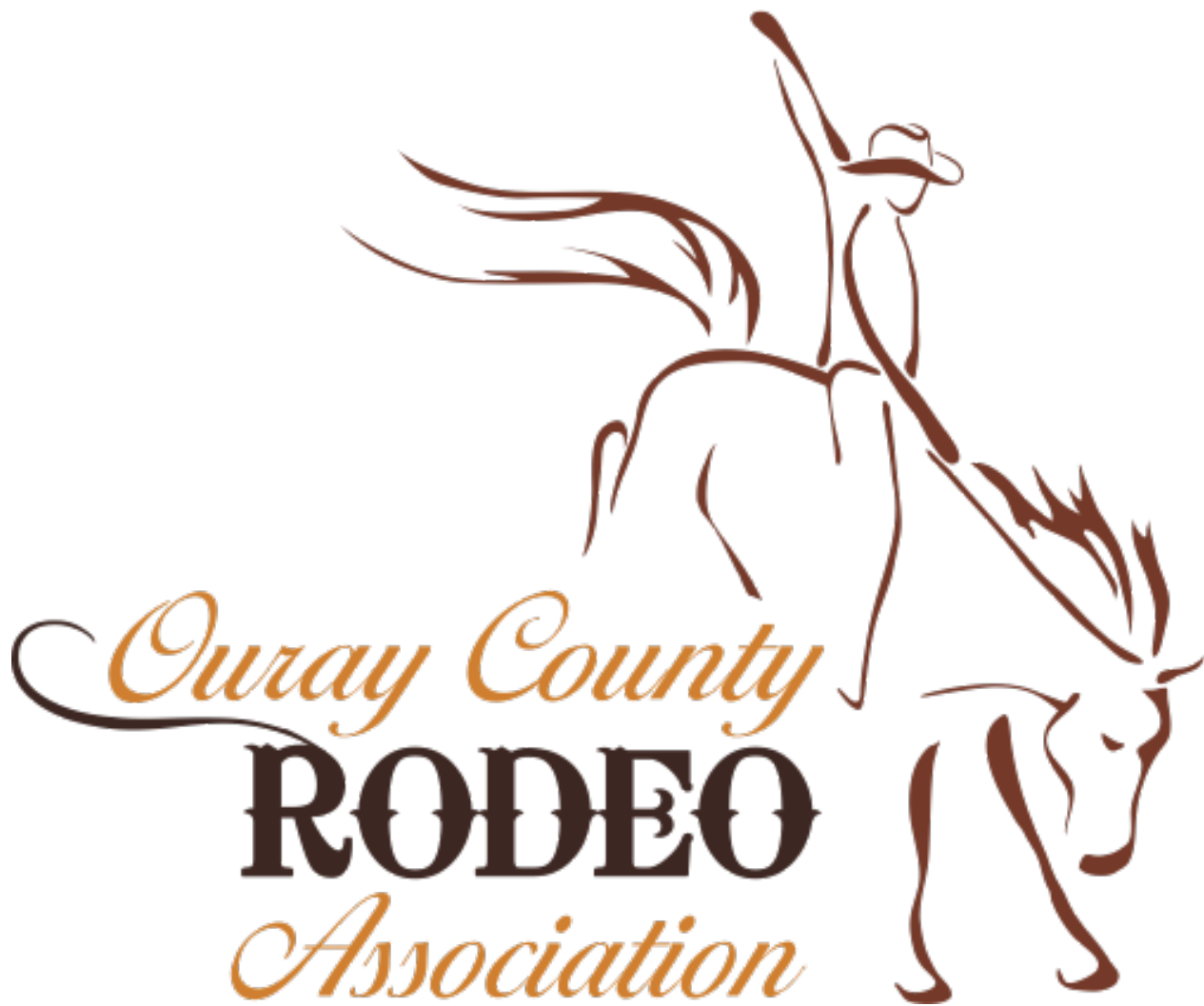




**Royalty
Handbook
2026-2027**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

ROYALTY REQUIRMENTS

ROYALTY CODE OF CONDUCT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

ROYALTY TRYOUTS

AGREEMENT SIGNATURE PAGE

The OCRA Board will annually, or otherwise if necessary, review, revise and update the Royalty Handbook. After approval of changes, all previous handbooks will be null and void.

