

MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026 CONTRACT RULES AND GUIDELINES



Congratulations! You have just been chosen as the next Miss Rodeo Nebraska. The pride and honor of wearing this crown brings with it a tremendous amount of responsibility. Be sure to read the entire contract carefully; when you sign your contract, you will be accepting the challenge of not only representing the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and the sport of rodeo, but also the great state of **Nebraska, NEBRASKAland DAYS, the Buffalo Bill Rodeo, and the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc.** You will touch the lives of thousands of people across the United States and you will find yourself becoming a role model to hundreds of younger children. Wear your crown proudly!

REMEMBER: BY SIGNING THIS CONTRACT, YOU WILL BE ACCEPTING THE POSITION OF MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026. YOUR DIRECT “SUPERVISOR” WILL BE THE MISS RODEO AMERICA NATIONAL DIRECTOR - NEBRASKA (hereafter referred to as the National Director); AND YOUR “EMPLOYER” WILL BE THE MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION, INC. (hereafter referred to as the Association). PLEASE THINK OF THIS POSITION AS A JOB.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026, LADY-IN-WAITING

As Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026, Lady-in-Waiting you are required to follow the same rules and guidelines as set forth in the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Contract

Although you won the Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 title in June 2025, you will not receive the official title until your coronation in January of 2026. Until that time, your title will be Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026, Lady-in-Waiting. It is very important that you remember the current Miss Rodeo Nebraska has another six months of her reign. Please be respectful of her title and position as the 1st Lady of Nebraska Rodeo.

Because Miss Rodeo Nebraska’s conduct is a reflection upon the community, rodeos and pageant she represents, the Association strongly urges you to adhere to the following guidelines when encountering various situations as outlined in this guide.

It is of utmost importance to send thank you notes on a timely basis and to return phone calls promptly.

1. CONDUCT

From the time you win the title of Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 until you relinquish the crown at the end of your reign, you will be in the spotlight. It is imperative that you conduct yourself accordingly, whether it is on a personal level or as Miss Rodeo Nebraska.

Throughout your reign you will be expected to portray the highest moral standards, show the true ideals of young womanhood, and set an example above reproach.

You will be expected to conduct yourself as an example to the public, which includes no smoking, vaping, drinking, chewing, foul language, or inappropriate social behavior. No visible tattoos.

You should always portray the highest morals and ethical standards.

2. RELATIONSHIP STATUS

You must not become engaged, marry, or become pregnant during the year of your reign.

If you are in a relationship, this will not be portrayed throughout your reign. No photographs or written references will be on social media with or about your significant other.

You shall not maintain any form of cohabitation (in an intimate relationship) with another person during your reign. You will be expected to emulate the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc.’s Mission Statement:

The mission of the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association is to produce a quality state pageant to select and crown MRN and MTRN to be official ambassadors who will promote Nebraska, professional rodeo, and our western values and lifestyles

3. SOCIAL MEDIA

Your posts on all social media platform should always reflect exemplary conduct. Please conduct yourself accordingly through your words and photos. No photographs or written references will be on social media with or about your significant other. Any negative or harmful displays on social media will be addressed by the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. Executive Board (hereafter referred to as the Executive Board) and could result in the removal of your crown.

4. STALKER POLICY

The National Director or the Association, needs to be apprised immediately if there is a stalker threat to you. Your safety is the first priority of the Association.

The following will apply to any situation where you may feel threatened:

1. Report to law enforcement immediately.
2. Document each incident.
3. Contact your Director or a member of the Association.

Law enforcement can take action after the second contact by the same individual. Authorities remind young ladies that they should “Go With Your Gut”. In almost all stalker cases the victims said they had a bad feeling about the situation. The Stalking Statutes is Section 28-311.02 in the Nebraska Statutes.

5. APPEARANCES

Each year Miss Rodeo Nebraska is being invited to attend more and more events. Because of scheduling conflicts, the MRN Lady-in-Waiting Director might ask you to attend in place of the current Miss Rodeo Nebraska. When attending these events, please introduce yourself as the “Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026, Lady-in-Waiting”. **Under no circumstances are you to make an appearance representing your title without the approval of the National Director or the Lady-in-Waiting Director.**

Generally, when traveling to appearances, you will be provided a guest home or motel room. Motel rooms are usually shared with other titleholders.

DO NOT TAKE FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH YOU TO APPEARANCES UNLESS INVITED BY THE HOST. You will be kept very busy with appearances and will not have time to spend with friends or family members.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO TRAVEL WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN A FAMILY MEMBER, MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBER, OR A PERSON PREAPPROVED BY THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO TRAVEL WITH YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER. We strongly suggest that from the time you win your title until you pass the crown on, your significant other should keep a low profile.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO APPEAR AT A BAR, NIGHTCLUB, OR NON-RODEO EVENT WHERE ALCOHOL IS SERVED UNLESS YOUR REQUEST TO ATTEND HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND PRE-APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR. THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL, WHILE REPRESENTING YOURSELF AS MISS RODEO NEBRASKA, IS PROHIBITED.

These guidelines apply to both the Lady-in-Waiting and Miss Rodeo Nebraska.

During the six months prior to your coronation you will be responsible for preparing promotional materials, clothing and yourself, both mentally and physically, for the upcoming year.

