

2023 Miss Ozark Rodeo Association Pageant Rule Book

Pageant Date

- Pageant will be held in conjunction with the first rodeo of the 2023 Ozark Rodeo Association Season on March 31 & April 1, 2023.
- Contestants will need to attend both Friday and Saturday night performances of the rodeo.
- Winners will need to stay until Sunday as our first photoshoot and contract signing will be Sunday morning.

Age Divisions

- Miss 17-25 (If 17, must be a senior in high school)
- Teen 14-17 (If 17, must be a junior in high school)
- Jr Miss 11-13
- Little Miss 7-10

All titleholder reigns will be from the date of the 2023 Pageant-December 31, 2023

Age Divisions are as of January 1, 2023

Entry Fee

- \$75

Raffle Tickets

- All contestants will be required to sell \$50 in raffle tickets for the ORA Finals fundraiser. The winners of these will be drawn throughout the 2023 ORA season.

Pageant Eligibility

- All Contestants must reside in; or be enrolled in and physically attending classes on a full-time basis at an elementary, middle, or high school; an accredited college or university; or be employed in the State of Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, or Iowa.
- Each contestant must provide a copy of her birth certificate.
- Must be a natural born female at birth.
- Must pay the required entry fee or have it sponsored.
- Must submit all required documents, pictures, and their application by the due date specified.
- No contestant may have been married, pregnant, have a child, not become married or pregnant during the year of her reign.

- No contestant shall have any contract to a person, business, entity, etc that may be in conflict with the Miss ORA Pageant.
- No contestant may hold any other pageant titles while competing in the Miss ORA Pageant.
- If you have held the title of Miss/Teen/Jr Miss/Little Miss ORA in a prior year, you may not compete for that same title again.
- The ORA Board of Directors has the right to refuse any application for any valid and proven reason.

****The Miss ORA Pageant reserves the right to alter any rule and has the sole authority over any rule discrepancy. If any rules are altered, contestants will be notified that changes have been made prior to the start of the competition.****

Conduct of Contestants

- Miss ORA contestants and titleholders are expected to conduct themselves in an exceptional manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Such conduct could result in the contestant being disqualified and may affect eligibility to compete in future Miss ORA Pageants.
- Harassment and arguing between contestants will not be tolerated.
- A judge may not be approached by a contestant or any individual with the intent to influence or harass. This includes approaching a judge online or through social media. Action of this type will be reported to the Miss ORA Pageant Board of Directors and ORA Board of Directors and disqualification of that contestant could result.
- The pageant is not officially complete until the coronation is completed.
- Contestants are expected to abide by the Miss ORA Pageant Contestant Code of Conduct.

Comments & Score Sheets

- Each Contestant will receive a Personal Composite Score Sheet and possibly Judges Comment Sheets which will be emailed to each contestant within 30 business days after the completion of the pageant. These sheets will be typed so as to not show the identity of each individual judge. If there is a dispute regarding score sheets, they will be sent to the Ozark Rodeo Association Board of Directors to approve and verify they are in order.

Failure to abide by ALL rules listed within this rule book may result in disqualification or consequences to be determined by the Judges.

Phases of Competition

- Horsemanship
- Interview
- Appearance
- Personality
- Public Speaking
- Written Test (Miss/Teen)

Judging Criteria

- Horsemanship
 - The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates the highest in:
 - Horsemanship: including control of mount, proper arena etiquette, and the way each situation that may occur is handled.
 - Balance, ability and position of hands, feet, and seat when riding at a reasonable rate of speed for the activity.
 - Understanding of leads and proper execution of specific patterns.
 - Presentation ride (Queens Run/Wave and carrying of flag, please note Little Miss division will not carry a flag if not all contestants are comfortable doing so).
 - Showmanship: How the contestant projects her personality to the audience from horseback.
 - Required attire for horsemanship is in the wardrobe guideline.
 - Other considerations in Horsemanship include, but are not limited to the following:
 - The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged, NOT the horse.
 - Contestants should ride with one hand on the reins. An exception to this will be using 2 hands if necessary for safety purposes.
 - Judges will ask knowledge based Horsemanship questions in the arena after completing their pattern.
 - Contestants will be judged on their Queen's wave and flag presentation run during Friday night's performance of the rodeo.
 - Contestants will be asked to carry a flag. Flag boots should be used but will NOT be provided.
 - The patterns should be set by the reigning titleholder, if possible. Judges may, at their discretion, deduct points or disqualify from competition any contestant if they see trainers, family members, or friends coaching contestants from the side.

