

Miss COWBOY CULTURE

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Miss Cowboy Culture Scholarship Program is held annually to select a young lady who has the desire and enthusiasm to serve as a goodwill ambassador for the Cowboy Culture Celebration (CCC).

The CCC board of Directors pledges to make the program memorable for each contestant. The Board is confident the young lady chosen will represent the CCC in a grand manner while promoting our Western heritage.

WHO IS MISS COWBOY CULTURE?

Miss Cowboy Culture (MCC) represents the youth of our community and those who wish to promote and preserve our Western Heritage. She is an ideal American girl with a congenial personality, enjoys travel, and has a sincere interest in garnering educational experiences that will assist in laying a solid foundation for her future. MCC also has an exceptional understanding of the equine industry and values Dublin's rich rodeo history and ranching heritage.

QUALITIES OF MISS COWBOY CULTURE

- * Wishes to represent the Cowboy Culture Celebration, our Western Heritage, and the Western way of living
- * Loves horses, rodeo, and everything they represent
- * Portrays unmatched sportsmanship and high moral character
- * Has knowledge and appreciation of the Western lifestyle and the ability to promote it to those unfamiliar with this way of life
- * Has ambition to pursue her chosen career through higher education and/or special training.
- * Is able to communicate intelligently and maintain dignity in all situations

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MISS COWBOY CULTURE

To promote the Cowboy Culture Celebration and Western heritage through:

- Speaking at local community engagements such as Rotary, Lions, Optimists
- Local on-air radio interviews, parades and rodeos
- Community service such as:
 - Visiting the elderly in nursing homes and assisted living facilities
 - Adopt a Highway clean up
 - Conduct food drives
 - Volunteer at local museums
- Interaction with CCC sponsors
- Attending CCC planning meetings throughout the year
- Helping organize and promote the following year's MCC Scholarship Program

ELIGIBILITY

- * Must be between the ages of 16 and 20 years by January 1 of the competition year. Contestants under the age of 18 require written consent from her parents or legal guardian to participate in the MCC Scholarship Pageant.
- * Single and never before married
- * No children
- * Attending high school, university, community college or technical college. Contestants who have completed high school but are not currently attending a university, community college or technical college must provide proof of enrollment for no later than May 1st of the award year.
- * Must not have been convicted of any crime
- * Must have been born a female
- * Must never have participated with or posed for any photography, video or film associated with any nudity or pornography, nor will she do so for the duration of her reign. She also may not have nor presently take any form of employment involving partial or complete nudity.

All contestants shall agree, in writing, to observe and comply with all rules and regulations as they exist now and as subsequently amended. Contestants shall also accept that all decisions of the MCC judges and the CCC board are final and irrevocable.

No person shall be deemed a contestant until an application has been approved in writing by the CCC Board of Directors. The CCC Board of Directors reserves the right to accept or reject any application as deemed appropriate.

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Contestants must conduct themselves in proper lady-like manner and portray high moral standards. Contestants will not be permitted to drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, or use foul language at any time during CCC functions.
2. Contestants will supply the MCC Board of Directors one 5 X 7 head shot. Photos must be of head and shoulders posed in western attire, no action shots. Western attire includes western blouse, shirt or dress, hat and accessories.
3. Each contestant will provide horses and tack necessary for horsemanship competition.
4. Contestants must provide their own wardrobe and agree to follow the wardrobe guidelines.
5. Contestants must provide their own transportation to and from all MCC Scholarship Program activities.
6. Contestants must be punctual. Late arrival to any program activity will result in a loss of five points per occurrence which will be deducted from the final score on the day of the competition.
7. Contestants are expected to present a 2 ½ minute biographical speech. It is recommended speeches be memorized as no props or prompts will be allowed. Contestants who speak past 2 ½ minutes will be asked to end their speech.
8. Contestants or any other person contacting judges or auditors with intent to influence or harass before, during or after any event, is prohibited. This behavior will be reported to the CCC Board of Directors which could result in disqualification of the involved contestant or removal of offending person or persons from MCC functions.
9. Applicants must sign a Waiver of Liability and fill out an Application. If under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also sign a consent form along with the liability form.