6. THINGS TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER BECOMING LADY-IN-WAITING

- The Miss Rodeo Nebraska crown is owned by the Association. Miss Rodeo Nebraska crown insurance will be provided by NEBRASKAland DAYS, Inc. If the crown is damaged, the deductible of \$500 will be paid 50% by the Association, and 50% by Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026.
- The Miss Rodeo Nebraska Lady-in-Waiting crown is owned by the Association. The Miss Rodeo Nebraska Lady-in-Waiting crown is valued at \$500 and it will be the responsibility of Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 Lady-in-Waiting to pay the cost of replacement or repairs.

- Build a relationship with the National Director, the Lady-in-Waiting Director and the Association.
- Have an official photo taken and e-mail it to the National Director, the Lady-in-Waiting Director, and the Association's Publicity Chairperson. Have your official photograph in a 16" X 20" size, framed and ready on your coronation day.
- Your slogan/theme for the year must be approved by the National Director.
- Prepare your Miss Rodeo Nebraska, Lady-in-Waiting autograph sheets.
- Draft a short and long bio for publicity releases immediately. Email copies to the National Director, the Lady-in-Waiting Director, and the Association's Publicity Chairperson, so they can review and suggest edits prior to you using them.
- Begin working with the Association's Sponsorship Chairpersons.
- Seek Vehicle Sponsorship
- Begin preparations for your coloring books.
- Begin designing your chaps and finding a chap sponsor.
- Begin preparation for your coronation.
- Begin studying and working on public speaking; set up one-on-one interviews with friends and acquaintances. This is a good time to practice public speaking, interviews and impromptu questions.
- Make preparations for your schooling and/or job – You will be expected to concentrate solely on being Miss Rodeo Nebraska until after you compete at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in December of 2026.
- Spend as much time as possible with the current Miss Rodeo Nebraska.
- Discuss future market trips with National Director.
- Attend the 2025 Miss Rodeo America Pageant for selection of the 2026 MRA.
- Discuss potential fundraisers with the National Director or the Lady-in-Waiting Director.

7. MISS RODEO AMERICA NATIONAL DIRECTOR - NEBRASKA

From the time you are crowned in June until your coronation you will be under the direction of the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Lady-in-Waiting Director. **It is imperative to visit with the Lady-in-Waiting Director regularly while you are Lady-in-Waiting – we strongly urge weekly phone calls or visits.** She may schedule you for appearances and will be available to answer any of your questions or concerns. She is available at all times to assist you in whatever questions or needs may arise.

Following your coronation in January, the National Director will step in and take on the job of scheduling, setting up interview sessions, and assisting you in any way she can.

Please take time to get to know your National Director by building a relationship with her. **It is imperative to contact your National Director on a regular schedule.** Visit with her about setting a time and day for weekly contact. This phone call will give you the opportunity to compare schedules, express any concerns, etc. Your National Director is there to assist you however she can. **Remember, she is your immediate supervisor – you need to develop a direct line of communication with her! Any correspondence, whether communication with other committee members or scheduling, needs to be copied to the National Director and Lady-in-Waiting Director.**

Now that you are the next Miss Rodeo Nebraska, you will be “working” for and with the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. They are your “employer” and your main support group. They are comprised of former Miss Rodeo Nebraska titleholders, professional women & men, people experienced in horsemanship, and rodeo people who are available to assist you throughout your year in preparation for your competition at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. With their help you will have a very fun, rewarding year that you will treasure forever.

The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, Past Miss Rodeo Nebraska, National Director, Pageant Chairperson, and two voting advisory members from the Association, as well as the Lady-in-Waiting Director, and the Teen Director, who are non-voting members. They will have jurisdiction over Miss Rodeo Nebraska and the Lady-in-Waiting.

Any complaints or situations in respect to either Miss Rodeo Nebraska or the Lady-in-Waiting will be brought before the Executive Board. If the Executive Board feels it is warranted, they have the right to remove your title if they so deem. Please refer to Exhibit C – Consequence Matrix in this official contract.

8. OFFICIAL PHOTO

Generally, the morning of contract signing, the Association's official photographer will take your Lady-in-Waiting photo to be used for publicity and/or Lady-In-Waiting autograph sheets. If you choose to have another portrait taken that is fine; however, this needs to be done as soon as possible in order to have a photo for publicity purposes. Please email this photo to the National Director, the Lady-in-Waiting Director, and the Association's Publicity Chairperson.

Your official Miss Rodeo Nebraska portrait will need to be taken in August or September. You will need to visit with the current Miss Rodeo Nebraska regarding scheduling so that you can borrow the official crown for this photo. This photo will be used for publicity, sponsorship brochures, and autograph sheets, etc. Please email this photo to the National Director and the Association's Publicity Chairperson.

Whether you choose to use this photo for your official 16"x20" portrait or have another photo taken is your decision. However, sometime prior to January 1st you will need to have a 16"x20" portrait, framed and on display at the NEBRASKAland DAYS office. This will be at your expense. This portrait will be yours to keep at the end of your reign.

9. SCHOLARSHIPS

You will receive documents with instructions for requesting scholarship monies from the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association Scholarship Chairperson. All scholarships will be paid to the school of your choice or to your student loan lender. The funds must be used no later than December 31 one calendar year after you have completed your year as Miss Rodeo Nebraska. Should you go on to become Miss Rodeo America, you would have one calendar year after completing your year as MRA to utilize your MRN scholarship funds. You will receive your Association scholarships at the end of your reign provided you have completed your reign satisfactorily according to the rules and regulations of the Association, and at the discretion of the Executive Board.

