



MEDICINE HAT EXHIBITION
& STAMPEDE

2026

ROYALTY COMPETITION
PACKAGE



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MEDICINE HAT EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE QUEEN CONTEST

The Queen Contest is an event that provides a platform for the fair and equitable selection of an ambassador for The Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede and The City of Medicine Hat. The contest occurs two weeks prior to the annual stampede. The Contestants play an important role in the promotion of the upcoming annual stampede and the sport of professional rodeo.

The Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Queen Committee are active volunteers on a year-round basis. This committee oversees all aspect of the contest and the program throughout the Royalty's reign. The committee is responsible each year for receiving the Contestant's application forms and determining the eligibility of each contestant.

The contest is capped to the first 8 eligible entries

ELIGIBILITY

As a Contestant, you agree to meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a female, aged 18 to 24 years (as of January 1st of the current year of the competition)
2. Never been married, pregnant, nor had a child or living common law.
3. Must agree not to marry during your one-year reign (from the crowning July of current year to the following July)
4. Must be a Canadian Citizen and eligible to acquire a Canadian passport.
5. Must be a resident of the Medicine Hat area (175 km from City Center) for one year prior to competition. Exception being, raised in the area but away for the past year due to educational reasons, health or job related.
6. Must agree to live within a 175 km of Medicine Hat (city center) during the year of your reign.
7. You must have a current/valid driver's license, or a legal form of picture identification.
8. Must not have a criminal record and must consent to a security check.

Awards

To excel, to be the best one can be, regardless of the goal is an achievement itself. In addition to being crowned as Royalty, there are certain outstanding achievements that the Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede and the Queen Committee recognize.

The Contestant who has accumulated the highest number of points in all the judged events and activities in association with the contest becomes the new Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Royalty. At the crowning reception, the winner – will be awarded her crown, saddle, buckle, gifts and is eligible for a \$2000.00 Medicine Hat College scholarship.

HORSEMANSHIP COMPETITION

The Horsemanship Award is awarded to the contestant who has accumulated the most points from the Horsemanship section of the competition.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The winner of the Public Speaking Award will have accumulated the most points from the prepared speech and impromptu questions at the Public Speaking Reception and impromptu questions during the contest.

Personality

The Personality Award will be given to the contestant with the highest amount of Public Relations Points.



Appearance begins with a foundation of good nutrition, a healthy lifestyle, and a positive attitude. Contestants should disclose any medical concerns or conditions on their application forms, to ensure full transparency with the Queen Committee who oversee safety and well-being.

The competition schedule includes a minimum of two meals per day, which is crucial for maintaining energy levels throughout this demanding time period. Contestants should take their nutrition, hydration, sleep, hygiene seriously to maintain optimal well being.

As Contestants and Royalty travel, packing light is essential and selecting versatile outfits that can transition between different occasions. There may be limited opportunities to change throughout the day. Remember, it's not about the flashiest or most expensive clothes, but rather about how confidently and elegantly you wear your wardrobe. Mixing and matching clothing items is encouraged to create a range of looks without over packing.

Please coordinate with your committee chaperone and refer to the event schedule, as there will be times when returning to the Stampede Grounds to change may not be feasible until late in the day or before another event. Plan to dress for the entire day whenever possible, as bringing additional clothing bags is not an option.

For **Personal Interviews**, judges will ask thoughtful and serious questions. Your attire should reflect professionalism, so ensure your clothes fit well and are appropriate for a business-like setting. Avoid flashy or distracting elements like sequins, metallic fabrics, or overly bold colors. Makeup should be subtle, and the overall look should remain polished, with a western flair.

Make-up – Tips:

- Wash with warm water
- Remove eye make-up with proper remover
- Use freshener
- Use moisturizer
- Use foundation, set with powder
- Use eye shadow – set with powder
- Eyebrows tweezed
- Use 2 coats of mascara

There are lots of professional products and places to get make-up advice, just do not overdo it.

(Continued...next page)

Clothes – Tips:

- Fit is important
- Skirt length should cover boot top
- Sleeve length to wrist, cuffed are not mandatory when not outlined
- Style to suit body type
- Hat brushed and properly shaped
- No low back or open back blouses
- Polish and clean boots
- Polish and wear appropriate jewelry
- Remember your posture and SMILE!