SELECTION OF MISS COWBOY CULTURE

One MCC will be selected from eligible contestants by majority vote of a panel with no fewer than three judges, appointed at the discretion of the CCC Board of Directors. Sub-panels may be used for judging the personal interview, personality & appearance, horsemanship, and Dublin's rodeo & ranching history knowledge. The selection process will occur at a publically disclosed time and place determined by the MCC Board of Directors.

Should, at any time, the selected MCC fail to meet any of the listed requirements or any duties assigned by the CCC Board of Directors or the Executive Director, MCC forfeits her title and prizes, repays the scholarship in full, and reimburses the CCC Board of Directors for the value of the prize package.

In the event MCC forfeits her title, the CCC Board of Directors will select her replacement from the list of contestants who met all requirements in competing for the title of MCC. The MCC contestant with the second highest overall score will be selected. If she is not available, the Board of Directors will select the next available contestant with the subsequent score.

Eligible contestants will be rated using a point system. Each judge will award each contestant a number of points that represents the degree of skill and aptitude in each of the following categories:

<u>Horsemanship</u>	<u>0 - 100pts = 25%</u>
<u>Personal interview</u>	<u>0 - 100pts = 25%</u>
<u>Personality & Appearance</u>	<u>0 - 100pts = 25%</u>
<u>Public Speaking</u>	<u>0 - 100pts = 25%</u>

The contestant with the highest number of points will be awarded the title of Miss Cowboy Culture. Ties will be broken by referring back to Judge #1. This judge's score will break the tie. If the tie remains, Judge #2's score will be used, and so forth until the tie is broken.

Scholarship Program officials will not have access to completed judging sheets. The judges will select from among themselves one person to serve as Head Judge. That

judge will gather the completed score sheets from all the judges, place them in a sealed envelope, and personally deliver them to the Auditor.

Each contestant may review her personal scores at the completion of the auditor's review by request made to the Scholarship Program Executive Director.

No contestant or person on the contestant's behalf shall be in direct contact with any personnel of the accounting firm.

No verbal agreement supersedes this written agreement.

The MCC Board of Directors reserves the right to revise this Rule Book at their discretion and without prior notice.

PROGRAM DIVISIONS

PERSONALITY & APPEARANCE, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS & PUBLIC SPEAKING.

Judges will select the young lady who rates highest in the following:

- * Attractiveness
- * Grooming – neatness, cleanliness, fingernails, hair, hat, boots, and other western apparel.
- * Posture – How the contestant carries herself is very important. The judges will be looking for contestants to carry themselves straight and tall with chin up and display confidence.
- * Poise and ladylike behavior at all times - Judges will be looking for contestants to handle each situation that they are involved in with grace and style. A vast knowledge of proper etiquette is also sought.
- * Western fashion sense – Contestants should choose outfit that reflect western style fashion and taste. Judges will pay particular attention to contestant's ability to use colors that enhance her natural complexion and create eye appeal.
- * Proper fit of clothing – Contestants should be aware of the fit of their attire.
- * Outfits should be figure-flattering and include a properly shaped hat that fits well and flatters her face.
- * Intelligence and common sense.
- * Conversational ability in diverse topics with emphasis on correct grammar and enunciation.
- * Good sense of humor.
- * Self-confidence, high moral standards, sincerity and integrity.
- * Genuine interest in other people and consideration for others.
- * Self-projection
- * Happy outlook on life
- * Maturity
- * Educational background and career goals

HORSEMANSHIP

All contestants will provide their own horse for the horsemanship portion of the competition. Horses should be all-around types of horses that are capable of taking correct leads when cued correctly. Horsemanship patterns will be provided to the contestants. Tack used on a horse may not be unsafe or inhumane. Spurs are permitted but excessive spurring will be penalized. Whips, crops, tie-downs, martingales, and other training equipment are not permitted.

Contestants should strive for a smooth pattern. This portion of the competition will be judged based the contestant's comprehension, skill, and how she cues the horse. Contestants will not be judged on the horse's ability or equipment.

