

**MISS RODEO SOUTH DAKOTA PAGEANT**  
**OFFICIAL PAGEANT RULE BOOK**

**Reviewed**  
**April 2020**



*Official Affiliate of*  
*Miss Rodeo America, Inc.*

**Pageant Dates November 5-7, 2020**  
**Brookings, South Dakota – First Chance Bonanza**  
**Application Deadline – September 4, 2020**

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# **MISS RODEO SOUTH DAKOTA, INC.**

## **Special Note:**

**Please note that the Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Inc. is not responsible for any items that are lost or stolen.**

**Also, the Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Inc. reserves the right to make changes to any of the rules as long as they are made prior to the start of that area of competition and that all contestants are informed of the change(s).**

# MISS RODEO SOUTH DAKOTA

## Miss Rodeo South Dakota is:

- A young lady who has high moral and ethical character
- A young lady who displays good sportsmanship
- A young lady who is a talented, presentable horsewoman with vast knowledge of the equine industry and exhibits the careful and humane treatment of animals.
- A young lady who desires to act as an official representative of rodeo, who understands the sport of rodeo in its entirety and is able to explain it to anyone whom she comes in contact with.
- A young lady who strives to promote the state of South Dakota and the western way of life.
- A young lady who acts professionally, speaks intelligently and with dignity, and enjoys meeting people.
- A young lady who is goal oriented and wants to be a leader in her community and is interested in furthering her chosen career.

## How can a young lady become Miss Rodeo South Dakota?

To compete in the Miss Rodeo South Dakota Pageant, one must:

- Meet all requirements set forth in the official rulebook for the Miss Rodeo South Dakota Pageant
- Have held a preliminary title earned through competition or other means of selection by a rodeo committee, community, county or other sponsoring organization.

## Contestant Eligibility

Each contestant in the Miss Rodeo South Dakota Pageant shall on the date of competition and final selection as Miss Rodeo South Dakota shall:

- Be at least 18 years and but not more than 26 years of age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of the state competition.
- Have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent of a high school education.
- Certify that she has never been married, pregnant or given birth to a child.
- Never been charged and/or determined to have committed any crime of moral turpitude nor has she had a title removed for any reason.
- Be a resident of the state of South Dakota, the same to be evidenced by the completion of Contestant Eligibility Verification Form.
- Have executed all consents and/or determined to have not committed any crime nor has she had a title removed for any reason.
- Abide by all rules and regulations of the Miss Rodeo South Dakota Pageant.
- Not have been previously been crowned Miss Rodeo South Dakota at the Miss Rodeo South Dakota Pageant.
- Grant permission to the Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Inc. Board to verify all information contained on your application and attest that the information she has provided is true.
- Agree to abide by all pageant rules with the possibility of disqualification for infractions.
- Portray the highest of moral and ethical standards, show the true ideals of young womanhood and set an example above reproach.
- Will not compete in and otherwise participate in any other beauty and/or talent contest, pageant and/or activity, other than the Miss Rodeo America Pageant.

# MRSD Pageant Application Requirements

All contestants who enter the Miss Rodeo South Dakota Pageant need to complete the following steps:

- Pay a contestant entry fee of **\$250** which must be postmarked by September 4, of the year of competition. Checks need to be payable to Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Inc. – Entry fees will only be refunded for illness (doctor's note required) or if you obtain another state title.
- Submit your most recent biography. Should a contestant win the pageant, this will serve as a preliminary draft for the MRSD autograph sheet.
- Submit a complete, typed entry application and resume.
- Submit one colored 8x10 head and shoulder photograph that will be used for the photogenic judging. Three wallet size photos for each judge, and electronic/digital copy in both color and black and white along with signed written copyright release/waiver from the photographer must also be submitted. All photographs become the property of Miss Rodeo South Dakota, Inc.
- Contestants will not wear any banners, crowns or chaps during the pageant.

## ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- Judging will take precedence over all pageant activities. It will begin at the registration of the contestants and continue throughout the pageant.
- MRSD and contestants must abide by high standards of conduct while competing at the pageant. The reigning MRSD and pageant contestants will be in the public eye twenty-four hours a day during the pageant. MRSD and contestants are role models and are expected to dress and behave appropriately at all times. Any inappropriate conduct or rude behavior by a contestant toward the MRSDI Board Members, or other contestants is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the pageant.
- Lodging: will be provided by MRSDI and all contestants are required to stay at the host hotel. Minimum of 2 contestants per hotel room.

- Contestants will be under the supervision of the MRSD Pageant Chaperone from the time they arrive until coronation. The chaperone will escort contestants to and from all functions during the pageant. A contestant is able to receive flowers, good luck mementos, etc. However, all items must be left at the front desk of the pageant hotel or the chaperone's room.
- Possession and use of cell phones by contestants during competition is not permitted. During orientation you will turn over your cell phone to the pageant chaperone. They will be returned after coronation.
- An orientation meeting for contestants, judges and parents will be scheduled to explain the pageant activities. A contestant representative must be present. At this meeting, one representative from each contestant will be selected to serve on the grievance committee. This representative must be at least 18 years of age. In the event of an unresolved dispute, the MRSDI Executive Board will make the final decision.
- A MRSDI grievance committee consisting of the MRSDI Executive Board and Pageant Director will be available at all times to receive any type of grievance. The proper procedure, in filing a grievance, is to put the complaint in writing and submit it to the MRSDI President three hours prior to the coronation ceremony. A meeting will then be set to discuss and resolve the grievance.
- Deviations from the MRSD rulebook will be brought forth during the orientation. Using private ballots, the contestants and executive board members will vote on the implementation of the deviations.
- Parents and relatives of MRSD contestants are welcome to attend public events at which the contestants will be present. However, after the pageant begins, contestant hotel rooms will be off limits to anyone except the MRSD Pageant Board Members/Directors/Chaperones. Any contact with the contestants must be done through the chaperone.
- Contestants at the MRSD Pageant are required to pay their own transportation to and from the pageant. All food, lodging and transportation while at the pageant will be furnished by the MRSDI Board.
- All transportation for contestant functions that are outside of the hotel shall be provided.
- The MRSDI will provide horses and tack for the horsemanship competition.

## **Loss of Title and Benefits**

The newly crowned MRSD will sign and abide by all the contract terms. If it has been determined by the MRSDI Board that MRSD has violated any of the terms, she will have her title taken away and she will not be allowed to represent as Miss Rodeo South Dakota or compete at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. Also, MRSD will forfeit her crown and all benefits, to include all gifts and prizes derived from winning the title of MRSD.



## Pageant Categories

Miss Rodeo South Dakota is judged in three equally weighted categories: horsemanship, personality, and appearance.

- **Appearance** – the purpose of this judged division is to select the young lady who rates highest in:
  - **Grooming** – to include neatness and cleanliness in every detail, such as complexion, hands, fingernails, hair, make-up, hat, boots, and other wearing apparel. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for a young lady who wants to be considered Miss Rodeo South Dakota.
  - **Poise and Posture** – Classy, lady-like behavior in every situation.
  - **Knowledge of proper western attire**- contestants should be aware of what is fashionable western dress, with particular attention given to color coordination. (Contestants should know how the use of various color combinations can enhance appearance and eye appeal). Judges will be observing how a contestant's clothes fit and suit her personality. Contestants are expected to appear in "full western attire" (i.e., western dress, western skirt and blouse or jacket combination, or Wrangler jeans with western blouse and/or jacket) at all times, unless otherwise specified. All outfits should include western hat, boots and belt.
    - It is highly encouraged that contestants wear WRANGLER JEANS whenever they are in pants.
    - All dresses must have sleeves and sleeves should be longer than a cap sleeve. If dress or top does not have sleeves than a jacket with sleeves must be worn. The skirt length should not be more than 3 inches 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 reflect a western image.
    - It's not necessary to invest in an excessive amount of expensive clothing. Judges will be looking for versatility and imagination displayed by the contestants.
    - Contests should be knowledgeable about current trends in western wear.