Although the following tips are common etiquette in day-to-day living, they are worth mentioning and given the profile this program receives. This includes all that are involved with Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Queen Competition.

Table Manners – Tips:

- Elbows do not belong on the table
- Napkins belong on your lap
- Ask for items to be passed to you, refrain from reaching
- Wait until others are ready to eat, do not “dig in”
- You are a guest, please be polite to your hosts and servers. Refrain from complaining

General Manners – Tips:

- Plan ahead to avoid being late (expectation is to arrive 10-15 minutes before the scheduled event)
- Hold doors open for others
- Remember “please” and “thank you”
- Maintain good grammar and clean language
- Refrain from participating in gossip and perpetuating rumors
- Be friendly with people



- If there are 5 contestants – points will be given from 5 to 1 (5 being the most desirable at the task to 1 being the least desirable at the task)
- In the event there is a tie in points, it will be split between the contestants. (Example: Contestant 1 and 2 both get 100% on their rodeo exam and these are the top marks. Each contestant would receive 4.5 points for their score instead of each getting 5 points.)
- At the end of the competition, ALL MARKS will be tallied for each contestant. The total personality score will make up **50%** of the contestants final score, while the horsemanship score will represent **30%** and the speech night score will represent the remaining **20%** of the final score. The contestant with the highest total score will be crowned Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Rodeo.
- For the Public Speaking Award, the contestant with the highest TOTAL Speech Night Score Only (Prepared Speech and Impromptu Questions) will receive the award.
- For the Horsemanship Award(s), the contestant with the highest TOTAL Horsemanship Score Only will receive the award.
- In the event there is a tie in points – the winner will be determined by the contestant who had the most 5-point finishes. If a tie still exists, then the one with the most 4 point or higher finishes etc.



Personal Interview Points

Contestants will have a series of questions and will be scored on the following:

- Knowledge and ability to answer the question effectively
- Effective communications skills and eye contact
- Passion and enthusiasm of the Royalty role or program
- Leadership qualities

Horsemanship Points

Contestants will be scored on the following:

- Rodeo Exam
- Appearance & Knowledge
- Presentation Ride
- Western Equitation
- Trail
- Barrels
- Pushing Stock
- Serpentine
- Impromptu Questions

Speech Night Points

Contestants will be scored on the following:

- Prepared Speech
- Common Question
- Impromptu Questions

Personality Points

[see all scoring criteria on next page]

Contestants at the end of each day will be scored on the following:

- Overall attitude during the day's activities
- Willingness to participate in day's activities
- Effort and interaction with contestants, community and committee



The following items will be taken into consideration when being judge on the personality portion:

1. **Attitude**

- Respectful
- Positive
- Cooperative
- Polite
- Caring
- Honest and sincere
- Friendly
- Diplomatic

Communication Skills

- Clear and concise
- Active listener
- Assertiveness

Appearance

- Positive Self Image – confident and makes no excuses
- Physical Presentation – total package
- Neatness – clean, tidy, crisp
- Smile – frequency, radiance

Leadership

- One time & punctual
- Volunteers
- Takes charge when needed
- Confident in abilities



All marks are added to the overall competition to choose the new
Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Royalty

The rodeo exam will incorporate general knowledge of the rodeo world, with questions from C.P.R.A. rules, Canadian Rodeo News, and the Medicine Hat and Exhibition & Stampede events schedule, history and all personnel. It will also have general knowledge of tack, horse care, anatomy and general horse questions.

- No materials are permitted in the test room; all paper and pens are provided.
- No discussion is permitted during the exam.
- Cheating will result in a mark of zero.
- Questions regarding the test should be brought to the attention of the written test supervisor.

This exam will be prepared and marked by an outside knowledgeable source that is not directly connected to the Queen committee.

The rodeo exam will be part of the Horsemanship Competition mark and it will be considered as an event. The exam will make up 1/9th of the overall mark.



EACH CONTESTANT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE HER OWN HORSE AND TACK.

