladies put effort into their appearance during their reign. This includes showering, wearing modest and appropriate clothing for the occasion. Her appearance reflects her title. It is not expected of Royalty to purchase all new clothing or expensive items. “Grace, not perfection”. When on official business, appropriate attire should consist of Western Wear - long sleeved collared shirt, western jeans (no holes), boots and felt hat, official crown, sash, and buckle; and during other times dresses may be worn if appropriate. Each title holder will be responsible for furnishing her personal attire and is expected to repair or replace items that are damaged in her possession.
- **Boyfriends and Friends:** Guests are welcome at events while you are fulfilling your duties for the Royalty Program as long as they are not a distraction from official duties. It is not against the rules to have a significant other; however, it is important to remain modest (this includes social media). Boyfriends may not travel to events with the Royalty Court.
- **Cell Phones:** Use of cell phones during official appearances is not permitted. Cell phones are vital for communication, so during events these are able to stay with you, however abuse of cell phones during events is subject to the 3-strike policy.
- **Alcohol and Drugs:** Drinking alcohol (21 and younger), smoking, vaping, or drug use of any kind is a hard stop to the contract. For Queens 21 and older, no alcohol in official capacity.
- **Social Media:** The Royalty agrees to not create any separate social media sites, email addresses, or marketing presence other than provided by Cattlemen’s Days for the Royalty Court. All posts and content regarding the Royalty Court specifically will be reviewed and/or edited by the Royalty Coordinator. It is encouraged to have a marketing presence for Cattlemen’s Days Royalty; however, everything needs to be approved by the Royalty Coordinator. Royalty agrees and acknowledges that the Cattlemen’s Days Rodeo is a brand with full copyright protection, and the Board of Directors has final authority on all matters. Ladies agree by accepting the title that their photographs and videos while in the Royalty role may be used for Cattlemen’s Days Marketing and Royalty Marketing.
- **Communication:** Royalty shall respond to all electronic or verbal communication from the Coordinator within 24 hours. Confirmation of appearances at all official business shall be at least 48 hours in advance. It is the responsibility of the Royalty to contact the Coordinator at least 24 hours in advance if they are unable to attend the event. Royalty will not be punished for not making appearances; however, it will be their responsibility to communicate with events or organizations on behalf of themselves in such circumstances why they will be unable to attend. The Royalty Coordinator will follow up with both the Royalty member and event/individual affected to ensure this is done.

3-Strike Policy

The Royalty Court Member understands that there is a 3-strike policy in effect once the contract is signed based on the agreed Code of Conduct. Throughout the year if any code is broken or if there is a discrepancy needing addressed the Royalty Coordinator and Cattlemen’s Days President will meet to discuss the strike and how to move forward, up until the third. Upon third strike, the contract will be terminated, and that year’s Title Holder will be removed from her reign. There are **hard stops** to the contract (see below). There will be no aggressive or passive aggressive communication between Royalty, Parents and/or the Royalty Coordinator. Contact will remain uplifting and positive for the greater good of the program; any discrepancy that needs further evaluation can be reported to the Cattlemen’s Days Royalty Coordinator.

**Hard Stops* include but are not limited to incarceration, engagement, marriage, pregnancy, physical abuse towards both human or animal, any substance use, drinking alcohol (21 and younger), or drinking alcohol at official events representing Cattlemen’s Days (if 21 and older).*

Buckles, Crowns, Sashes, and Chaps

Cattlemen's Days will provide each title holder with an official leather sash and Montana Silversmith crown that will be passed down from year to year. Inside her sash, each title holder will sign her name as part of the Cattlemen's Days Royalty Sisterhood before passing it to the next year's title holder. If either item (crown or sash) is broken during the royalty's rein she must replace it at her own expense for future years. Each title holder will also design her own chaps and Montana Silversmith buckle to represent her, her title, and Cattlemen's Days, that will be purchased with that year's Royalty Funds and/or specific sponsorship. (Each lady may also purchase, at her own expense, a replica sash and/or crown if she would like to keep them as a memento from her reign.)

Compensation & Financial Obligations

These are unpaid positions. The Cattlemen's Days Royalty Coordinator and committee are responsible for the Royalty Bank Account with monthly meetings to include checks & balances for Royalty funds. If approved by the Coordinator, itemized receipts will be requested for individual reimbursement. Two committee members will be required to withdraw from the royalty bank account.

