



2023 Sonoita Rodeo Royalty Rules

Competition:

Saturday, August 19, 2023

8 a.m. Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Sonoita, AZ

Eligibility:

Must receive application and \$30 entry fee no later than June 24, 2023

Email to rodeoroyalty@sonoita-fairgrounds.com

Mandatory orientation: Saturday, June 24, 2023

9 a.m. Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Sonoita, AZ

Rules for Sonoita Rodeo Royalty Contest:

1. A rodeo Queen, Princess and Little Miss will be selected every year at a contest held at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds.
2. The Rodeo Queen (18-26), Princess (12-17) and Little Miss (7-11) must meet the age and eligibility requirements as of August 19, 2023. Proof of age may be required in the form of a state issued ID, birth certificate or shot records.
3. Queen, Princess and Little Miss must be capable of fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the Rodeo Royalty including: attendance at the Sonoita Annual Horse Races (May), Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo (August/September), Santa Cruz County Fair (September), GCPRA Finals (Queen only November), Mandatory Orientation (June for new competition), and New Competition (August).

Title Holder Requirements, Rules and Expectations:

1. The rodeo royalty will participate in all scheduled days of the Sonoita Labor Day Rodeo (Sept) including assistance with the junior rodeo, grand entry, and presentation of sponsor flags, to include presentation of all sponsor flags at the conclusion of each rodeo day. Failure to appear at mandatory events will warrant disciplinary action and/or removal from her reign and for the Queen only, possible forfeiture of scholarship. Failure to appear includes being tardy for any event after a check in time is scheduled by coordinator. It is the responsibility of royalty members to properly manage time. A no call, no show at a required event results in immediate suspension and/or removal from royalty position. Being late or tardy to a scheduled event may result in dismissal from that event for the day. If disciplinary action is taken by the royalty committee for any rule infraction, title holder may be asked to sit out of a required event. Fulfilling roles includes remaining at each event for the amount of time determined by the royalty committee. This time commitment will be determined in advance of the event and delivered via email and text.
2. The Queen, Princess and Little Miss may make special appearances at approved association and other rodeos including, but not limited to: Pima County Fair Rodeo (April), Cave Creek Rodeo, Lost Dutchman Days, Copper Dust Stampede, Rex Allen Days Rodeo, Benson Butterfield Days, Hellzapoppin and Florence Junior Parada. Rodeo participation is at the discretion of the Sonoita and visiting royalty coordinators and must be approved through coordinators prior. Parade participation is acceptable horseback for Queen and at the discretion of parents for Princess and Little Miss. For most parades, a helmet must be worn for all participants under the age of 12. The Tucson Rodeo Parade is at the discretion of the Sonoita Royalty Committee.
3. A Royalty title holder must be single, not have any children and not an expectant mother during her reign.
4. The SCCFRA will provide an honorary 2023 membership to the Queen and a family membership for Princess and Little Miss.
5. The Queen and Princess will notify followers on their personal social media to follow them on their designated Sonoita Queen and Princess social media pages during their year of reign. Do not change the passwords or remove the royalty coordinator from being an authorized user of the pages. At the end of their reign, the Queen and Princess will transfer ownership of the designated pages to the new Queen and Princess.
6. Professionalism is expected at all appearances including: punctuality, appropriate dress as outlined in the dress code, interaction with sponsors, SCCFRA board members and Sonoita Royalty Committee. The rodeo royalty will act as role models for the youth and conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This includes personal appearances and posts on ALL social media, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram and Snap Chat. Royalty will refrain from posting offensive language, as well as inappropriate physical conduct or partying. Inappropriate comments include; public airing of grievances and

negative comments about other rodeo royalty, rodeo personnel or rodeo organizations. This will be monitored by the committee upon receipt of application. "Blocking" the coordinator or committee members from social media posts will result in suspension and/or removal from title. We take the reputation of the Sonoita Rodeo Royalty organization very seriously and expect title holders to do so as well. It is imperative that we are able to monitor how title holders are presenting themselves and this organization to the public.

7. For a Queen who meets legal drinking age, no alcohol will be consumed at mandatory events or while representing Sonoita at outside events (rodeo and other) while in Queen attire. There will be no alcohol consumption at any time at the Labor Day Rodeo. Use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this policy is grounds for dismissal. Underage drinking, smoking, vaping or use of illegal drugs by any royalty member is grounds for immediate removal from title.
8. If a title holder cannot complete her required duties or maintain standards, she will forfeit her crown, buckle, saddle, sashes and scholarship (Queen only) and the first runner up will replace the outgoing member of the Sonoita Rodeo Royalty. This will be decided by the Royalty Committee and SCCFRA board of directors on a case-by- case basis and all decisions are final. Title holders agree to abide by decisions of the committee with no appeals.
9. Sonoita Rodeo Royalty may not hold any other crown or title from August 19, 2023, until the next royalty contest in August 2024. However, an exception will be made if the Queen wishes to run for either Miss Rodeo Arizona (August) or Miss Turquoise Circuit (November). If one of the two titles is won, Sonoita Queen must fulfill her obligations of Sonoita Royalty as well. Failure to fulfill duties will result in a forfeiture of scholarship and title.
10. Boyfriends or significant others are not allowed in the warm-up or staging areas while title holders are performing at required events. If a title holder requires assistance, rodeo personnel are on site to assist. Parents of title holders may assist at required events if needed. Exceptions may be made by the Sonoita Rodeo Royalty Coordinator.
11. Parent Code of Conduct: Parents of title holders are expected to respect the rules set forth by the Sonoita Rodeo Royalty Committee and conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manor at all events and on social media. If a parent cannot refrain from offensive behavior, they may be asked not to attend events and/or it may result in suspension or removal of title holder.
12. Dress Code: During rodeo performances, title holders will wear a collared shirt, jeans, boots, belt, sash, crown, buckle, felt hat (no straw) and chaps. Appearance or Dance attire may be the same as rodeo performance or a western dress or skirt with collared shirt or jacket. Hat, buckle, sash and crown are also to be worn at appearances and/or dances. Matching outfits should be worn for parade participation. The only item that can be worn with casual attire is the buckle. Out of respect to the title only the titleholder will wear the crown and sash.
13. Title holders may run for a second title in the same age group if a one-year hiatus is taken between titles. Title holders may run consecutively if the title holder ages out of the previous title.