There are three (3) components to the Horsemanship Competition:

- Horsemanship Competition
- Presentation Ride
- Question and Answer Period

Each contestant will make a presentation ride, participate in a one-day competition, and complete a rodeo exam. The contestant with the highest combined score across all three horsemanship components will be awarded the Horsemanship Award.

Family, friends, rodeo committees, and the general public are all welcome to attend the horsemanship competition

Dress Code: (Subject to change)

- Blue Jeans
- White shirt tucked in, long sleeves, collar
- Hair should be worn in a ponytail or braid
- Cowboy Hat is required
- Spurs are optional
- Scarfs, Vests, Chaps are **Not Permitted**

Judging will take into account:

- Mounting/Dismounting
- Alignment of shoulders, knees, and feet for proper balance
- Ability to cue horse
- General appearance of horse and rider

PRESENTATION RIDE

You are not judged on speed, but on maintaining a fluid ride, proper posture, and personal presentation. Maintaining a fluid lope is a necessity during the presentation ride; it is essential that the contestants understand that they must abide by the following guidelines. Orders of presentation rides are pre-drawn, and revisions will not be considered.

LIVESTOCK HANDLING (SORTING STOCK)

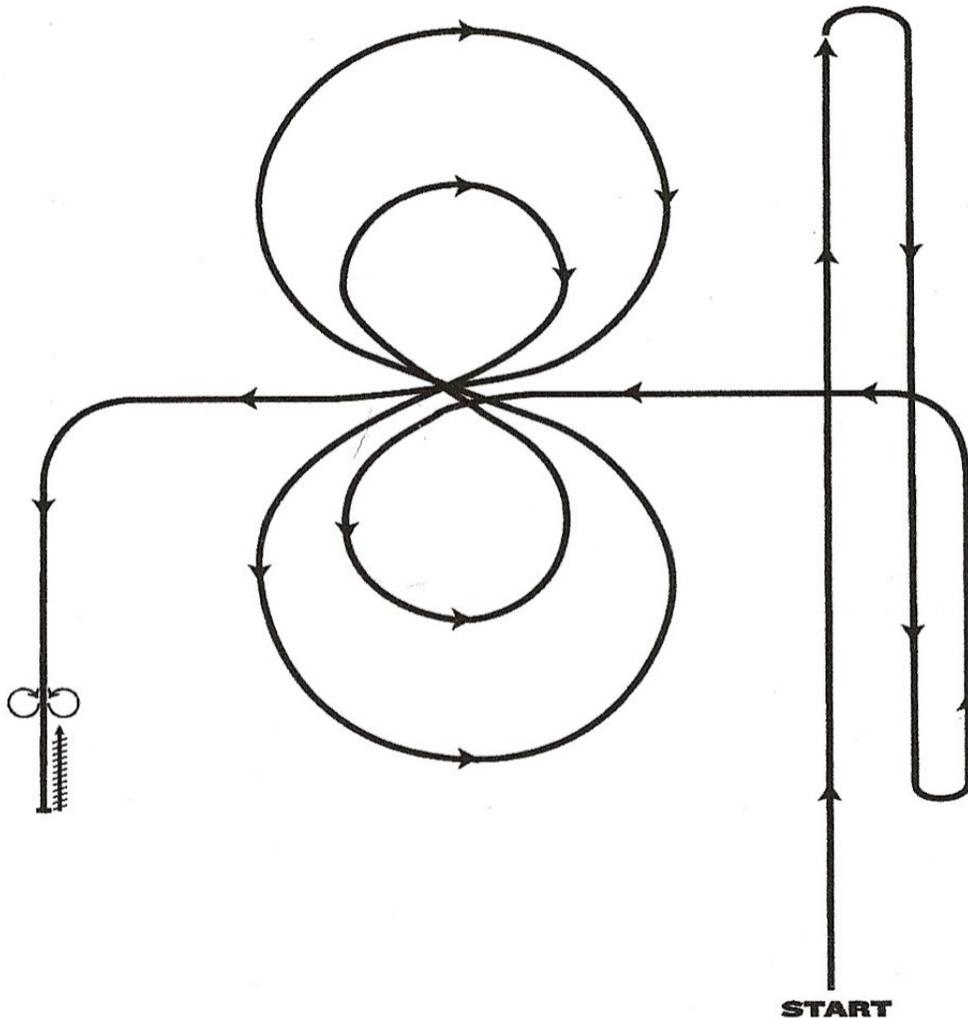
SORT – Several calves, steers or cows will be numbered and positioned at one end of the arena. The contestant will be given a number and they must sort the corresponding cow out of the herd. The cow must be brought up the arena a certain distance and then returned to the herd. Control is of the essence here.