- Reigning ladies must help find sponsorships and participate in yearly fundraising.
- All appearances of the royalty are accompanied by the Royalty Coordinator or Appointed Chaperone. If the Coordinator is unable to attend an event and a parent is appointed, then the cost of admission will be reimbursed by the program funds. All other admission will be at the family's expense.
- Gas mileage to and from events is the responsibility of the royalty and family, unless otherwise agreed, and all ladies attend the event with one chaperone.
- Royalty is responsible for providing their own hats, either personal or borrowed.
- Thank you notes and gifts are paid for from the Royalty budget and must be completed at the end of reign.
- Ladies will participate in yearly fundraising based on that year's Royalty Court desires for the year. Finances for the ENTIRE year will be based entirely on how much is raised in fundraising and sponsorships. (Example, if the ladies would like to have custom chaps, new outfits, travel to Stock Show, travel to outside rodeos, etc.) They must work together to fundraise the desired amount to cover all costs. Each year is custom to the reigning royalty. On August 31st of each year, 80% of any funds remaining over \$1000 will be donated to a voted cause- examples include: a family in need, a charity of choice, or the next reigning royalty. Any funds remaining will roll over for the next Royalty Court and Committee.
- Admission for events for Royalty and Coordinator or chaperone are paid for by Royalty Budget. Tickets for others, including parents and guests, are not reimbursed.
- Meals while traveling are the responsibility of the Royalty and parents.
- Hotel rooms, within economically reasonable timelines and situations, will be reimbursed from royalty funds as long as funds are adequate.
- Clothing is the responsibility of the royalty, unless otherwise approved by the Coordinator and sufficient funds are available.

Appearances

Above all, the Cattlemen's Days Royalty program is designed to have fun while representing the Rodeo and Community. Below is a list of events that titleholders are requested to attend. Some events are

mandatory; many are optional. The decision to attend optional events will be made together as a team by members of the Court, the Royalty Coordinator and/or parents (if applicable). Any event that the Royalty may be interested in may be reviewed and encouraged by the Royalty Coordinator.

Mandatory Appearances:

- Cattlemen's Days 2027
 - Ad Day
 - All 3 PRCA Rodeo Performances
 - 4-H Horse Show
 - Open Horse Show
 - 4-H Project Showcase
 - 4-H Livestock Shows
 - 4-H Livestock Auction
 - Cattlemen's Days Parade
 - Ranch Rodeo
- 3 Cattlemen's Days Meetings a year (ensuring to be at soonest Cattlemen's Days Committee meeting to communicate future yearly plans & June Committee meeting)
- Yearly Fundraising
- Monthly Royalty Meetings
 - First Meeting September 24th, 2026 Evening,
 - Others to follow are scheduled based on the Royalty's Needs/Request

Additional Possible Appearances:

- Events associated with Cattlemen's Days and Sponsors
- Crested Butte 4th of July Parade
- Cattlemen's AgVenture Day
- RMEF Banquet
- Stockgrowers Banquet
- NRA Banquet
- School Visits
- Rodeo Royalty Clinics
- Cattlemen's Days Workdays
- National Western Stock Show
- Night of Lights



Cattlemen's Days Inc. Royalty Contract

Royalty and parent(s), if applicable, are required to sign the contracts acknowledging that they intend to uphold the rules and policies in this Handbook.

Royalty

I, _____, have read and understand the rules, code of conduct, policies and waiver and release outlined in the Handbook and, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge and agree that I will adhere to and uphold during reigning year.

Royalty signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent

I, _____, have read and understand the rules, code of conduct, policies and waiver and release outlined in the Handbook and, by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge and agree that my daughter will adhere to and uphold during Her reigning year.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Waiver and Release

The undersigned royalty, parents and each of them, understands and agrees that the undersigned royalty will be participating in rodeo and rodeo related events. The undersigned royalty, parent and each of them further understands and agrees that rodeo is an inherently dangerous sport and that the undersigned royalty, parent and each of them understands the risks of injury associated therewith and shall indemnify and hold harmless Cattlemen's Days Inc., Cattlemen's Days Inc. Royalty Coordinator, its members, employees, contractors, volunteers and invitees against all liability, claims, and demands on account of injury, loss or damage, including without limitation, claims arising from bodily injury, personal injury, sickness, disease, death, property loss or damage, or any other loss of any kind whatsoever, which may arise out of or are in any manner connected with serving as Cattlemen's Days Inc. Royalty or this Contract. Furthermore, the undersigned royalty, parent and each of them understand and agrees that any and all photographs, videos, voice recordings, images and writings of any sort whatsoever that may be created by, for or in association with the undersigned royalty in any way relating to her service and reign as Cattlemen's Days royalty shall be the sole property of Cattlemen's Days and copyright thereto shall inure to the benefit of Cattlemen's Days, its successors and assigns, unless otherwise agreed by and between the parties in writing.

Royalty signature

Parent signature

Royalty Coordinator