The Miss Rodeo Nebraska Alumni scholarship and the NEBRASKAland DAYS, Inc. scholarship will be awarded to you upon your selection as Miss Rodeo Nebraska. Additionally, you will receive a scholarship from Mid-Plains Community College. The Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association Scholarship Chairperson or the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation office (which handles the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Alumni and NEBRASKAland DAYS, Inc. scholarships) must receive a letter of notification from the school's registrar's office stating that the scholarship recipient (you) has registered before funds will be dispersed.

Miss Rodeo Nebraska must submit an official debt statement from her lender, showing amount owed and payment instructions, to the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Scholarship Chairperson when she requests scholarship funds be used to pay on student loans. These rules apply to ALL scholarships awarded. ALL scholarships must be requested and dispersed no later than December 31 of the calendar year following the completion of your reign. Scholarship Chairperson is Karen Freeze, karfreeze65@gmail.com, 308-530-9301.

10. AUTOGRAPH SHEETS

As mentioned above, you will need to have a photo taken immediately for your Lady-in-Waiting autograph sheets. In addition, you will need to prepare a script for the back of the autograph sheets. These autograph sheets will be used prior to your coronation in January. The cost of these autograph sheets will be your responsibility – you may use sponsorship money or solicit a sponsor. **All Platinum, Ruby, Diamond, and Saddle sponsors and Pageant Partners MUST be on your autograph sheets.**

11. SHORT & LONG BIO

Immediately following winning your title you will be asked to prepare a short and long bio. These will be used for publicity releases, appearances, etc. The short bio usually consists of your name, town, parents name, when & where you won your title, and perhaps the categories you won. The long bio can be more specific to your interests, talents, education, employment, goals, and why you wanted to be Miss Rodeo Nebraska. Please email copies of these bios to the National Director and the Association's Publicity Chairperson. These bios will need to be updated prior to your coronation in January. Each time you update your bios, please email the National Director and Association's Publicity Chairperson.

12. SPONSORSHIP

The Association has a Sponsorship Committee that can assist with all of your sponsorships. This committee has worked very hard to put together the Association's Sponsorship Program. They also have volunteers willing to travel with you on sponsorship visits. A sponsorship committee meeting will be scheduled in July to help answer any questions you may have.

Please visit with the Sponsorship Committee prior to soliciting sponsorship money. They have a list of repeat sponsors that may need to be contacted by the sponsorship committee only. The committee has established specific guidelines for soliciting sponsorship that works very well for each person involved.

Sponsorship brochures & sponsorship letters will be completed by you immediately after the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Pageant in June. It is wise to begin making a list of potential sponsors, supporters, and donors immediately! All Platinum, Ruby, Diamond, Saddle sponsors and Pageant Partners must be listed on the back of ALL your colored autograph sheets. The final printing of autograph sheets will be done the first of May and it is imperative that all Platinum, Ruby and Diamond sponsors are secured prior to then in order to take advantage of their full advertising benefit. **These sponsors must be included on the autograph sheets.**

As Miss Rodeo Nebraska, you will have many sponsors who will help you in your journey. With these sponsorships come certain obligations to show your appreciation and thanks. You will be expected to purchase for your sponsors: tickets to various Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. events, personalized recognition Platinum, Ruby, Diamond, Saddle sponsors and Pageant Partner plaques (to be given out during a Pageant event to be determined) and program books from the Miss Rodeo America Pageant with the ad you place in the book the year you compete. **Each of these sponsors must also receive an autograph sheet.**

The Association's treasurer or National Director will determine with you the amount of money needed to cover these costs. That amount of money will be deposited into a separate savings account under the name of Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc., **specifying Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 account**, and will use these funds strictly for the expense of your sponsorship obligations and ad. Monies will be paid out of this account by the National Director or the Association's treasurer, upon receipt of an invoice relating to each of the above-identified items.

The cost of being Miss Rodeo Nebraska is estimated between \$30,000 and \$45,000 depending on your goals; this is a very conservative figure. In addition to monetary sponsorship, you will receive several thousand dollars of "in-kind" donations.

ALL MONEY RECEIVED BY YOU WHETHER IT IS CONSIDERED A SPONSORSHIP OR A DONATION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, MUST BE RUN THROUGH THE MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ACCOUNT.

This is to protect you as well as provide you with a record of your income and expenses.

All checks are to be made payable to: MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026 (or MRN 2026).

Keep in mind; sponsorship money is to be used for Miss Rodeo Nebraska approved travel, appearance costs, clothing, training, etc. It is recommended that you support Wrangler, Montana Silversmiths and Justin Boots when attending PRCA rodeos and events, as they are sponsors for Miss Rodeo America, and Wrangler and Justin Boots for the PRCA as well. Sponsors should not be expected to pay for unrelated clothing, travel, etc.

Please be respectful of the current queen by limiting your sponsorship visits in her hometown, as well as North Platte (excluding repeat sponsors you visit with Lady-in-Waiting Director), until after the current queen returns from the Miss Rodeo America competition. Each queen assumes they have enough money, but are usually adding new sponsors as they come closer to the Miss Rodeo America competition: it is wise to budget accordingly!