Contestants will be judged in the following areas:

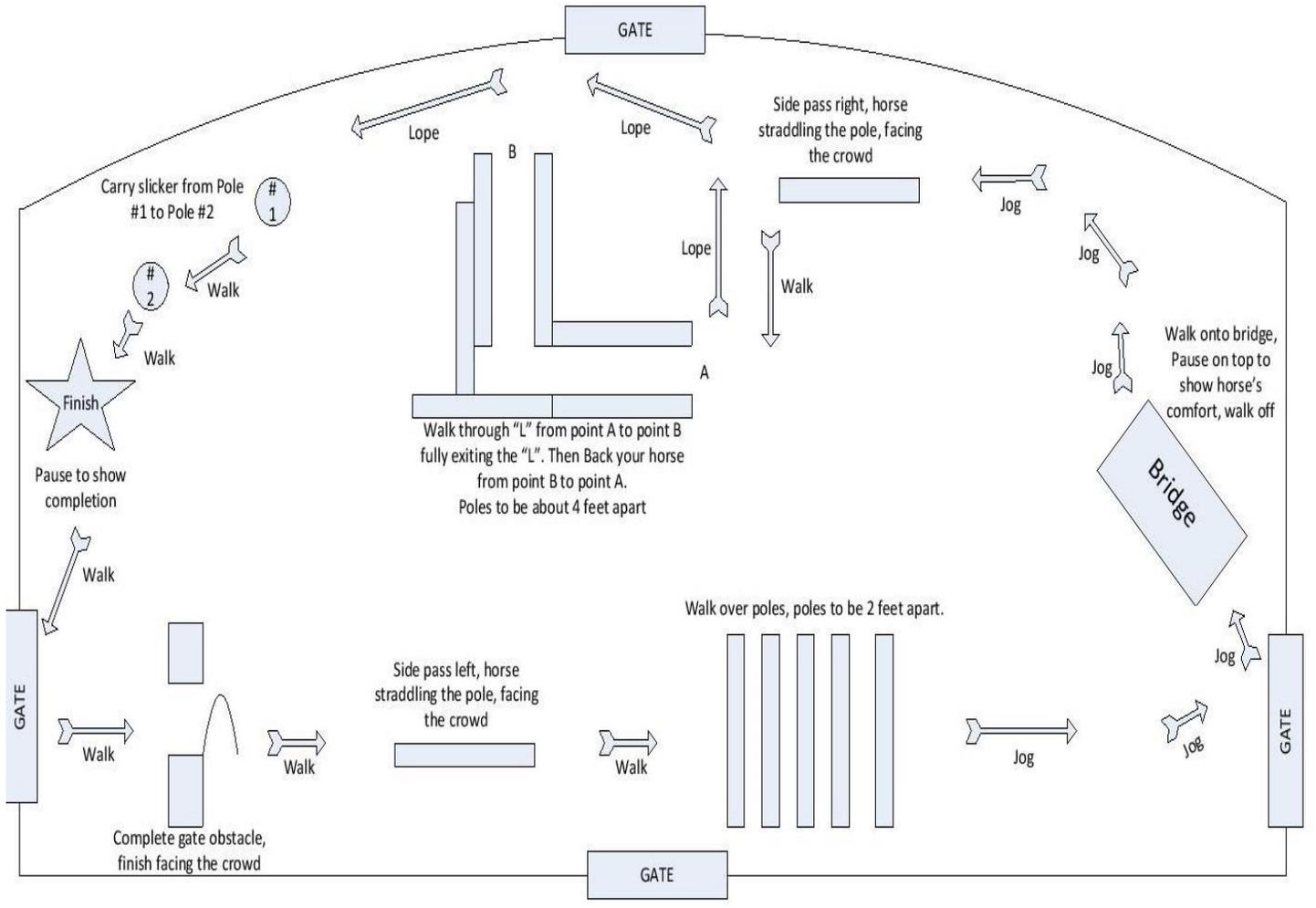
- Appearance & Knowledge
- Presentation Ride
- Western Equitation
- Trail
- Barrels or Pole Bending
- Sorting Stock
- Serpentine
- Impromptu Questions

