

2027 Cattlemen's Days Royalty Tryout Application

History:

The Cattlemen's Days Rodeo Royalty (Queen, Princess & Jr. Miss) serves as ambassadors for the Cattlemen's Days Rodeo & Fair. The Royalty represents Cattlemen's Days 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 in the Gunnison Valley. Cattlemen's Days is the longest consecutively running Rodeo in Colorado, with this year being the 127th year, thanks to the incredible individuals on the Cattlemen's Days Committee and those preserving the Western Heritage in the Gunnison Valley.

Who can compete:

- Any Gunnison County- including the Upper Watershed (Gunnison, portions of Hinsdale County, and portions of Saguache County)- Lady between the ages of 8 to 24 as of January 1st of Reigning Year.
- A Cattlemen's Day Royalty Title may be held twice, with a 'Gap year' in between reins. If the young lady wins the title a second time she is agreeing and committing to an Exhibition at the Miss Rodeo Colorado Preliminary Pageant held in the Spring of her reigning year.
- All title holders must live in or have a permanent address in the Gunnison Watershed District, those attending college in other locations still qualify as long as they are willing and able to meet their Royalty Requirements.

Women must not be married or have ever been married, and they cannot be a mother or become pregnant during their reign.

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.

**Please read Code of Conduct and Handbook for requirements & commitments*

The term of reign is for the duration, beginning on August 30th, 2026 to August 30th, 2027.

Royalty will be under the direction of a designated Cattlemen's Days Royalty Coordinator this will be Sara Dobie. ***All communication will be directed to the coordinator. Which includes but is not limited to dealing with group conflict, scheduling, travel plans and finances. The coordinator has the responsibility To the greater good of the Royalty program and will make changes in the best interest of the program at any time.***

There will be a 3-strike Rule in effect during a ladies Reigning Duration. This is based on the Cattlemen's Days Royalty Code of Conduct and Handbook. Please see Handbook for further information and algorithm.

Royalty may be asked to represent Cattlemen's Days at community events such as Gunnison County Stockgrowers Banquet, the Cattlewomen's Small Animal Day, as well as other, non-western events throughout the Gunnison Community.

Appearances on horseback are required for Cattlemen's Days, at all the rodeo performances (3 performances) and the Cattlemen's Days parade. However, depending on the Cattlemen's Days Committee's wishes, the Royalty may be requested to travel to attend other rodeos prior to and after Cattlemen's Days Rodeo. If at any point during the reign, the coordinator and/or Cattlemen's Days Committee believes that the girl is in danger or in an unsafe situation, change of horse or ability to appear will be requested.

During Cattlemen's Days, royalty is on call for most of the 10-day stretch, from the 4-H general projects competitions, 4-H Junior Livestock Awards and Sale, and the Three PRCA performances. In between, royalty will hand out awards at the Horse shows, Ranch Rodeo, and Livestock shows. Other events might come up before Cattlemen's Days that royalty might be asked to participate in such as Ad Day, rodeo set up, and the Crested Butte 4th of July Parade.

Please make sure you are willing to commit to the above requirements of these positions before applying.

These are **unpaid positions**.

Tryout Information

Each Portion of Tryouts will have a random draw order done the day before and posted via Facebook & Instagram (Saturday, August 29th). This draw order can also be emailed if requested and posted via social media for ladies and parents to know who is going first, second, etc.. Throughout the tryouts. Queen Contestants will start each portion of events, followed by Princess and Junior Miss Contestants.

The tryouts take place on **Sunday, August 30th, 2026, 9:00 am** at the Gunnison County Fair Grounds (Fred R. Field Western Heritage Center). Start at South End of Grandstands. Please be present at ready for Introductions & Interviews at this time.

The contestants will start with horsemanship with a reining pattern that will be given to the contestants at check in, a horsemanship interview, the grand entry run, followed by their personal interviews , followed by lunch and impromptu questions in front of judges & spectators. The morning portion of tryouts will conclude with questions & comments about the evening event. The ladies will return to the Cement Room of the Fred Fields building by 4:30 to help with the coronation event, participating in the fashion show and impromptu questions during Dinner.