- **Attire needed for the pageant:**
  - NO crowns will be worn during any portion of the pageant, including any non-judged events.
  - **Meals with Judges/Sponsor Visits/Social:** Western jean/pants, blouse/vest/jacket. Boots, hat, belt and buckle.
  - **All rodeo performances & coronation:** Western jeans, arena shirt/blouse/vest/jacket, boots, hat, belt/buckle. No chaps are allowed for any of the rodeo performances.
  - **Speech/Style Show** – Western skirt and blouse/vest/jacket or western dress, boots, hat, belt/buckle. Please consider current rodeo queen attire and clothing choices appropriate to the situation and season of the year.
  - **Horsemanship** - Long sleeve western shirt any style, Western jeans, boots, hat, belt/buckle.
  - **Personal/Horsemanship Interviews, Luncheons-** Formal western skirt and blouse/vest/jacket or formal western dress, boots, hat, belt/buckle.
  
- **Horsemanship** – the purpose of this division is to select the young lady who rates highest in:
  - Control of mount and the way any situation that may occur is handled.
  - Balance – ability to sit a saddle.
  - Position of hand, feet and saddle.
  - Mounting and dismounting.
  - The understanding and skill of the contestant will be judged, not the horse or the equipment.
  - There will be a private horsemanship interview which will be a minimum of ten minutes. In this interview, the contestants will be asked anything that the judges deem important that pertains to the horse industry.
  - There will be two go-rounds of horsemanship competition. Horses will be provided and will be drawn for each go-round. The pattern will be demonstrated by the reigning Miss Rodeo South Dakota. The judges

and MRSDI reserve the right to make alterations and/or additions to these instructions.

○ **First Go-Round**

- Judges will pick one of the MRA patterns. (see page 19)
- After executing reining pattern, contestants will dismount and be asked questions pertaining to tack, horse selection, care, feeding, diseases, anatomy, rodeo, etc.
- The contestant's style of responding to this question should be the basis for the personality score she receives in horsemanship, while the content of the answers should be used as part of her actual horsemanship score.
- Flag Presentation – At the conclusion of round 1, contestants will present a flag in the arena on horseback.
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○ **Second Go-Round**

- **Rail Work** (These are the same guidelines that are used at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant.)
- All contestants will enter the arena along the rail and for a specific amount of time determined by the judges. The announcer will give the instructions. The judges reserve the right to make alterations and/or additions to these instructions.
- At the end of the rail work portion the contestants will leave the arena and then come back one by one to perform a presentation ride as the announcer call out their name and title.
- Contestants should focus on their ability to utilize the horse they have drawn.

○ **Grand Entry**

- Contestants will be introduced at some point during the first rodeo performance. They will not be carrying sponsor flags during the Friday night rodeo performances. The contestants will be evaluated on their horsemanship abilities during the introductions. Horses will be provided.

- **Personality** – the purpose of this division is to select the young lady who rates highest in:
  - **Intelligence** – good common sense.
  - Education – conversational ability in rodeo and other areas, with special emphasis on grammar and enunciation.
  - Attractiveness – not necessarily to mean beauty, but rather whether the contestant radiates self-confidence without making an issue out of it. She should also show maturity, high moral standards, sincerity, and integrity.
  - Personality reflections – to include the contestant’s style of attire, overall appearance, magnetism and eye appeal.
  - Genuine interest in other people, in the pageant and in rodeo, and a noticeable consideration of others.
  - Self-projection – ability to project one’s personality, whether it be from horseback in an arena, on television, or before an audience. Also, to be considered are sense of humor, showmanship, ambition, desire and enthusiasm.
  - Happy outlook on life in general.
  - Promptness in keeping the pageant schedule.
  - Public appearances – includes public appearances of contestants, giving them an opportunity to speak to an audience with facts and interesting information. These appearances may be made at western fashion shows, civic groups, luncheon programs, evening meetings, banquets, etc.
  - Contestants will be expected to answer questions in at least one of their public appearances, with questions prepared in advance and drawn by the contestant. Possible subjects may include the definition of rodeo terms and the explanation of rodeo events. Impromptu questions all require the contestant to think “on her feet,” show maturity, intelligence, wisdom and imagination
  - Judges will have a copy of each contestant’s application, resume and letters of reference.

