

Royalty Handbook

2024- 2026

INTRODUCTION

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

ROYALTY REQUIREMENTS:

The requirements of these positions are as follows:

- 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 10 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 - the family must join ASAP.
- Must positively represent Ouray County Rodeo Association at all times. Must conduct themselves professionally and as a positive role model in all situations, public and private.
- Must own the horse to be used during the entire reign and royalty tryouts. Must furnish your own tack and transportation.
- Must be congenial with everyone and supportive of each other at all times
- Must be single, never married, be without dependents and remain single and childless during their reign.
- 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 have served as Ouray County Royalty for the same title the most recent past 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 a required event will result in disciplinary action.
- The reign of the Royalty will start at the Labor Day Rodeo in September and conclude at the Labor Day Rodeo the following year. The official coronation of the Royalty will be during 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

The parents or guardians of the applicant shall also sign the application for Royalty to ensure their knowledge of the expectations of the position. Parents provide essential guidance in ensuring the Royalty member meets the requirements, including fundraising. While the parents provide this essential guidance, the intent of the program is to provide the Royalty members with the opportunities to develop decision making, leadership and public presentation skills.

ROYALTY COORDINATOR DESCRIPTION

The OCRA delegates authority to the Royalty Coordinator (if one is present) to oversee the Royalty team's activities as approved by the OCRA board. The coordinator will work as a liaison between the Royalty Team and OCRA board. The coordinator 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 OCRA. Behave in a polite and gracious manner at all times. You must be kind, friendly, smiling and supportive of each other (Royalty Team Members) and helpful to others. Arguing with anyone, including parents and siblings, yelling in anger and "goofing off" are unacceptable behaviors. Remember that the public recognizes you as an official representative of the rodeo organization. Your character and actions must be exemplary!
- ALWAYS wear the designated attire (royalty dress code) when representing the Ouray County Rodeo. Royalty dress code includes cowboy boots, cowboy hat with crown, belt buckle, western shirt, western jeans and royalty chaps/sash (when appropriate).
- The Royalty Team, dressed in royal attire (see above) must be available for public appearances, media interviews and promoting the OCRA rodeo. Members of the Royalty Team are always in the public eye, even when not in official attire. Swearing, rude behavior, smoking of any substance, chewing tobacco, or drinking alcoholic beverages is inappropriate. 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. To do so, will result in disciplinary action.
- ALL appearances MUST be approved by the royalty coordinator prior to attendance. Representing OCRA without prior approval will result in disciplinary action.
- At rodeo performances, the Queen will be the informant to the announcer of visiting royalty. It is her responsibility to present, in writing, the visiting royalty biographies.
- Use of a cell phone during an official event is prohibited. These tools are for emergency/necessary communication only.
- You are to handle your horse as a skilled horsewoman. The display of anger toward your horse is unacceptable and will result in the immediate removal from the event.
- When any member of the OCRA Royalty is unable to fulfill her duties, a resignation letter must be given to the OCRA Board. If she resigns or her term is ended by the OCRA Board, the items provided by the OCRA will be returned (sash, chaps and etc)

- Royalty Team Members will be required to participate in the following events.
 - o Ride in the Grand Entry of the Ouray County Labor Day Rodeo
 - o Ride in the Labor Day Parade in Ridgway
 - o Ride in the 4th of July Parade in Ouray
 - o Participate in a Ouray County Community service project(s)
 - o To attend at least 3 (three) Ridgway Gymkhanas Series events
 - o Represent and promote OCRA in at least 2 other rodeo events (e.g. Montrose Rodeo, Delta Rodeo, San Miguel Rodeo, etc)
 - o Assist with the Annual OCRA Fundraiser in June

HORSES & HORSEMANSHIP

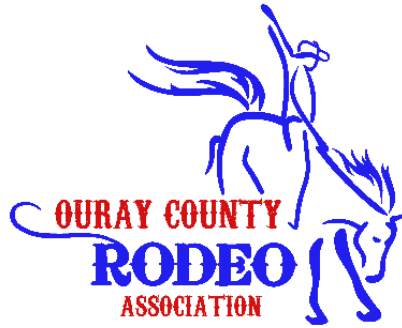
- The OCRA Royalty must compete in the royalty try-out competition on the same horse that they intend on using for their year reign as a Royalty member. To lease or borrow a horse for the Royalty try-out competition only is NOT allowed.
- Royalty members must ride a suitable mount, no studs will be allowed.
- You, your horse, your tack must always be neat and well cared for.
- Horses exhibiting jumpy or spooky behavior in crowds or at other times are unsafe and unfit for use. OCRA Board and Royalty Coordinator shall decide if a horse is unsafe and may require the Royalty Team Member to find a suitable replacement.
- The rider must always demonstrate control in any situation, riding single-handed.
- 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

- The Royalty Team Members are required to plan and execute one or more fundraising events in order to replenish the royalty fund. Absolutely no solicitation will be allowed without consent of the Royalty Coordinator.. Absolutely no individual fundraising will be permitted, failure to report funds donated will result in immediate dismissal.
- Each royalty member is required to solicit and collect \$250 prior to June 15th of their reigning year.
- Additionally, The Royalty Coordinator may allocate financial support from the OCRA Board for luncheons, parades, travel costs, supplies needed for official appearances, and association dues as needed.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

- The Royalty members must cooperate completely with the Royalty Coordinator 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 will be asked to relinquish her crown, belt buckle and any other item gifted by the OCRA at the discretion of the Royalty Coordinator 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 any Royalty member.
- The Disciplinary Process is conducted by the Ouray County Rodeo Association Board of Directors. Any member of the Board has the authority to carry out the Disciplinary Process as described below:
 - First violation = Verbal Warning
 - Second violation = Written Warning and Dismissal from the event, if appropriate
 - Third violation = Indefinite Dismissal from the Ouray County Rodeo Royalty
- Appeals to any decision made can be made to the Ouray County Rodeo Association Board of Directors at a publicly noticed meeting.



Royalty Handbook Agreement

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

Royalty Member Printed Name

Royalty Member Signature

Date

As Parent/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 its rules.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

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, 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 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 provided by current laws.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Print Name - Legal Guardian: _____

Signature – Legal Guardian: _____