**See attached itinerary*

Attire for Horsemanship and/or all events includes a button up shirt with long sleeves, bootcut jeans, cowboy boots and cowboy hat. For interview and impromptu question, a nice dress *may be worn (is not required)*, dresses need to be knee length.

Our judges are volunteers and will be selected from a variety of backgrounds including equestrian, public speaking, professional, and PRCA experience, and/or a Cattlemen's Days Committee member. The judges donate their time to judge this competition and should be treated with respect by the contestant, parents, and spectators. There will be thank you notes for each judge at tryouts for contestants to fill out.

All aspects of this competition are on an individual basis, for instance, each contestant will be alone in the arena for the horsemanship and interview portions with the judges. Parents may not sit in on the interview or be present in the arena. The lunch/impromptu portion is open to the public and parents are welcome to listen and welcome to watch from behind the fence during the riding portions of competition.

Spectators are encouraged!

2027 CATTLEMEN'S DAYS ROYALTY TRYOUTS

Sunday, August 30th, 2026, 9:00 am
Gunnison County Fairgrounds
Entry Form

NAME: _____

AGE as of Jan. 1, 2027: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

PARENT#1: _____ PHONE#: _____

EMAIL: _____

PARENT#2: _____ PHONE#: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME OF HORSE: _____

TRYING OUT FOR: QUEEN (AGES 16- 24) _____

PRINCESS (AGES 12-15) _____

JR. MISS (AGES 8-11) _____

****If you are under the age of 18, a parent must sign consent to participate****

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

I. Education & School Activities:

II. Future Ambitions:

III. Experience with Horses & Western Community:

IV. Community Activities:

V. Please answer in 200 words or less: *How can you make Cattlemen's Days & the Gunnison Valley a better place?*

You may use a separate piece of paper.

VI. Please attach one Professional Letter of Recommendation.

**Please let Sara Dobie know if you need help with this. The only limitation of this requirement is that it cannot be a parent. This is a skill that ladies will need to have throughout life, asking for a letter of recommendation, please reach out if you have questions.*

Please contact Sara Dobie at cattlemensdaysrodeoroyalty@gmail.com or 970-275-8985 with any questions.

Entry Deadline is August 16th, 2026, Midnight

Entries will not be accepted after this date.

NO EXCEPTIONS! If not using the online application, application must be emailed to cattlemensdaysrodeoroyalty@gmail.com

Thank you for your participation. Let's have some FUN!

Tryout Itinerary

Sunday, August 30th, 2026, 9:00 am

Gunnison County Rodeo Grounds

Draw for Order in each category done day before and posted

9:00 am - Huddle for introductions & questions in the South end of Grandstands

9:15 am - Horsemanship with horsemanship interview

- 2026 Queen Sets Pattern for Queen Contestants + Showing at end of Pattern where to ride to and facilitate horsemanship interview with judges
- 2027 Queen Contestants to Follow in Draw Order (done day before & posted)
- (Same Order for Princess & Junior Miss)
- Queen Wave Laps- Following 2026 Queen into Arena

10:45 - 11:00 am Break/Regroup/Change if contestants would like

11:00 am - Personal Interviews in Draw Order

- Queen Contestants
- Princess Contestants
- Junior Miss Contestants

12:00 pm- Lunch with impromptu questions x2/3

- Queen + Contestants
- Princess + Contestants
- Junior Miss + Contestants

Once the morning events have concluded, the contestants and royalty committee will meet to talk about logistics of the Coronation Event. Contestants will return to the Fred Field Cement room by 4:30 to assist with the event, participate in the fashion show and answer one last impromptu questions during dinner.

Results will be tallied after Dinner

Announcement of 2027 Cattlemen's Days Royalty

Signing of Contracts

All times are approximate; depending on the number of contestants the times may be altered appropriately.

Best of luck to everyone trying out! We look forward to seeing you!