In order to be reimbursed for expenses you will need to submit **original** receipts to the National Director by the 10th of each month. Please write on the travel receipts what rodeo, event, etc. they apply to. **NO MONEY WILL BE PAID OUT UNTIL SPONSORSHIP MONEY HAS BEEN DEPOSITED INTO YOUR ACCOUNT. NO EXPENSES WILL BE REIMBURSED WITHOUT ORIGINAL RECEIPTS. The balance of funds in your account must be paid out by April 1st of the year following your reign.**

13. EVENT FUNDS WITH MRNA, INC.

The Association hosts several events throughout the year that will promote and financially assist the reigning Miss Rodeo Nebraska (MRN) and the Association. Sponsors of the reigning MRN will receive tickets to these events as part of their sponsorship contract. **It is the responsibility of MRN to reimburse the Association for the tickets that were used at these events.** The Association does not charge MRN the full ticket price of the event, only the cost of the meal/food. MRN will receive 25% of the net income from these Association events.

Association Events - you receive 25% of the profit from these events

- MRN Queen/Horsemanship Clinic – held in March/April
- MRNA Horsemanship BBQ – held during the pageant

Miss Rodeo Nebraska Las Vegas Send Off – held in October/November. This event is to showcase Miss Rodeo Nebraska's competition wardrobe for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in December and to publicly thank her sponsors and supporters. The Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association will work closely with Miss Rodeo Nebraska to schedule a date and venue for the Send Off. The Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association will determine who will organize, coordinate and host the Send Off. The responsible entity will keep all profits, if any, or absorb any losses from this Send Off.

The MRN Pageant Committee hosts the Pageant Style Show and income from this event goes to pay for the expenses and scholarships of the Pageant.

Tickets you pay for sponsors who attend: (exact costs will vary)

Example:

- Horsemanship BBQ (Ticket price \$10 – MRN pays \$5)
- Pageant Style Show (Ticket price \$25 – MRN pays \$15)
- MRN Send Off (Ticket price \$25 – MRN pays \$15, if Association hosts)

Additional Expenses Paid by Miss Rodeo Nebraska

- Buffalo Bill Rodeo Tickets for Sponsors (Ticket price \$20, prices set by Rodeo Committee)
- Sponsor Plaques - approximately \$35 each. The Association pays for 25% of the sponsor plaque expense
- Sponsorship correspondence postage of \$250
- Lifetime Membership Dues of \$100 to the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association Alumni Endowment Fund
- MRA Pageant Books purchased in Las Vegas – \$10 to \$15 each (price set by MRAI)

The Association will set up an individual banking account after the pageant. All funds that you receive from sponsors, fundraisers, etc. **must** be deposited into this account. You will have online access to view this account. Reimbursement for your expenses, during your reign will be paid from this account by the National Director. The National Director will put money in a savings account to cover the costs of the sponsor plaques and the MRA Pageant Books.

You will NOT receive a 1099 (Miscellaneous Income) from the Association. This account is part of our tax reporting for our 501(C)3 status. Money deposited into a personal account could be considered income and there would be no tax benefit to the donor.

14. NEBRASKALAND DAYS SPONSORSHIP

NEBRASKALAND DAYS, Inc. is a major sponsor of the Association, as well as the reigning Miss Rodeo Nebraska. Because of the value that NEBRASKALAND DAYS, Inc. contributes to the program, the Association and the NEBRASKALAND DAYS, Inc. Board negotiate a contract every five years. It has always been their request that Miss Rodeo Nebraska help promote their activities each year. Their appearance requests will be a HIGH priority in your schedule.

HORSES: During the year of your reign as Miss Rodeo Nebraska, in addition to all of the other events during the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Pageant and NEBRASKALAND DAYS, you will be required to have a horse available for you to ride at the:

1. Miss Rodeo Nebraska Pageant Horsemanship Competition
2. Four nights of the NEBRASKALAND DAYS/Buffalo Bill Rodeo
3. Saturday NEBRASKALAND DAYS parade

It is your responsibility to transport and care for your horse during this time. You will need a family member or friend to assist with the feeding, care, and transporting of your horse during the week, as you will not have time to do so.

15. VEHICLE SPONSORSHIP

Contact the Sponsorship Committee first, when seeking a vehicle sponsor. They have been instrumental in securing a vehicle sponsor for past MRNs. If you are successful in obtaining sponsorship before your year actually begins, the sponsor needs to be made aware that your “year” does not begin until January 1. Out of respect for the current queen, you will not be able to apply Miss Rodeo Nebraska decals/logos to your vehicle until just prior to your coronation.

Keep in mind, you will be limited as to how much sponsorship money you will be allowed to use toward the purchase of a vehicle, if sponsorship is not secured.

The Association’s logo and the MRA logo must be on your vehicle. These are registered logos and cannot be redesigned, or changed in any way.

16. SADDLE SPONSOR

Another major sponsor of Miss Rodeo Nebraska is the trophy saddle sponsor. The Pageant Committee works hard to acquire and retain the saddle sponsor. It is a requirement of Miss Rodeo Nebraska to ride this saddle at as many appearances as possible to help promote the sponsor’s business.

You will be **REQUIRED** to ride the Miss Rodeo Nebraska trophy saddle at all events associated with the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Pageant as well as the NEBRASKALAND DAYS events as noted above under the NEBRASKALAND DAYS Sponsorship paragraph.

17. COLORING BOOK

Each year Miss Rodeo Nebraska puts together a coloring book to hand out to children during school visits, etc. We try to schedule school visits from January through May and again in September & October. Therefore, it is important to begin work on your coloring book as soon as possible.