Western Equitation

1. Start on right side of arena and lope to far end of arena.
2. Sliding stop and rollback to the right. Continue to the other end of arena
3. Sliding stop and rollback to the left. Continue to center of arena.
4. Lope small, slow circle to left. Change leads. Lope right circle with medium speed. Change leads
Lope large fast circle to left. Change leads.
5. Lope large fast circle to right. Change leads.
6. Continue down arena.
7. Sliding stop and back 10 to 15 feet.
8. Do 360-degree spin right or left.
9. Do 360-degree spin opposite direction taken initially.
10. Hesitate to show completion of pattern.



Trail Pattern





1. Judges to meet contestants at the Main Arena at 5:00 pm
2. Unsaddle and saddle horse at the warm-up arena.
3. Main Event Starts at 7 pm in the MHES Arena.
4. Presentation ride – all contestants ride around the arena and then exit.
5. All contestants enter the arena on horse and face the grandstand.
6. Self-Introduction
 - introduce yourself, family and horse that you are riding.
7. All exit.
8. Western Equitation
9. Trail
10. Barrels
11. Pushing or sorting of stock
12. Serpentine with Flags
13. All contestants enter the arena on horse and face the grandstand.
14. Impromptu Questions
15. Final presentation loop and exit arena.
16. Social Gathering in the MHES Banquet Room below the grandstands.

ORDER OF RIDERS WILL BE PRE-DRAWN

ORDER OF RIDERS (BASED ON 5 CONTESTANTS)					
Unsaddle & Saddle	1	2	3	4	5
Western Equitation	2	3	4	5	1
Trail	3	4	5	1	2
Barrels or Pole Bending	4	5	1	2	3
Sorting Stock	5	1	2	3	4
Serpentine with Flags	1	2	3	4	5
Impromptu Question #1	2	3	4	5	1
Impromptu Questions #2	3	4	5	1	2

****BOTH PATTERNS ARE ATTACHED TO PACKAGE FOR PRACTICE PRIOR TO COMPETING
ALLOWING EVERY COMPETITOR TO HAVE THE SAME INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THEM****



There are two (2) components to the Public Speaking Competition:

- Prepared Speech
- Questioning (common questions and impromptu as well)

The contestant with the highest total points from the prepared speech plus the common and impromptu questions will be awarded the Public Speaking Award.

Prepared Speech

Each contestant is to prepare 3 ½ - 5-minute speech to be presented at the Public Speaking Reception.

Prepared speech from 1 of the following topics:

- 1) Rodeo
- 2) Royalty
- 3) Western Way of Life

Tips:

- Know your subject and stay on topic
- Write your own speech
- Be mindful of tone of voice
- Display minimal gestures
- Dress appropriately. (Semi-Formal to Formal attire)
- Cue cards may be used, but not long paper
- No props.
- Smile! - Smile! - Smile!
- Practice! - Practice! - Practice!

Judges will score based on the content and relevance of the speech, as well as the contestant's appearance, personality, and ability to stay composed and engaging while addressing the audience.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Question Period

In the following areas:

- One common Question
- One to two individual Questions

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Impromptu questions are a very important part of the competition, not only when you become Royalty but as apart of many situations throughout your life. Whenever giving a short speeches or participating in an impromptu conversations, the ability to think on one's feet is essential. This section aims to assess how the contestant responds under pressure, how she represents herself, and how she embodies the sport of rodeo.

Tips:

- Listen to the question
- Repeat question
- Be clear and concise, and do not carry on
- If you don't know, say so; say only what you know
- Don't present strong opinions look at the judges and audience Smile!!
- Be Positive!!