***Automatic 10 point deduction will be made if parents, trainers, or friends are caught warming up contestant horses.**

***Automatic 10 point deduction will be made if you lose your hat during any part of the horsemanship competition**

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

- Grooming: This should include meticulous care in neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, fingernails, hair, hat, boots, and other clothing. Remember to wear age appropriate make-up.
 - Posture: This should include carrying oneself straight and tall with confidence and poise.
 - Poise and ladylike behavior in every situation: This should include handling every type of situation with grace, style, and proper etiquette. Good sportsmanship both in and outside of the arena at all times.
 - Western Fashion Sense: This includes western outfits, which are fashionable, tasteful and properly fit for the contestant. Attention will be paid to the use of color and texture to enhance the contestant’s personal features. Attention will be paid to suitability of the outfit to the occasion. Additional information is available in the wardrobe guideline. (Clothes need not be eccentric or expensive, but should be neat, clean and appropriate).
 - Proper fit of clothing: This includes figure flattering styles altered for a personal fit, if necessary. Properly cleaned, fitted and shaped hats which flatter the contestant’s face, will be considered. Judges will look for versatility and imagination in the contestant’s ability to carry out a “total look”, rather than an excessive amount of clothing. Knowledge of western clothing: This includes the major western wear manufactures and trends in the western industry.
- **Personality**
 - The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in:
 - Intelligence and good common sense.
 - Conversational ability in varied situations with an emphasis on correct grammar and enunciation.
 - A good sense of humor.
 - Self-confidence, high-moral standards, sincerity, and integrity.
 - Genuine interest in people and consideration of others.
 - Self-projection (the ability to project one’s personality in any situation), whether from horseback or on stage.
 - Positive outlook on life.
 - Promptness and cooperation. Please note that if a contestant fails to arrive on time for any pageant event she may be penalized and or disqualified at the ORA Board of Director’s discretion. (It is a good idea to arrive at least 15 minutes early for each event.)
 - Maturity.
 - Educational background and goals as well as career goals.
- **Modeling**
 - This category will not be judged, but will give contestants to show off their Outfit of Choice during the Public Speaking Event of the Pageant.
- **Written Test**
 - The purpose of this category is to select the young lady who rates highest in knowledge:

- Written test worth 50 points of the total score for Miss/Teen. The questions on the test will be taken from the ORA Rule Book, the ORA Website, and current events in the Rodeo industry.
- The topics can include but are not limited to: Current Board Members, ORA Rules, Current Royalty, Sponsors, or any information found in the places listed above.
- Questions may include: True/False, Multiple Choice, or Short Answer.
- Arrangements can be made at the discretion of the ORA Board of Directors to have an independent 3rd party read the questions to a contestant if they are not able to do so themselves because of the contestants age/or reading ability. Notification must be made in advance of the contest.

Excellent sources of information are:

www.ozarkrodeoassociation.org

- **Public Speaking**

- Impromptu Question
 - Each contestant will be asked two impromptu questions during the speaking portion of the pageant.
 - **Miss/Teen/and Jr Miss** contestants, one question will be based on the Ozark Rodeo Association Rule Book and the other will be personality based.
 - **Little Miss** contestants, both questions will be based on personality and a list of questions that will be drawn from will be provided for them to practice before competition.
 - Judging criteria includes but is not limited to the ability to answer the question, delivery, knowledge, enunciation, and personality, which includes the ability to relate to the audience and sense of humor.
- On Stage Chat
 - Interview style on-stage chat with our Pageant Emcee.
 - Contestants will receive a topic chosen by our pageant judges.
 - These topics will be given to contestants at check in for the pageant.
 - Judging criteria includes but is not limited to the ability to answer the question, delivery, knowledge, enunciation, and personality, which includes the ability to relate to the audience and sense of humor.

- **Private Interview**

- Each contestant will be interviewed privately once by the judges.
- **Miss/Teen** will have a time limit of 10 minutes.
- **Jr Miss/Little Miss** will have a time limit of 5 minutes.
- Judging criteria includes:
 - Interviews will be personality based for the judges to get to know you. There will be a few knowledge based questions as well during the interviews.
 - Correct answers to questions related to knowledge of the pageant, knowledge of the Ozark Rodeo Association, rodeo terminology, explanation of rodeo events, equine knowledge (including tack, horse care, feeding, diseases, anatomy, etc.) & current events.
 - Appearance
 - Personality

- **Photogenic**
 - The judges will score photogenic ability by the head and shoulders photograph that is submitted with Contestant Application.
 - Photogenic Quality may include:
 - Overall appearance, expression-attitude, choice of colors, personality, and eye contact with camera.
 - This will **NOT** count towards the overall score of the pageant and will be given to the highest score overall between Miss/Teen/Jr Miss/Little Miss Contestants.