You will be asked to provide input, as well as your preferred photograph for the cover, and a message from you to the children. Please be prompt about providing this information when asked.

The Association tries to secure sponsorship of at least \$1,000 for these coloring books; however, if this does not cover the total cost, you **MAY** be asked to help pay for a portion of the coloring book. **All Platinum, Ruby, Diamond and Saddle sponsors and Pageant Partners MUST be included your coloring book.**

18. COLORED AUTOGRAPH SHEETS

The first set of autograph sheets will be printed in December prior to your coronation in January. The second set of autograph sheets will be printed the first of May - therefore, all Platinum, Ruby and Diamond sponsors will need to be secured prior to the last printing of your colored autograph sheets.

You may wish to use a different photo for these autograph sheets. You will need to prepare a new script for the back of these autograph sheets. **All Platinum, Ruby, Diamond and Saddle sponsors and Pageant Partners MUST be on your autograph sheets.**

The National Director & the Association’s Sponsorship Committee must approve your autograph sheets. Please understand if the autograph sheets are paid for by sponsor(s) money, there may be some specifications you will need to be aware of before proceeding with the photo. Please visit with your Lady-in-Waiting Director regarding the autograph sheets.

19. WARDROBE

You will need to begin planning your Miss Rodeo Nebraska wardrobe right away. There is an abundance of talented women within the Association that can help you if you so choose.

Remember to consult the Miss Rodeo America Rulebook before purchasing clothing for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant competition.

20. CHAPS

Please check with your National Director regarding a chap sponsor. It will be your responsibility to obtain sponsorship for your Miss Rodeo Nebraska chaps or to purchase your chaps using sponsorship money. It is in your best interest to have your requests in writing, perhaps draw a picture with your desired designs and colors indicated and to request a written statement from the chap maker outlining the cost of the chaps; or if they are donating, what the cost of their donation will be, and what they expect in return for their donation.

21. CORONATION

The Miss Rodeo Nebraska Coronation is generally held in your hometown. The proceeds from this fundraiser are 100% yours. The Association will help in setting up, etc. if you need additional assistance; however, you are responsible for all expenses and income.

Again, please respect the current Miss Rodeo Nebraska by not sending invitations or publicizing your coronation until after her Send off Style Show, which is generally held the end of October or the first part of November.

Please visit with the National Director and Treasurer on how to handle the income from your coronation. All checks are to be made payable to MRN 2026. All cash and checks are to be deposited into your Miss Rodeo Nebraska account. A detailed income and expense report for your coronation is to be submitted to the treasurer. The Association requires this report for record-keeping purposes. The treasurer will be more than happy to help you with this.

Sales tax must be collected at your coronation auction and then itemized and the total submitted to the Association. You may also work with your auctioneer to have them take sales tax out at the time of your coronation auction. Either the National Director or the Association will then write a check to the State of Nebraska, Department of Revenue.

22. STUDY AND MOCK INTERVIEWS

These first six months are an opportune time for you to brush up on your rodeo knowledge, current events, etc. You will most likely be asked to speak at various functions – the more speaking you can do the better! You may also work on interview sessions and impromptu questions.

After you have officially become Miss Rodeo Nebraska, the National Director will begin setting up interview sessions for you. Usually, this is not done until the fall; however, if you feel interviews are a weak area for you, we can fit some sessions in at the beginning of your year.

Again, the Association has a network of professional people willing to assist with interview sessions.

ALWAYS COME TO THE INTERVIEW SESSIONS WITH THE ATTITUDE YOU ARE BEING JUDGED – WEAR APPROPRIATE ATTIRE.

23. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Generally, Miss Rodeo Nebraska will take time off from schooling/employment so that she can concentrate on representing the title and preparing for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant. Whether to take a full year or just the fall semester off from school is your choice. Being Miss Rodeo Nebraska has been a full-time commitment to most young ladies.

Remember, your first responsibility during your year as Miss Rodeo Nebraska will be to represent your title.

24. MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2025

Find the time to get to know Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2025. She will be able to show you the “ropes” and provide invaluable advice. When traveling together, take advantage of the time to practice interviews & impromptu questions! Each of you will benefit!

For your benefit we have requested Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2025 to set a day just prior to her Send off Style Show to take you around to the “returning” sponsors in the North Platte area; this would be a time where Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2025 can say a special thank you and extend an invitation for them to attend her Send off Style Show. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the returning sponsors and offer them an “Appearance Day” as part of their Platinum, Ruby or Diamond Sponsorship.

25. MISS RODEO AMERICA PAGEANT

You will be required to attend the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in December 2025, as a spectator with a parent or guardian approved by the National Director. This will give you a very good idea of what to expect when you compete the following December. Attending the Miss Rodeo America Pageant prior to your year as Miss Rodeo Nebraska will also give you an idea of what type of clothing you will be choosing for your Miss Rodeo America competition the following year.

The State Ladies-in-Waiting may not wear their crowns and banners while in Las Vegas, especially not to MRA Pageant events, UNLESS Miss Rodeo America, Inc. specifically extends an invitation to do so at specific Pageant events.

Typically the Lady-in-Waiting arranges for her own travel to and from Las Vegas. The National Director will assist you in making arrangements. Travel, motel, food, and ticket expense will be reimbursed from your Sponsorship fund.

It is your responsibility to purchase tickets to the Pageant events. As Miss Rodeo Nebraska Lady-in-Waiting you are required to attend ALL events held in conjunction with the Miss Rodeo America Pageant.