# JUDGING GUIDELINES

## The Judges

- Judges are selected by a committee of the MRSDI for their expertise in the fields of the competition-horsemanship, personality and appearance. They are selected based on their awareness of correct western dress, knowledge about the sport of professional rodeo, and their western-type horsemanship experience, specifically judged horse events.
- Three judges will judge all categories of the pageant. All scores from each of the three judges will be totaled by a certified public accountant for each contestant.

## Judged Events

**Horsemanship** – Each contestant will participate in a private horsemanship interview and will ride a horse demonstrating their skills in the following: a) reigning pattern chosen by judges from MRA rule book, b) flag presentation, c) rail work, and d) demonstration ride. As in rodeo, the contestant will compete on a mount that she draws for. No contestant will ride the same horse in both go-rounds.

**Speeches** – Each contestant is required to give **one** extemporaneous speech.

1. **Extemporaneous Speaking** – Each contestant will receive a topic from MRSDI. There are 10 minutes for each contestant to prepare a minute and a half speech.

### **Extemporaneous Evaluation**

Judging is based on content, delivery and the time allotted for the presentation. Judging is based on knowledge, poise, and professionalism.

**Interviews** - Each contestant will be interviewed publicly and privately by the judges. Questions asked will test the contestant's knowledge of the pageant, rodeo, horsemanship and current affairs.

- The public interview will be conducted before an audience and have a 10-minute time allowance.
  - The questions asked will encompass horsemanship, rodeo, current events and issues, personal opinions, as well as general questions about the contestant herself.
  - Judges are asked to avoid questions about sex or religion.
  - Judges are encouraged to take this opportunity to find out as much as possible about the ability of the contestant but are asked to avoid using strictly factual questions. Instead, they are encouraged to ask open-ended, discussion type questions.
- The private interview will be a minimum of 15 minutes in length and will include questions on current events, and personal opinions as well as questions about the contestant herself.
  - The content of answers and the poise with which they are presented should be considered to judge this event. Judges may be referring to contestant applications at this time and may consider the answers as a reflection of the contestant's personality.
  - Contestants are expected to demonstrate intelligence, good judgment, conversational ability, a sense of humor, as well as familiarity with horsemanship, rodeo, and current events.
- The horsemanship interview will be a minimum of 10 minutes in length and questions asked will pertain to any aspect of the horse industry. Topics covered can also include any aspect of the horsemanship competition, flag presentation, rail work, and wave presentation.

**Impromptu Questions.** Impromptu questions will be asked of each contestant during pageant functions.

- Questions asked during the impromptu sections may relate to the sport of rodeo, current events, or about the contestants themselves.

- The personality score should reflect the contestant’s ability to “think on her feet” while answering. The composure and grace with which she handles the question should be considered as well.
- In the case of horse– or rodeo-related questions, the content of the answers should be considered for the horsemanship score.
- Contestants are expected to show a reasonable familiarity with current issues, a command of basic grammar, and an ability to answer questions with maturity, intelligence and imagination.

**Modeling.** Contestants will participate in at least one fashion show.

- The appearance score should take into consideration the attire the contestant has chosen, as well as her ability to model with poise, grace and confidence, while effectively projecting her personality to the audience.
- While contestants are modeling, the MC will be using facts and biographical information from contestant applications as commentary for all modeling events.