INTRODUCTION

The goals of the Ouray County Rodeo Association Royalty are to provide young women in Ouray County with opportunities to develop leadership skills, to endorse the Ouray County Rodeo Association (OCRA) Rodeo, to promote the heritage of Ouray County and to celebrate the western way of life.

To hold the titles of OCRA Queen and Princess is not only an honor, but also a privilege. This handbook provides a set of guidelines for the Royalty to assist them in successfully fulfilling their roles as OCRA Royalty.

ROYALTY REQUIREMENTS:

The OCRA Queen and Princess are positions with many responsibilities. Those who hold these titles must fulfill the following requirements:

- Queen contestants must be female, at least 14 years old by January 1st of the current year and must not have reached their 19th birthday as of January 1st of the current year.
- Princess contestants must be female, at least 9 years old by January 1st of the current year and must not have reached their 14th birthday as of January 1st of the current year.
- Family must be a member of the Ouray County Rodeo Association.
 - Families may become members prior or after to the tryouts beginning for a membership fee of \$20
- Must positively represent Ouray County Rodeo Association at all times.
- Must conduct themselves professionally and as positive role models in all situations, public and private.
- Must have a strong commitment to the OCRA Rodeo.
- Must own/lease horse(s) to be used during entire reign and royalty tryouts. Must furnish own tack and horse transportation.
- Must be congenial with everyone and supportive of each other at all times
- Must be never married / unmarried, be without dependents and remain unmarried and childless during their reign.
- Must have a deep appreciation for the western way of life.
- Must adhere to the responsibilities, requirements and conduct included in this handbook.
- Must not be rodeo royalty of another county during the term of this reign. May not compete for “Queen” or “Princess” if they served as that position the previous year. Any “Attendant” position may tryout the following year. Any questions concerning eligibility shall be decided by the Ouray County Rodeo Association and not subject to appeal.
- Be available for all required attended events deemed by the OCRA board. An unexcused absence from required events will result in disciplinary action.
- The reign of the Royalty will start at the Ouray County Labor Day Rodeo in September and end the following year at the Labor Day Rodeo.
- The Queen and Princess will introduce themselves to the OCRA Board at the first Board meeting immediately following the coronation.

ROYALTY PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The parents or guardians of the applicant shall also sign the application for Royalty if she is under the age of 18 to ensure their knowledge of the expectations of the position. Parents or guardians provide essential guidance as members of the support team; however, the intent of the program is to provide the Royalty with opportunities to develop their decision-making and leadership qualities. We appreciate parents supporting their youth in royalty positions!

ROYALTY COORDINATOR DESCRIPTION

The OCRA delegates authority to the Royalty Committee to oversee the current year's Royalty activities as approved by the OCRA board. The Committee will work as a liaison between the royalty and OCRA board. The Committee will organize royalty try-outs, appearances and this handbook.