26. FUNDRAISERS

In addition to cash sponsors, you will be generating funds from your coronation and potentially other fundraisers that you may wish to hold. Any additional fundraisers will need to be approved by the National Director and the Executive Board. A detailed income and expense report along with a check representing net profit is to be given to the Association's treasurer to be deposited into your Miss Rodeo Nebraska account following each fundraiser. Remember, depending on what type of fundraiser it is, sales tax may need to be collected and paid to the State of Nebraska. Example: Auctions DO need sales tax collected, raffles do not. Sales tax percentage varies from city to city. Please check with the National Director.

27. MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Below is a guideline for your commitment as Lady-in-Waiting and Miss Rodeo Nebraska. Some events are mandatory throughout your reign. The Association may have additional events you will be encouraged to attend.

JUNE 2025

- Congratulations Miss Rodeo Nebraska
- You will carry the Title "Lady-In-Waiting" until your Coronation in January
- Contract signing
- Lady-in-Waiting Autograph sheets
- Work with the Lady-in-Waiting Director to start preparing for your year; meeting sponsors, photographs, clothing, fundraising
- Attend events MRN will not be able to attend

JULY 2025

- Continue preparing for your reign as MRN
- Attend events MRN is unable to attend
- Arrange plans for your vehicle for your reign
- Work on your marketing materials for sponsor visits
- Set up time to visit perpetual sponsors with Lady-in-Waiting Director
- Decide on and reserve the location for your Coronation

AUGUST 2025

- Plans for the year ahead as MRN continue
- Make plans to have photographs taken for your autograph sheets; borrow the MRN Crown for the photograph shoot
- Work on the design of your autograph sheets
- Work on plans for the design on your pickup

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Continue working on marketing plans
- Design your Coronation Invitation
- Work on reservations to attend Miss Rodeo America

OCTOBER 2025

- Finalizing Coronation
- Attend Send Off - **Mandatory**
- Post Coronation information after Send Off of MRN

NOVEMBER 2025

- Finalize plans to attend MRA as Lady-In-Waiting

DECEMBER 2025

- Attend Miss Rodeo America Pageant, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Continue plans for your Coronation and year ahead

28. AS MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026**JANUARY 2026**

- Call National Director once a week – **Mandatory**
- Coronation (preferably first weekend) - **Mandatory**
- Cowboy Downhill - Colorado
- Denver Stock Show
- Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, Rapid City, South Dakota

FEBRUARY 2026

- Silver Spurs Rodeo, Kissimmee, Florida
- Valentine Bull Bash
- Buffalo Bill Birthday Bash, North Platte - NEBRASKALAND DAYS Fundraiser - **Mandatory**
- Rodeo Houston (invitation to participate as Flag Girl not MRN)

MARCH 2026

- Miss Rodeo Nebraska Queen Clinic - **Mandatory**
- Lil' Cowgirl Clinic, North Platte (whenever scheduled in the spring) - **Mandatory**
- School visits and activities to promote the State of Nebraska and your title.

APRIL 2026

- Contestant Pre-Pageant Meeting - **Mandatory**
- North Platte Visitors Bureau Grant

MAY 2026

- Pioneer Days Rodeo, Guymon, Oklahoma
- Abbyville Frontier Days & PRCA Rodeo, Abbyville, Kansas
- Radio and TV – for promotion of NEBRASKALAND DAYS and Miss Rodeo Nebraska Pageant
- Practice with Velvet Spurs second or fourth Tuesday - Wild West Arena
- All sponsorships for the year should be completed by May 15th so they can be included in the Pageant program
- Lincoln Pro Rodeo, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Set date for Send Off Style Show in October or November

JUNE 2026

- Cattlemen's Ball
- Cherokee PRCA Rodeo, Cherokee, Iowa
- Miss Nebraska Pageant Appearances, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- NEBRASKALAND DAYS/Miss Rodeo Nebraska Pageant - **Mandatory**
- Days of '56 PRCA Rodeo, Ponca, Nebraska - **Mandatory**
- Nebraska High School Rodeo Finals, Hastings, Nebraska
- Greeley Stampede – PRCA Rodeo, Greeley, Colorado

JULY 2026

- Old West Trail PRCA Rodeo, Crawford, Nebraska - **Mandatory**
- Black Hills Roundup Rodeo, Belle Fourche, South Dakota
- Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Colorado Springs, Colorado - **Mandatory**
- Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, Wyoming - **Mandatory**

- Nebraska's Big Rodeo, Burwell, Nebraska - **Mandatory**
- Wahoo Saddle Club PRCA Rodeo, Wahoo, Nebraska - **Mandatory**
- Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Sheridan WYO Rodeo, Sheridan, Wyoming

AUGUST 2026

- Caldwell Night Rodeo, Caldwell, Idaho
- Miss Rodeo America Pageant deadline
- Dodge City Roundup Rodeo, Dodge City, Kansas - Miss Rodeo Kansas State Pageant
- Kimball County PRCA Rodeo, Kimball, Nebraska - **Mandatory**
- Advertising Contract – Miss Rodeo America Pageant Book
- Parents should be able to order tickets and rooms for Miss Rodeo America Pageant
- Send in entry for Miss Rodeo America
- Review clothing selections with Miss Rodeo Nebraska National Director
- Start working on ideas for an auction item for the Cowboy Christmas Miss Rodeo America Auction