**Rodeo Introductions:** Appearance and horsemanship will be judged at any rodeo performances.

- Written Bio – Contestants will need to have a bio on an 8x11 piece of paper that will be used to introduce the contestant at the rodeo performances and other events. This document should be single spaced, 12-point font, and 8 lines or less of writing.

**Written Test.** Contestants will be given a written test with questions comprised of PRCA, general rodeo, equine, national /local sponsor and Miss Rodeo South Dakota contract information.

## **Additional Awards\***

\*These awards are judged but are NOT part of the formal scoring that determines Miss Rodeo South Dakota.

- **Photogenic.** The judges will score the required 8x10 colored, head and shoulders photograph submitted by each contestant to determine the winner of this category. The winner of this category will be recognized with a special award.
- **Scrapbook.** Pageant judges will review the scrapbooks and pick the winning scrapbook. The winner will receive an award. See guidelines below page 19.
- **Congeniality.** The contestants themselves vote for Miss Congeniality during the last day of the pageant. Miss Congeniality is known by her peers as the most friendly, helpful, genuine and outgoing contestant in the pageant.

## **SCORING**

- **Category winners**—horsemanship, personality and appearance—shall be determined by the total scores in those categories. For example, the winner of the appearance category will have the highest cumulative total of appearance scores received in all judged events, etc.
- The contestant receiving the highest grand total score shall be crowned Miss Rodeo South Dakota. The contestant receiving the second highest grand total shall be first runner-up. The contestant receiving the third grand total shall be second runner-up. The announcement of second and third runners- up will be optional based on the number of contestants competing during that year.
- Ties for category winners, i.e., Personality, Horsemanship, Appearance, will use the following procedure: each of the tied contestant's high and low total scores for that category will be dropped and the remaining score or scores will be used to determine that category winner. This method will be used only to determine who is the recipient of the tied category and will not be used to tally the grand total score each contestant receives. Ties resulting in Photogenic, Speech & Scrapbook divisions will be broken by using the same method as the category winners. A tie for Miss Congeniality will be broken by a second balloting by contestants. To break a tie for Miss Rodeo South



Dakota and runners-up, the contestant who received the highest combined total horsemanship score will win the tie.

### Total Scoring Example

Photogenics	Written Test	Horsemanship Round #1	Horsemanship Round #2	Personality Interviews	Horsemanship Interview	Speech/Ext. Speaking	Rodeo Knowledge Question	Media Interview	Fashion Show	Current Event Question	Rodeo Knowledge Quiz	Total
0	100	185	120	180	180	180	55	40	160	50	50	1300

## Scrapbook Guidelines

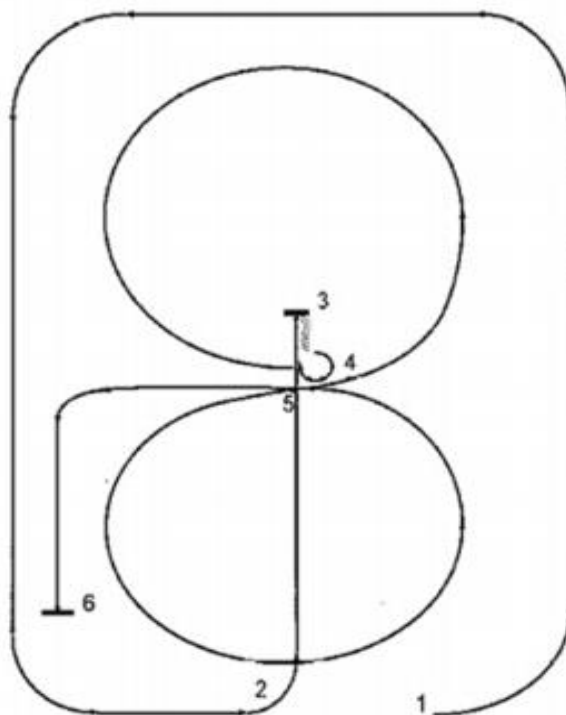
All Miss South Dakota Pageant contestants are required to bring a scrapbook for display and competition. The scrapbooks will be judged by a panel the pageant judges. A special award will be presented to the winner of the scrapbook contest, however scrapbooks are not part of the formal scoring that determines Miss Rodeo South Dakota.