Overview of Contest Day:

The contest consists of the following events:

- **Arena: Begins at 8 a.m. (Mandatory check in 6:45-7:15)**
 - *All contestants will be in the arena by 7:45 for arena warmups**
 - Rail Work (walk, trot and canter)
 - Flags/Mock Grand Entry
 - Royalty Hot Lap
 - Reining Pattern
 - Happy Trails and Dismissal for Interview
- **Written Test:**
May be taken before or after interview in Pioneer Hall
- **Interview: Begins at 1 p.m.**
- **Contestant Dinner and Royalty Selection: Begins promptly at 5 p.m.**

Contestant Introduction/speech, Best Dress Presentation, Impromptu Questions and Crowning

Contest Day Schedule:

The contest will begin promptly at 8 a.m. and will begin with rail work. First up will be Little Miss contestants, followed by Princesses and ending with Queens. Contestant order will be selected by random draw at orientation. Once all competitors are finished with their rail work, we will continue with the flags/grand entry. Little Miss contestants are excused from flag presentation/grand entry. When contestants have completed the grand entry, we will continue with reining patterns and hot laps. Each contestant will perform an age-appropriate reining pattern, pause for the judges and then complete a hot lap. At the conclusion of reining patterns and hot laps, contestants will allow the judges one last look with "Happy Trails." At the conclusion of the horsemanship events, horses may be put away. Contestants will be given the opportunity to prepare for the interview which begins at 1 p.m. The interview order will be selected by the contestants in a random draw at orientation. After contestants complete their interview and rehearsal, they are free to change and prepare for the "Personal Style" and impromptu questions to take place at the dinner starting promptly at 5 p.m. Crowning will take place after the judges have the opportunity to tally the scores. Scores will be available and mailed to the contestants one to two weeks after the competition.

After interviews, the contestants will remain in Pioneer Hall for a rehearsal or run-through of evening events. Contestants are dismissed at the conclusion of rehearsal to prepare for evening events.

Arena Events: 50 percent of total score

- Contestant will perform the course provided in front of the judges on the day of the event.
- More than one horse may be used.
- Multiple outfits or wardrobe changes are allowed during arena events; however, this will not be taken into consideration for horsemanship score.
- Late gate arrival will be a mandatory point deduction.
- Presentation of horse including tack will be part of the horsemanship score.

Interview: 20 percent of total score

- Contestants will wear any attire that is clean and represents the contestant's professional style. This may be western or other.

Personal Style Presentation at Dinner: 10 percent of total score

- This does not need to consist of Western Attire or Cowgirl apparel. This category is a chance for the contestant to show off their best personal style and how they would like to be recognized. It should also reflect what you would choose to wear to appearances. This attire is considered evening or special event.

Impromptu questions/Speech: 10 percent of total score

- Little Miss contestants will have one minute to introduce themselves to the audience and judges. Princess and Queen contestants will make a 2-3 minute speech on a topic provided by the royalty committee at orientation. Time allowed will be discussed at orientation. A penalty will be assessed for exceeding time limit.

Questions:

- Queens will be asked four questions, one each on horse health/rodeo, sponsor/Sonoita rodeo, world current events and personality.
- Princesses will be asked three questions, one each on horse health/rodeo, current events and personality.
- Little Miss will be asked two questions, one each on horse/rodeo and personality.

Written Test: 10 percent of total score

- To be taken by each contestant on August 19, 2023.

The Sonoita Rodeo Royalty Committee and SCCFRA Board of Directors find judges qualified in all aspects of the royalty contest. All decisions made by the judges on the day of the contest are final.

Mandatory Check In:

There will be a mandatory check in before horsemanship, interview and evening events.

Horsemanship check in: 6:45 – 7:15

Interview check in: 12:45 p.m.

Evening Events: 4:45 p.m.

Failure to check in on time will result in a point deduction for that event. The point deduction will be taken from the final score of that event.

Prizes Include:

- Queen: \$1000 scholarship, saddle, buckle, three sashes and \$150 gift certificate courtesy of Spur Western Wear.
- Princess: Buckle, three sashes and \$150 gift certificate courtesy of Spur Western Wear.
- Little Miss: Buckle, three sashes and \$150 gift certificate courtesy of Spur Western Wear.

**Chaps are perpetual awards and will be returned at the end of each title holder's reign. Title holders will be required to have a rider on their home insurance covering the perpetual prize (chaps). You will have 30 days after the contest to provide proof. The cost of this averages approximately \$10 annually. Failure to secure insurance is grounds for dismissal.

Special Note Regarding Little Miss: It is at the discretion of the Royalty Committee if the Little Miss will ride in the Sonoita Rodeo. Safety is our first concern and horsemanship must be at a high level in order to participate in arena events involving horses.

For more information, please call the fairgrounds at 520-455-5553 or email rodeoroyalty@sonoita-fairgrounds.com with the Subject line: Sonoita Rodeo Royalty Committee

After crowning each new titleholder, regardless of age, and the parents of those titleholders under 18 years of age, will be asked to sign a copy of the Royalty Rules.