SEPTEMBER 2026

- Nebraska State Fair – Grand Island, Nebraska - **Mandatory**
- Pendleton Roundup, Pendleton, Oregon
- Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island, Nebraska
- Ram Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo - Duncan, OK - **Mandatory**
- Mid-Plains Community College Rodeo - **Mandatory**
- Interview Sessions
- River City Rodeo - Omaha, Nebraska
- Preparation for Send Off
- Clothes for Las Vegas should be ordered
- Miss Rodeo America Preparations Finalizing
- Oregon Trail Rodeo/Queen Pageant, Hastings, Nebraska - **Mandatory**

OCTOBER 2026

- Y's Men's Rodeo, Minot, North Dakota
- Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. Annual Meeting, second Sunday
- TV and Radio interviews to promote Send Off Style Show
- Badlands Circuit Finals, North Dakota
- Prairie Circuit Finals, Duncan, OK

NOVEMBER 2026

- Style Show Send Off - **Mandatory**

DECEMBER 2026

- Attend Miss Rodeo America Pageant, Las Vegas, Nevada - **Mandatory**

JANUARY 2027

- Coronation for Miss Rodeo Nebraska - **Mandatory**

Prepare yourself for the ride of a lifetime!

Exhibit A
2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska Contract Awards/Gifts/Scholarships

AWARDS

- Any and all awards specifically given to 2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska or as a Category* Winner such as: Miss Rodeo Nebraska Saddle
- Miss Rodeo Nebraska Buckle

GIFTS

- Any and all gifts specifically given to 2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska or as a Category* Winner such as: Miss Rodeo Nebraska Banner Pin
- Miss Rodeo Nebraska Banners

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Any and all Scholarships specifically given to 2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska or as a Category* Winner
 - MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP
 - MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION, INC. SCHOLARSHIP
 - NEBRASKALAND DAYS SCHOLARSHIP
 - MID-PLAINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE: 2-Year Scholarship – Full Tuition – According to Guidelines
 - Scholarship contact person is Karen Freeze, karfreeze65@gmail.com (308) 530-9301.
- All scholarships must be requested and dispersed no later than December 31 of the year following the completion of your reign.

*Categories include Horsemanship, Personality, Interview, Speech, and Written Test

I, _____, Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026, hereby acknowledge receipt of the above-mentioned awards, gifts, and scholarships. As outlined in the 2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska Contract as well as the 2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska Pageant Handbook, I understand that if for any reason the Miss Rodeo America National Director-NE and the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. Executive Committee deems it necessary to remove my title/crown, then all of the aforementioned awards, gifts, and scholarships will be returned to the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. If for any reason the items cannot be returned, I will fully financially reimburse the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. in order that they may purchase like awards and gifts for the young lady chosen to fulfill the 2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska title.

In addition, I understand that all money and in-kind donations received from the time I win the title of Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 through the end of my year is for the sole purpose of promoting the title of Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 and preparing for my competition at the 2026 Miss Rodeo America Pageant. If for any reason my crown is removed or I relinquish my title, I will refund any money and in-kind donations so that they will assist the young lady who will assume the role of Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026.

By signing below we acknowledge having read and understand this Contract, Contract Rules and Guidelines, and Contract Exhibit A.

Date

Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026

Miss Rodeo America National Director-NE

President, Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc.

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss
COUNTY OF _____)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this _____ day of _____, 20____ by

_____, Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026;

_____, Miss Rodeo America National Director of Nebraska; and

_____, President, Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc.

_____ Notary Public

Exhibit B**MISS RODEO AMERICA, INC.
Eligibility Requirements**

By signing below, I confirm that I meet all of the eligibility requirements set forth below.

1. 2026 Participation Agreement for pageants held in 2025 that select a Lady in Waiting (2026 titleholder) who would compete in 2026 for Miss Rodeo America 2027 will agree and sign to the following on their MRA Pageant application: WILL BE 21 years of age by November 1 of this year (2026) and WILL BE NO OLDER THAN 26 years of age as of December 31 of this year (2026). Upon request, I will provide a copy of a government issued identification (such as a birth certificate, driver's license, passport, etc.) verifying my age.
2. **U.S. Citizen:** I am a citizen or lawful resident of the United States of America and authorized to work in the United States of America.
3. **Resident of State:** I am a resident of the State where I will compete or have competed in the State Pageant.
4. **Education:** I have obtained a high school diploma (or equivalent).
5. **Gender:** I was assigned female at birth and I am a female.
6. **Marital Status:** I am not currently married and have never been married.
7. **Parental Status:** I am not a parent of any child and I am not pregnant.
8. **Good Character:** I am of good moral character. I have never committed or been involved in an act of moral turpitude.
9. **No Criminal Record:** I have not been convicted of any crime or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic offenses).
10. **Health:** I am in good health and I do not have any health concerns which would prevent me from fully participating in this contest or from serving as Miss Rodeo America if selected.
11. **Substance Abuse:** I do not use any illegal or controlled substances (other than prescription medications and then only in the manner prescribed.) I do not abuse alcohol or drugs.
12. **Contractual Obligations:** I am not under any contractual obligation which would interfere with my ability to participate in this contest or interfere with my ability to perform as Miss Rodeo America, if selected.
13. **Previous Title:** I will represent the title of Miss Rodeo Nebraska Lady-in-Waiting in all state appearances with the exception of my previous title's rodeo (if any). I confirm that I will have until November 1 of the same year to finish the reign of my previous title (if any).
14. **No Previous Miss Rodeo America Competitions:** I have not been a contestant in any prior year's Miss Rodeo America Pageant, or any related State Pageant.
15. **No Other Acts Detrimental to Reputation:** I have not engaged in any act, which if made public, would be reasonably likely to cause harm or damage to my reputation or to the goodwill and reputation of Miss Rodeo America, Inc. (If I have any concerns about the applicability of this provision, I acknowledge I have been advised to discuss this with a representative of Miss Rodeo America, Inc. prior to signing this form.)
16. **Ability to Perform:** To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing that will interfere with my ability to compete in this contest or to perform the obligations of Miss Rodeo America, if selected.
17. **Verification All Statements are True: I VERIFY THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING STATEMENTS AND ALL OF THE FOREGOING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE.**