Speech Night Agenda

1. Contestants will arrive at 5:30 pm
2. Contestants will be greeting guests from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm
3. Contestants freshen up and will be ready to be seated at the head table for 6:30 pm
4. Committee Chair/Co-Chair will meet with judges at 6:00 pm to review judging criteria and pick common question that will be asked during speeches.
5. Contestants take seat at head table.
6. MC does introductions of special guests (Stampede Officials, Judges, etc.)
7. Contestants do introductions
First introduce yourself and include in your introduction – your family, any special guests present and where you are from.
8. Grace is said and dinner is served.
9. After dinner, contestants may freshen up prior to start of speeches.
10. If time, contestants mingle with crowd before speeches.
11. Return to head table and speeches begin.
12. Prepared Speeches
 - Contestants will be escorted to and from the stage podium.
 - Deliver speech
13. After all Prepared Speeches, contestants are escorted out to a private meeting room.
14. Question Period
 - a) Common Questions
 - Girls brought in one at a time
 - Contestant first answers a common question that will be asked to all the girls
 - Contestants remain on the stage.
 - Remembering to BE SPECIFIC with answers
 - b) Impromptu Questions
 - Each contestant will answer 1 question and then return to their seat on the stage.
 - Additional questions may be asked if time permits
15. MC returns to the stage to bring closure to the evening.

ORDER OF SPEAKERS WILL BE PRE-DRAWN

ORDER OF SPEAKER (BASED ON 5 CONTESTANTS)					
Prepared Speech	1	2	3	4	5
1 st Common	2	3	4	5	1
1 st Impromptu	3	4	5	1	2
2 nd Impromptu	4	5	1	2	3



Points for modeling are added to the overall competition to choose the new Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Royalty

Modeling refers to how a contestant models her clothes and herself. Modeling can be as simple as how a contestant stands, and her posture (chin up, shoulders back). Remember, a contestant's general appearance must be lady-like and appropriate throughout the pageant as the judges and general public are watching.

- All contestants will be expected to participate in the fashion show.
- Contestants are judged on how they wear their own clothes, their appearance, as well as the ability to wear other fashions.

Schedule of Events

(Subject to change)

The Medicine Hat Exhibition & Stampede Queen Committee creates an agenda that not only includes opportunities for contestants to be judged but also features fun activities that make the competition experience memorable. Each year, new and exciting events are added to keep things fresh and engaging.

Please note that the agenda is always subject to change, so it's important to embrace life's unpredictability, adapt to changes, and go with the flow. This flexibility is a valuable lesson that applies to every aspect of life.



Sunday, April 19, 2026

11:00pm – 3:00pm

Queen Boot Camp

Monday, May 4, 2026

4:00 pm

Contestant Photos Shoot

6:00 pm

Meet the Contestant's Day

Bring your horse to review and practice the mounted horsemanship events as laid out in the package.

Saturday, June 13, 2026

6:00- 8:00 pm

Introduce the Contestants at Chuckwagon races

Bring short version of biography for Contestant booklets

Contest Week

****FULL CONTEST WEEK SCHEDULE ATTACHED - SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

8:00 am - 9:00 pm

Competition Starts

Family/Judges BBQ/Personal Interviews

Thursday, July 9, 2026

8:00 am - 9:00 pm

Horsemanship Evening

Friday, July 10, 2026

8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Speech Night

Saturday, July 11, 2026

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Fashion Show

July 20-25, 2026

Selected Events through the weeks prior to crowning

Riding in the Parade as Contestants behind the Royalty

Friday, July 24, 2026

Approx. 8:30 pm

Crowning- "DOWN IN THE DIRT"