- **People's Choice**
 - Each contestant will be automatically entered into the People's Choice Award competition.
 - This is considered a side award and voting will take place after the deadline.
 - There will be no points awarded for this category and will **NOT** count towards the overall score of the pageant.
 - Voting will be done through the Miss Ozark Rodeo Association Pageant facebook and votes will be free.
 - There will be an award given to the one contestant who receives the most votes overall between Miss/Teen/Jr Miss/Little Miss contestants.

- **High Ticket Sales**

- Each contestant will be required to sell at least \$50 worth of raffle tickets for the Ozark Rodeo Association's Finals fundraiser and money will be due the day of the pageant.
 - You will receive tickets in the mail as soon as your application is completed and submitted to the Miss ORA Pageant.
 - The contestant that sells the most tickets past \$50 overall between **ALL** pageant contestants will receive an award.
 - Drawing for the raffle will be held during the 2023 ORA Season.
 - If you wish to not sell tickets, you may just pay the fee.
 - There will be no points awarded for this and will **NOT** count towards the overall score of the pageant.
- **Fan Favorite Award**
 - Each contestant will have a jar set out during Friday night's performance of the Ozark Rodeo Association.
 - Spectators will be able to vote on which contestant is their favorite.
 - All votes are \$1 each.
 - The contestant who receives the most votes will be given the award.
 - There will be no points awarded for this and will **NOT** count towards the overall score of the pageant.

Competition Rules

- Judges will be selected by the Miss ORA Pageant Director.
- The pageant will be judged by no more than four, no less than three judges.
- An independent auditor, or CPA, will be utilized to tally scores.
 - Pageant Director and ORA Board of Directors will not have access to completed score sheets.
 - A Head Judge will be selected at Judges' Orientation and that judge will gather the completed score sheets from all judges, place them in a sealed envelope and give the sealed envelope to the Judges' Chaperone.
 - The Judges' Chaperone will be responsible for delivering the sealed envelope to the independent auditor, or CPA.
- In the event of any division ties, the contestant with the highest overall horsemanship score becomes the winner.
 - If there is a tie for the winner of horsemanship, then the highest score in the horsemanship interview will be the winner.
 - If a tie-breaker is still needed, the highest score of the private interview will be used and then if a tie-breaker is still needed the highest score on the written test will be used.
- Tie-breakers for each category, except for the written test, will be determined by the Head Judge's score. If there is still a tie, then the second judge's score and so on will be used until the tie is broken. A tie in written test score will be determined by a judged essay question.
- If there is a tie for Miss Congeniality, the titleholders in each age division will vote.
- Contestants and individuals related to a contestant may not contact judges, during, or after the pageant to influence or harass.

- Contestant numbers will be assigned beginning with the Little Miss Contestants up through the Miss Contestants in numerical order. Contestants will compete in this order throughout the pageant.
- Contestants must wear western attire including boots, hat, and belt to all functions (unless otherwise directed by pageant officials).
- Outfit of Choice is defined as a pant product with a long-sleeved shirt, jacket, or vest (optional). A “western trendy” outfit is defined as western fashion attire - dress, skirt, or pant product.
- Should circumstances occur that a contestant is conducting herself in an improper manner, a meeting of the ORA Board of Directors will be held and proper measures will be taken, up to and including dismissal and/or disqualification of the contestant.
- If there is only one contestant in each age division, she must compete in all categories and reach a certain score to win the title. If for any reason the judges feel she is not able to fulfill the duties of Miss/Teen/Jr Miss/Little Miss ORA, she will not be crowned.
- If a contestant chooses to not compete after submitting her application, no refunds of entry fees will be given.

Titleholder Rules

- The Miss, Teen, Jr Miss, and Little Miss winners must sign a Performance Contract with the Miss ORA Pageant and the ORA.
- The winners of the Miss, Teen, Jr Miss, and Little Miss ORA may not compete in other pageants during the year of their reigns (with the exception of competing in a subsequent year’s pageant with approval from the ORA Board of Directors).
- All titleholders must be willing and able to participate in rodeo appearances and other special events as scheduled by the Board of Directors.
- Titleholders must understand that if they win a title the funding for all expenses including travel and wardrobe will be their responsibility. The Miss ORA Pageant is continually soliciting sponsorship to help, but it is still the primary responsibility of the winner to fund her reign.
- Miss contestants must be enrolled in an accredited educational or vocational program to receive scholarship monies, or have a current student loan for it to apply towards in the event a scholarship is given.