Date: _____

Contestant Signature



Exhibit C
2026 Miss Rodeo Nebraska Contract

Consequence Matrix for Unmet Expectations

The following matrix details the consequences for unmet expectations by Miss Rodeo Nebraska. Please familiarize yourself with this matrix. We do not anticipate ever having any of these problems! However, if any of these issues do arise, please know that the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Executive Board will not hesitate to implement the appropriate consequences.

Violation	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Repeat Offenses
Inappropriate Attitude/Behavior	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation Period *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Habitual Tardiness	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation Period *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Inappropriate Cell Phone Usage	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Missing a Mandatory Event (Contract)	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Lack of Communication with Director / Board	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Making Non-Approved Appearances as MRN	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Inappropriate Social Media	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Insufficient Sponsor Contacts	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown
Inappropriate Conduct by Family/Friends of MRN	Warning Meet with Director	Meet with MRN Executive Board	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown	Meet with MRN Board *Possible Probation *Possible Removal of Title/Crown



MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026 CONTRACT

THIS CONTRACT entered into this 19th day of June 2026, by and between the newly crowned Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026, Joni Jespersen, Miss Rodeo America National Director-NE, and Michelle Whitson, President, Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc.; both being official representatives of the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc.

WHEREAS, the newly crowned Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 is desirous of attending the Miss Rodeo America Pageant as a representative of the State of Nebraska, and WHEREAS, the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. is desirous of sponsoring said Miss Rodeo Nebraska, between them this Contract is read, understood and agreed.

To comply with Miss Rodeo America age rules, Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 certifies: She is 19 years of age and WILL BE 21 years of age by November 1, 2026, and WILL BE NO OLDER THAN 26 years of age as of December 31, 2026, the year she will compete at the Miss Rodeo American competition. Upon request, she will provide a copy of a government issued identification (such as a birth certificate, driver's license, passport, etc.) verifying her age.

Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 agrees to not marry, cohabitate with any person (in an intimate relationship manner), or become pregnant during the year of her reign. If she should marry, engage in said living arrangement, or become pregnant during her time as MRN Lady-in-Waiting and/or her reign as Miss Rodeo Nebraska, she will forfeit all prizes and monies received from the Pageant and her title will go to the first runner-up.

DUTIES

As Miss Rodeo Nebraska, you agree to abide by the Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026 Contract and Miss Rodeo Nebraska Rules and Guidelines, both of which you have read and understand.

You agree to prepare for and compete in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant held during December 2026. If you fail to attend, you will be obligated to reimburse the committee and sponsors for all monies and items won and/or received as Miss Rodeo Nebraska, and the 1st Runner-Up then will assume the title and finish out the term.

As Miss Rodeo Nebraska, you will strongly promote your major sponsors NEBRASKAland DAYS and the BUFFALO BILL RODEO at the events they deem important throughout your reign. Their schedule preferences will be a priority.

As Miss Rodeo Nebraska, you are an official representative of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and should constantly be aware of the value of public relations between the general public and those actively involved in Pro Rodeo, and your responsibility to uphold your title.

The Miss Rodeo America National Director-NE will be the person who you will work directly with to coordinate schedules and appearances. Should the National Director feel certain events would be good exposure for Miss Rodeo Nebraska she can schedule these events, and you shall make every effort to attend these functions and events.

Procurement of any funds, fund raising and/or donations under the title of Miss Rodeo Nebraska shall be approved by, deposited with, and distributed by the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. **The balance of funds in your account must be paid out by April 1st of the year following your reign.**

The Miss Rodeo America National Director-NE is responsible for the proper, personal and professional conduct of Miss Rodeo Nebraska, and will ensure that the rules are strictly adhered to. Should it become necessary for the crown of Miss Rodeo Nebraska to be removed, the National Director will bring the grievances to the Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc. Executive Board where action will be decided.

You will officially receive your crown in January of 2026 at your Coronation. This will be an event you will plan and manage. All proceeds will go directly into your account in the banking institution of Miss Rodeo Nebraska Association, Inc.

By signing below we acknowledge having read and understand this Contract, Contract Exhibit A, Contract Exhibit B, Contract Exhibit C and Contract Rules and Guidelines attached herewith.

MISS RODEO NEBRASKA 2026

MISS RODEO AMERICA NATIONAL DIRECTOR-NE

PRESIDENT, MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION, INC.

DATE: _____

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss
COUNTY OF _____)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this _____ day of _____, 20_____

by _____Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2026,

_____ and _____
MISS RODEO AMERICA NATIONAL DIRECTOR-NE PRESIDENT, MISS RODEO NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION, INC.

Notary Public