ROYALTY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Demonstrate hard work, respect and dedication to the OCRA rodeo and Western way of life.
- Always represent OCRA in an appropriate manner at all times. You are a representative of the Ouray County Rodeo Association. Behave in a polite and gracious manner at all times. Arguing with anyone, including parents and siblings, yelling in anger and "goofing off" inappropriately are unacceptable behaviors. Remember that the public recognizes you as an official representative of an important organization. Your character and actions must be exemplary! Being Ouray County Royalty is an honor!
- ALWAYS wear the designated attire (royalty dress code) when representing the Ouray County Rodeo. Royalty dress code includes boots, hat with crown, belt buckle, western shirt, western jeans and royalty chaps (when appropriate).
- Publicity:
The Royalty, dressed in royal attire (see above) must be available for public appearances, media interviews and promoting the OCRA rodeo. ALL appearances MUST be approved by the royalty coordinator/OCRA board. Representing OCRA without prior approval will result in disciplinary action. Royalty will be required to participate in the following events.
 - Ride in the Grand Entry of the Ouray County Labor Day Rodeo events
 - Ride in the Labor Day Parade in Ridgway
 - Ride in the 4th of July Parade in Ouray
 - Attend and ride in at least two other Rodeos – so long as they are welcoming visiting royalty
 - Participate in a community service project
- For each OCRA rodeo performance, the Queen will be the informant to the announcer of visiting royalty. It is her responsibility to present, in writing, the visiting royalty biographies.
- You shall not participate in any open display of affection with a significant partner or other while representing the Ouray County Rodeo. This includes kissing, handholding, sitting on laps, etc.
- Remember, you are always in the public eye, even when not in official attire. Swearing, smoking of any substance, chewing tobacco, or drinking alcoholic beverages is inappropriate.
- Use of a cell phone during an official event is prohibited. These tools are for emergency or appropriate/necessary communication only.
- You are to handle your horse as a skilled horsewoman. The display of anger toward your horse is unacceptable.
- The Queen will be responsible for updating & posting necessary notices to the Royalty Facebook page. All Social media must be appropriate and well-represent OCRA.
- Upon the event in which any elected Royalty is unable to fulfill her duties, a resignation letter will be given to the OCRA Board. If she resigns or her term is ended by the OCRA Board the items provided by the OCRA Board will be returned.

HORSES & HORSEMANSHIP

- Royalty members must ride a suitable, well trained, under-control mount.
- YOU AND YOUR MOUNT MUST ALWAYS BE NEAT AND WELL GROOMED. Your horse and tack should be well cared for and be a proud display for Ouray Royalty.
- Horses exhibiting jumpy or spooky behavior in crowds or at other times are unsafe and unfit for use at royalty events. OCRA Board and Royalty Coordinator shall decide if a horse is unsafe and may require the Royalty to find a suitable replacement.
- The rider must always demonstrate control in any situation.
- The Royalty Committee and OCRA Board absolutely prohibit the display of anger or any abusive behavior in the handling of a horse by any person.
- Royalty and those handling royalty horses will be required to wear appropriate horse attire when working with and around horses during public events.
- The horse must have proper farrier care, current vaccines, deworming, coggins, and brand inspection for travel. Must follow all state and federal regulations for transporting livestock.
- Conduct not in keeping with these standards will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Absolutely no solicitation will be allowed without consent of the Royalty Coordinator or OCRA Board. Absolutely no individual fundraising will be permitted, failure to report funds donated with result in dismissal.
- The Royalty Committee may allocate financial support from the OCRA Board for parades, travel costs, supplies needed for official appearances, and association dues as applicable. The Royalty Committee must approve such expenditures through the OCRA Board in advance of purchase.
- The Royalty Committee will provide the OCRA Board a monthly account of spending.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

- Royalty must cooperate completely with the Royalty Committee and the OCRA Board. Royalty must adhere to requirements listed in this handbook. Uncooperative Royalty members will face disciplinary action. Any Royalty member who cannot abide by these rules may be asked to relinquish her crown, belt buckle and appropriate clothing items at the discretion of the Royalty Committee and the OCRA Board. Following an investigation of any possible rule violation and/or misconduct, the OCRA Board will take appropriate disciplinary action which may include written reprimand, suspension from OCRA Rodeo related activities and/or immediate dismissal and removal of title from of an individual.
- The Disciplinary Process is conducted by the Ouray County Rodeo Association. Any member of the board has the authority to carry out the Disciplinary Process as described below.
 1. First violation will be treated with a Verbal Warning.
 2. The next violation will be treated with Written Documentation and Dismissal from the event.
 - Dismissal is defined as being removed from the event.
 3. If repeat violations continue the violator will be indefinitely dismissed from the Ouray County Rodeo Royalty.
 4. Appeals to any decision made can be made to the Ouray County Rodeo Association Board.
 5. Failure to sign this agreement will result in your automatic removal from participating in the Ouray County Rodeo Association's Royalty.