The following suggestions are guidelines only and not to be considered as hard fast rules and/or regulations.

- **Size:** Anything too large is hard to look at and review properly. If you chose a smaller size, make sure it is not jumbled up or cramped. Avoid excessive thickness.
- **Appearance & Attractiveness:** This should be considered throughout the entire book, i.e. from cover to cover. The project should be attractive and neat.
- **Content:** A variety of items should include memorabilia from early childhood to the present time; items collected from appearances; and items the contestant cherishes. The scrapbook should be made for the contestant personally....not for the pageant.
- **Workmanship & Ingenuity:** Personal care, being sure the pages turn easily and items are well secured from cover to cover.
- **Organization & Identification:** The material should be in chronological order. Photographs, places, memorabilia, etc. should be properly identified.
- **Originality & Presentation:** The original, practical and innovative manner in which the overall product is prepared.

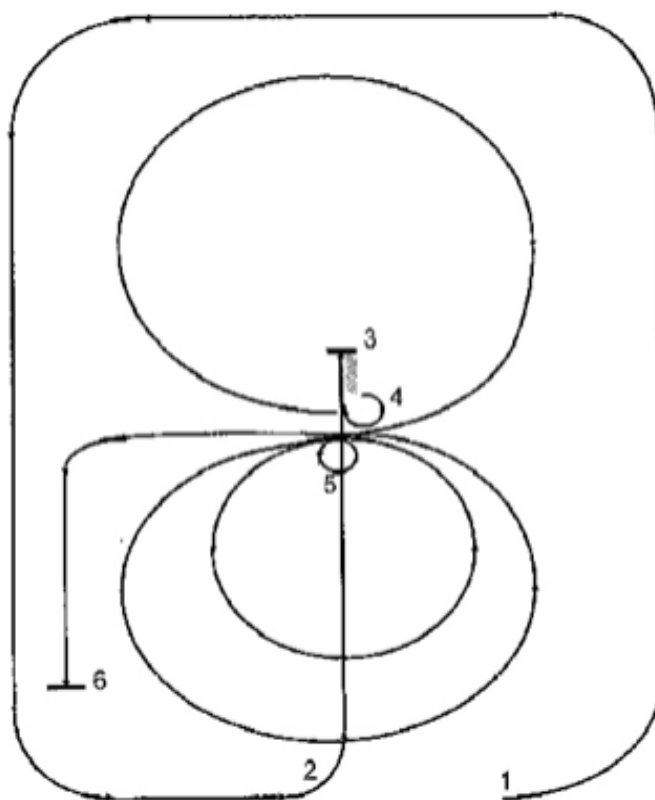


## Pageant Divisions: Horsemanship Pattern 2



1. Circle the arena, on the left lead, at an extended lope
2. Guide left and lope down the center of the arena with moderate speed
3. Pass the center of the arena, stop and back to the center
4. Execute a  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn to the right and lope a circle, to the right, with moderate speed
5. Change leads and lope a circle, to the left, with moderate speed. After completing the circle, continue loping on the left lead toward the end of the arena.
6. Stop and pause to show completion of pattern
7. **The judges reserve the right to make alterations and/or additions to this pattern.**

### Pageant Divisions: Horsemanship Pattern 3



1. Circle the arena, on the left lead, at an extended lope.
2. Guide left and lope down the center of the arena with moderate speed.
3. Pass the center of the arena, stop and back to the center.
4. Execute a  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn to the right and lope a circle to the right with moderate speed
5. Stop in the center, execute a 360 degree to the left. Lope a small circle to the left followed by a larger faster circle to the left. At the center of the arena, rate back to the slower speed and continue loping on the left lead toward the end of the arena.
6. Stop and pause to show completion of pattern.
7. **The judges reserve the right to make alterations and/or additions to this pattern.**