Western Trendy Guidelines

- Titleholders must maintain a professional appearance at all times and balancing fashion trends and maintaining a professional image can be a challenge.
- Please note that there is a time and place for when it is acceptable to dress western trendy. For example: Rodeos.
 - Must always wear a hat, belt, buckle, and banner unless otherwise notified.
 - No sleeveless outfits and/or tank tops. Western Trendy must include a cap sleeve or longer.
 - No cleavage.
 - No bare or low backs.
 - Skirt or Dress length may be no shorter than three (3) inches above the knee. Please take time to consider that the length does not vary while walking.

- Make sure that all boots worn with dresses have a western heel and are not a fashion boot.

Royalty Scoring

There will be three judges chosen with the option of adding a fourth and approved by the ORA Board of Directors. The contest winners will be determined by the total of the judge's scores, the silent judge score, and the test score. The contestant with the highest score in each age division will be crowned the winner.

Category	Points per Judge	Total Points (3 judges)	Total Points (4 Judges)
Horsemanship	100	300	400
Interview	100	300	400
Personality	40	120	160
Appearance	35	105	140
Modeling	-	-	-
Impromptu Question/Onstage Chat	30	90	120
Written Test (Miss/Teen)	-	50	50
Miss/Teen Divisions		965	1,110
Jr/Little Divisions		915	1,060

- Horsemanship to be broken down as follows:
 - Miss/Teen/Jr Miss: Pattern 60 points, Queen Lap 10 points, Flag Run 15 points, Interview 15 points.
 - Little Miss: Pattern 75 points, Queen Lap 10 points, Interview 15 points.

In the event you are the only contestant in your division you must score 70% of the total score which is 675.50 points for Miss/Teen and 640.50 points for Jr Miss/Little Miss. (777 points for Miss/Teen and 742 for Jr Miss/Little Miss with four judges)

Social Media Etiquette

Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA are ambassadors for the ORA and a role model for our western heritage and values. The young women involved with the Miss ORA Pageant model goodwill, positive

character and the highest level of integrity. Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA's involvement with social media must always reflect these qualities. While social media can be a marvelous tool, it can also quickly ruin the reputation of both an individual and a rodeo royalty program. The following guideline is intended to assist Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA in utilizing social media to its full potential to connect with family, friends, rodeo fans, sponsors, and all her supporters.

1. The Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA Facebook page is managed by the Miss ORA Director and the current Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA. You may tag the Miss Ozark Rodeo Association Pageant page in all posts pertaining to your title to be shared.
2. In ALL posts (including personal posts and titleholder posts) Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA will represent goodwill, positive character, and integrity. Do not post negative comments (this includes sarcasm).
3. In ALL posted pictures (personal and titleholder; in crown and banner and not) Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA will be dressed modestly. Refrain from low cut tops.
4. Post frequently, but not excessively. A good rule of thumb is no more than 3 posts a day. Great things to post about: positive experiences at rodeos and events, appreciation for sponsors, utilizing sponsors' merchandise/services, promoting rodeos and community events, etc.
5. Absolutely no photos or posts in swim suits or other inappropriate clothing or with alcohol.
6. Be safe. Giving out too much personal information can open you up to unwanted advertisement at best and dangerous stalkers at worst. If you feel uncomfortable about a situation that involves your Miss ORA, Miss Teen ORA, Jr Miss ORA, or Little Miss ORA Page, report it to the Pageant Director or a Miss ORA Pageant Board Member. Personal safety comes first. Do not feel obligated to accept any friends to your personal page that you do not have a personal relationship with.
7. Write professionally. Use proper grammar and spelling.
8. Lady-in-Waiting: Though we would like to keep the Miss ORA Facebook page focused on the current title holder throughout her year, there are instances where it is appropriate for the Lady-in-Waiting to tag the Miss ORA Pageant Facebook page. In all posts, include "Lady-in-Waiting" after tagging the Miss ORA Pageant Page.

Remember: Any photos, text, or videos you release through social media can never be retrieved or deleted. Though you may delete it, someone may have already downloaded it. When used properly, social media is a wonderful way to promote your rodeo, your organization, and your pageant. But it is also a reflection of those entities and yourself. So, ultimately, when in doubt....don't do it!