ROYALTY TRYOUTS

- Judges may not be approached by members of families or advocates for specific contestants before, during or after the contest. The decision of the Contest Judges is final and not subject to appeal.
- If the contestant does not have health insurance, Parents/Guardians will be responsible for health care expenses. There is no insurance covering the Royalty.
- The contestants and their Parents/Guardians must sign all rules and the original copy returned to a OCRA board member.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Each judge will rate contestants from 1 (low) to 10 (high) in each of the following categories.

- Horsemanship
 - gallop once around arena carrying flag
 - gallop once around arena doing “queen wave” then join contestant line-up
 - perform horsemanship pattern
 - dismount and answer questions from each judge
 - mount and rejoin contestant line-up
 - overall horse control
- Personality
 - demonstrate friendly demeanor
 - ability to speak well
- Speech (limited to 5 minutes)
- Knowledge
 - Equine Tack
 - Equine Anatomy and Wellness
 - Rodeo Events
- Appearance
 - contestant
 - horse and tack clean and well-groomed
 - present a Western appearance
 - use of appropriate tack

STUDY GUIDE

- What is the job of rodeo royalty?
- Be able to name some of the major sponsors of the OCRA Rodeo.
- Know the history of the Ouray County Rodeo.
- Where is the Ouray County Rodeo?
- Know your horse’s health program, veterinary, farrier, etc.
- Know parts of the horse and tack.

Ouray County Rodeo Association
Royalty Handbook Agreement

I have read the Ouray County Rodeo Association Royalty Handbook and agree to abide by these rules and guidelines.

Contestant Printed Name

Contestant Signature

Date

As Parent or Guardian of a minor under age 18, I agree that I have read the Ouray County Rodeo Association Royalty Handbook and agree to abide by these rules and guidelines.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, RELEASE AND WAIVER
OF LIABILITY FOR OURAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
& OURAY COUNTY RODEO ASSOCIATION
PARTICIPANTS FOR THE OURAY COUNTY RODEO**

This release of liability is applicable to the undersigned participant's use of the Ouray County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds parcel includes, but is not limited to: outdoor arena, stalls, race track, and 4-H buildings (Event Center), grandstands, 4-H barn and parking areas.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that Ouray County, Colorado, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, and the Ouray County Rodeo Association, entity sponsoring the Ouray County Rodeo at the Ouray County Fairgrounds, may not have liability insurance coverage for the events at the Fairgrounds involving the participant.

The undersigned specifically acknowledges and understands that neither Ouray County, Colorado, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, nor the Ouray County Rodeo Association, that the undersigned is participating in, will maintain medical insurance or cover any injuries or harm that the undersigned may incur while participating in, or as a result of, the event.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that his or her participation in activities on the Ouray County Fairgrounds involve a potential risk of physical injury or damage to himself or herself and/or his or her animal(s). In consideration for being permitted to use the Fairgrounds and participating in events occurring herein, the undersigned does hereby release, save and hold harmless all events sponsors, Ouray County, Colorado, The Town of Ridgway, Colorado, and the Ouray County Rodeo Association, its officials, agents, and employees, from and against any and all liability, claims, injuries, damage, loss or injury to the participant or the participants' property, including animal(s), while upon the Ouray County Fairgrounds, whether or not such loss, damage, or injury results from the negligent acts and/or omissions of an event sponsor, Ouray County, Town of Ridgway, and the Ouray County Rodeo Association, their officers, agents, servants, employees, public officials, representatives or contractors from some other cause.

Nothing stated herein is intended or not shall be interpreted as diminishing or otherwise affecting any statutory or common law protections or immunity that Ouray County may otherwise enjoy, including, but not limited to the governmental immunities, limitations and protections provide by current laws.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Print Name - Legal Guardian: _____

Signature – Legal Guardian: _____