During the Rodeo Performance



Wednesday Visits & BBQ July 8	Thursday Horsemanship Day July 9	Friday Speech Night July 10	Saturday Fashion Show July 11
8 am- Meet & Greet Continental Breakfast (Committee)	8 am – Meet in Director’s Lounge	8 am- Meet in Director’s Lounge	8 am – Meet in Director’s Lounge (Country Crumb)
9:15-10:00 am Pitter Patter Early Learning Center	8:15 – 9:15 am- Breakfast (A&W)	8:15 – 9:15 am- Breakfast (Truckers)	8:00 – 10:30 am Contestant/Q&P Hair & Make- Up
10:15-10:45 am Core	9:30-11:30 am- Fire Station	9:30-11:30 am Police Station	Judges- Arrive @ 9 am
11:00-11:30 am Dragons & Butterflies Child Care	11:45-12:30 pm- Lunch (Taco Time) (Judges Break-back @ 4pm)	12:00-1:00 pm Lunch (Antonio’s) Etiquette Directors Lounge (Judges Break-back @ 5 pm)	10:45 – 11:30 pm- Modeling Run Rehearsal
11:45-12:30 pm- Lunch (Chinook Village)	1:00-2:00 pm Rodeo Exam 2:00- 2:30 pm Thank You Cards	Contestant 1:30- 3;00 pm- Hair 3:30- 4:30 pm- Makeup	11:45-12:15 pm- Lunch (Antonio’s)
12:45-1:30 pm- Cypress View Foundation	2:30-3:30 pm Prep for horsemanship Groom Horse/Warm Up	Q&P 1:30 -3:00 pm- Makeup 3:30-4:30pm- Hair (Judges Break back @ 5:30 pm)	12:30 pm- Doors Open Mix & Mingle Silent Auction
2:00- 3:15 pm Dunmore Dugouts	4:00 pm – Contestant meet at Barn 6 review pattern and expectations) 4:30 pm- Light supper (Subway)	Arrival 5 to 5:15 pm 5:30 pm- Doors Open 6:00 pm- Receiving Line (Cypress Center)	1:00- 3:30 pm- Fashion Show (Cypress Centre)
3:30- 5:00 pm Thank you Cards Freshen Up For BBQ	5-7 pm- Preliminary Judging (saddle & unsaddle) (Sand Ring)	6:30 pm- Speech Night Dinner (Cypress Centre)	4 pm till Done Tear Down/Clean up All Volunteers
5:30- 6:30 pm Family/Judges/Sponsors BBQ (Carriage House)	7-9 pm: Lammel’s Western Horsemanship Competition (Grandstand Arena)	7- 10 pm- Public Speaking Competition	Prizes dropped off to Office & Clothing Return
7 pm- Personal Interview Judges/Contestant 7 pm- Committee to Set up Prize/Sponsor Table	9 pm- After Mixer/Mingle (Grandstand Ballroom)		



Contestant Entry Form

I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE MEDICINE HAT EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE ROYALTY. IN THE EVENT THAT I BECOME ROYALTY, I WILL MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO ATTEND FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS REQUESTED BY THE QUEEN CONTEST COMMITTEE.

I AM AWARE THAT THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF INJURY TO THE CONTESTANT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTEST AND DURING ANY DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONTEST, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO PARADES, PUBLIC APPEARANCES, RODEOS & TRAVELING TO VARIOUS EVENTS. I RELIEVE THE FOLLOWING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MEDICINE HAT EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE, MEDICINE HAT EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE QUEEN COMMITTEE, THE JUDGES AND CONTEST SPONSORS OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY DURING ANY DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONTEST, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO PARADES, PUBLIC APPEARANCES, RODEOS AND TRAVELLING TO VARIOUS EVENTS.

CONTESTANT NAME: _____ DOB: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

CONTACT NUMBERS:

HOME: _____ CELL: _____ WORK: _____

EMAIL: _____

CONTESTANT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

CONTACT NUMBERS:

HOME _____ CELL: _____ WORK: _____

Please identify the following information about your horse(s):

Name: _____ or _____

Age: _____ & _____ Breed of Horse: _____ & _____

****Keep in mind, you are expected to use the same horse during horsemanship competition and during your reign. ****

PLEASE INCLUDE WITH YOUR ENTRY, A BRIEF RESUME OF YOURSELF AND INTERESTS

A COMPLETED POLICE RECORD CHECK AND SUBMIT WITH APPLICATION.

Revision Log:

Revision #	Date of Revision	Description for Change	Revision made by:
1	January 25, 2025	Wording and info updated	Lori Siedlecki
2	January 26, 2026	Modified dates/schedule for 2026	Lori Siedlecki