

Questions and answers about Durango Fiesta Days Royalty

Who is the Durango Fiesta Days Royalty?

The Durango Fiesta Days Royalty is the ideal western American young ladies. They symbolize the youth of Colorado who wish to further promote the sport of rodeo.

What are the qualities of a Durango Fiesta Days Royalty Contestant?

The Durango Fiesta Days Royalty contest is not a beauty contest; however, it strives to find representatives who will act, speak, and dress in a manner consistent with the prestige the title deserves. The ladies would have the following qualities:

1. Desire to be a leader in her community and promote Durango Fiesta Days, Durango Fiesta Days western heritage and western way of life.
2. Love of horses and everything they represent.
3. Desire to act as the official representative of Durango Fiesta Days to the general public, including the following traits:
 - Sportsmanship
 - High moral and ethical character
 - Careful and humane treatment of animal
 - Understanding of the sport of rodeo
 - Ability to speak intelligently, with dignity and sincerity to explain and sell rodeo to anyone; even someone who knows nothing about the sport
 - Willingness to travel
4. Interest in furthering her chosen career through higher education and special training
5. Appreciation for the rewards she receives and the value of the many sponsors of the Durango Fiesta Days Royalty contest and rodeo

Royalty Mission Statement: Promoting Rodeo and the Traditional Values of the Western way of Life, while helping young women reach their goals!

Official Rules and Regulations

Contest eligibility requirements

1. Ages requirements
 - Queen: 16-21
 - Princess: 12-15
 - Junior Princess: 8-11
2. Contestant must sign contract and have a parent or legal guardian signature
3. Must sign liability waiver
4. Must agree to comply with all contest rules as established by the Durango Fiesta Days coordinator and Durango Fiesta Days Rodeo committee.
5. May not hold another title
6. Siblings may not run in the same category
7. Girls competing can live within a 60 mile radius of Durango, but there will no excuse for not making requirements do to distance
 - Any problems or complaints are to be referred immediately to the Durango Fiesta Days coordinator. Breaking any rules and/or conduct unbecoming Durango Fiesta Days Royalty by a contestant may lead to disqualification from the contest.

Royalty Contest

1. A \$25.00 entry fee is required for the royalty contest. This fee must be paid by certified check or money order.
2. All entry application must be posted marked by the deadline date given on application.
 - Send Application to...
Fiesta Days PO Box 1295 Durango,CO 81302
3. The Durango Fiesta Days royalty contest will be held in July. Contestants will be judged in personality, appearance, horsemanship, and rodeo knowledge. Speech topic will be given on the application. A test will also be given during the contest. A complete schedule of events will be given to every contestant and parents before the contest.
4. Each contestant must bring her own horse and riding equipment, which may be borrowed.
 - Animal head gear must meet American Quarter Horse Association rules
 - A tie-down may be used
 - Spurs may be used

Coronation

1. The coronation will be held on the Sunday of Durango Fiesta Days celebration during the last rodeo.
2. After being crowned the new royalty will perform and assist in Durango Fiesta Days last rodeo held on Sunday.
3. The winner for Queen, Princess and Jr. Princess will be required to sign a Durango Fiesta Days Royalty contract.
4. There will be first runners up to the winner. The runner up will have a few requirements to help out during the Durango Fiesta Days rodeo /entire reign.
5. Should any member of the new royalty be unable to complete her reign, the title will automatically be relinquished and the crown and all awards and benefits derived from the contest must be forfeited and returned.

Judging

All Judges are carefully selected and are invited to judge this contest because of their ability and expertise. The Judges will be instructed to visit with all contestants as much as possible in order to get to know them.

Should a judge be approached by any contestants family, friends, or others whose intent is to influence or harass, that judge will report the contact to the royalty coordinator and corrective action will be taken.

As in all competition, whether it is a royalty contest or a game of sport, there can be only one first place winner. However everyone who participates is a winner and an enriched individual because of the experience. In this instance, each contestant can do much in her own area to promote “The Sport of Rodeo” and to create future interest in Durango Fiesta Days Royalty.

Clothing

This is not a clothes contest; however, contestants are expected with few expectations, to be in full western dress at all times while on royalty duties.

Wardrobe is as followed for the competition:

- Horsemanship: Black hat, White button up shirt, pressed blue jeans, Black belt, black boots, minimal jewelry nothing blingy
- Flag run/ Queens run: Fun flashy/ blingy arena outfit
- Lunch and interview: Western jeans and shirt/ Western dress or skirt and jacket
- Modeling-Speech and Impromptu: Western dress or skirt and Jacket (can have bling) / outfit from sponsor

Parents, Relatives, and Friends

The Durango Fiesta Days Royalty contest welcomes and encourages the presence and support of parents, relatives, and friends.

Parents may be allowed to assist their daughter change outfits and freshen up throughout the day. Princess and Jr. Princess Contestants may also have assistant with preparing their horse for horsemanship and unsaddling afterward.

While girls are competing parents, relatives, and friends should please stay out of the way.

Durango Fiesta Days Royalty Divisions

The Judges for this contest are instructed that the type of girls the Durango Fiesta Days Royalty seeks is one who exemplifies:

- Sincerity
- Integrity
- Intelligence
- High moral standards
- Maturity
- Attractiveness
- Public speaking ability
- Horsemanship ability
- Knowledge of New Mexico Rodeo Association and Pro Rodeo
- Knowledge of current events

Appearance

The aim of this judging division is to select the girl who rates the highest in grooming, photogenic quality, posture, poise, fashion sense and who reflects a western image.

Judges will be looking for neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, hair, hat, boots, and other wearing apparel.

The Judges will determine photogenic quality from the pictures taken during the contest by our sponsor photographer Stacey Hamer Photography.

Poise and ladylike behavior in every situation will be final consideration in this category.

Personality

The aim of this judging division is to select the girl who rates the highest intelligence (good common sense), education, conversational ability, sense of humor, genuine interest in other people and a noticeable consideration of others, projection, showmanship, and a happy outlook on life in general.

Showmanship is defined as being about to present oneself, while projection is the ability to project one's personality whether it be from horseback in the arena, on television, radio, or before an audience.

Question asked by the judges in the division will pertain to the sport of rodeo, current events, and personal interests.

Horsemanship

The aim of this judging division is to select the girl who rates the highest in riding ability (control and the way each situation is handled), mounting, dismounting, balance and position of hands, feet, and seat. The horse will not be judged- only the contestant's ability and skill. Judges are allowed to ask to see the queen contestants saddle their own horses.

The patterns used in horsemanship will be provided to contestants. The queen contestants will receive her pattern 15 minutes before horsemanship. They will have the 15 minutes to review the pattern before horsemanship begins. The princess contestants will receive two patterns before the contest. She will be allowed to practice and memorize both patterns before the contest. One of the two patterns will be randomly drawn before horsemanship. Whichever pattern is drawn will be the pattern the princess contestants will use. The Junior Princess contestants will receive their pattern before the contest, which they will be allowed to practice and memorize. These patterns will be given out at the parent meeting.

The girls will also be doing a flag run/with a possible mock grand entry, queen run and some cattle work.

Other categories

Photogenic's- will not go into the final tally of the scores, it is judged separate.

Written Test- given the night of the parents meeting. The test covers, general rodeo information, Durango Fiesta Days history and information and, horse knowledge.

Miss Congeniality- Voted on by all the contestants, not in the final judges score.

Specific Rules of Conduct for Durango Fiesta Days Royalty

Durango Fiesta Days Royalty is constantly in the public eye. It is every royalty member's responsibility to uphold and maintain an upstanding image.

These rules listed in this booklet should be followed at all times. This is true even when the royalty is not attending an official function. People associate her (even on facebook or myspace) with the title during her reign and failure to follow rule could result in a loss of the title.

Durango Fiesta Days Royalty must wear crown, banner, royalty belt buckle and western attire whenever serving in the capacity of Durango Fiesta Days Royalty and Durango Fiesta Days Rodeo.

With regards to attitude, each girl should represent a pleasant personality and be willing to help in any way that will better promote the Four Corners, Durango, rodeo, and most important Durango Fiesta Days. It is each girl's responsibility to answer questions about rodeo, Fiesta Days, etc. It may be repetitive, but it is part of the role and job of being rodeo royalty.

Shall any royalty member be unable to make any event during their rein; they must have it approved by the royalty coordinator. It is understandable that things will come up in life, but when taking on the title it is the girl's responsibility to show up to every mandatory event.

As mentioned earlier, Durango Fiesta Days Royalty is constantly in the public eye. It is of utmost importance for each girl to look her best at all times. Appearance not only reflects how she feels about herself, but also about the title. Three areas stressed are posture, make-up (for older girls), and grooming.

Here are some additional pointers for appearance...

Hat: It should be appropriately shaped for the individual's face. No straw hats are to be worn. Black felt hats are required; you may wear a white, silver-belly, gray, brown or tan hat if it matches your outfit.

Boots: They should be kept clean and polished. No laces up boots are allowed at any time. No Roper riding boots should be worn with a dress or skirt, only dress boots with a heel should be worn with a dress or skirt. Boots should coordinate with outfits.

Pants: They should enhance the figure by being neither too tight or too baggy. Colored jeans may be worn. Jeans should always be pressed.

Shirts: Shirts should be long-sleeved, form fitting, and have tails tucked in and be appropriately modest. Shirts should always be pressed.

Jewelry: Should be appropriate for the occasion.

Being Durango Fiesta Days Royalty is an honor and takes a lot of dedication and time. There are five areas with specific rules that should always be followed.

Boyfriend: There shall be no outward display of affection, i.e., kissing, hugging, holding hands, etc., and no presence of a boyfriend when acting in an official capacity as Durango Fiesta Days Royalty.

Alcohol: None allowed.

Tobacco: No smoking or chewing allowed

Durango Fiesta Days Royalty

For further information contact:

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