Contestants will be judged based on the following criteria:

- * Control of mount and how to handle unique situations
- * Balance – ability to sit in the saddle
- * Position of hands, feet, and seat
- * Mounting and dismounting
- * Presentation wave
- * Showmanship – contestant's projection of her personality to the audience

Each contestant will be required to answer questions from the following categories:

- * Knowledge of tack
- * Horse science
- * Rodeo terminology
- * Explanation of rodeo events

Horsemanship competition will be as follows:

1. Enter arena leading horse.
2. Lead horse to the judge and mount.
3. At the judge's nod, begin the horsemanship pattern.
4. Complete the pattern and walk horse to the judges.
5. At judge's nod, dismount horse and answer two questions from the above listed categories.
6. At judge's dismissal, mount horse and exit the arena.

7. Upon exiting the arena, prepare for two presentation runs. Presentation runs consist of a flag run and a run to greet/acknowledge the audience. These may be done in any order – dropping off or picking up the flag between runs. Enter the arena again when ready. These runs are typically done at high speed but **collection and control of horse is first priority.**

DUBLIN'S WESTERN HERITAGE KNOWLEDGE

The purpose of this category is to discover contestant's ability to understand and comprehend Dublin's many contributions to the NCHA, Professional Rodeo, and ranching industry.

Each contestant will be given the opportunity to share her knowledge of NCHA beginnings, Dublin's rodeo and ranching legends, Dublin's rodeo history, current rodeo and ranching legends in our community.

Each contestant must have the ability to represent the Western lifestyle, its heritage, and the Cowboy Culture Celebration.

STUDY INFORMATION

Contestants are encouraged to visit the Dublin Rodeo Heritage Museum and the Dublin Historical Museum. Both are great sources of information. In addition, important information can be found by searching online *Dublin Rodeo, Lightning C Ranch, NCHA Dublin, Harry Tompkins*, and similar topics.

WARDROBE GUIDELINES

Each contestant must have the following wardrobe articles:

1. At least one complete western dress or skirt outfit with accessories to be worn at the interview.
2. At least one complete horsemanship outfit and accessories. This consists of jeans of any color with complimenting long sleeve ladies western blouse tucked in, belt with buckle, clean and appropriate cowboy hat and boots. No chaps are to be worn.
3. One complete coronation ceremony outfit which will be worn for the public speaking appearance as well. Choice of outfit is up to the Contestant's discretion as long as it is western and in good taste.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

CONTESTANTS:

1. The CCC Scholarship Program Executive Director reserves the right to publish or allow publication of the name, basic biographical information, and photograph of each MCC contestant with any media and in any reasonable manner, for the promotion of the CCC Scholarship Program.
2. Contestants shall not publish or release any information, photos, quotes, and/or other biographical information without the permission of the CCC or MCC Program Executive Director.
3. Prior to the MCC Pageant, contestants shall attend all public and private functions connected with the CCC and the MCC Scholarship Program as designated by the MCC Scholarship Program Executive Director. After the new MCC is crowned, she is responsible for attending and promoting events as designated by the CCC Executive Director or the MCC Scholarship Program Executive Director. Any additional events MCC wishes to participate with must be approved by either of the above mentioned Executive Directors.

MISS COWBOY CULTURE:

1. Must be in attendance during the entire CCC held in her crowning year unless specifically excused by the CCC or MCC Program Executive Director.
2. Must be dressed in western attire, all of which to be furnished at her own expense. Proper attire consists of cowboy boots, pressed jeans, ladies western style blouse, western belt and buckle (buckle optional), cowboy hat, and MCC sash. Blouses need not be tucked in but should be an attractive fit and appropriate for the event.
3. Must provide her own transportation to all promotional functions, performances, and events unless otherwise instructed by the CCC or MCC Program Executive Director.

4. At mounted events, MCC must provide her own horse with all necessary tack (saddle, bridle etc...) and transportation for her horse to and from the event or function at her own expense. MCC must furnish proof of negative coggins test and current vaccinations for the horse being used for the event or function. MCC agrees not to hold the Cowboy Culture Celebration Committee Members, Executive Director and/or any other facility liable for equine related accidents.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs taken of contestants during the pageant by pageant personnel will become the property of the Miss Cowboy Culture Scholarship Program and may be used for publicity.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The Miss Cowboy Culture Scholarship Program Board of Directors expects contestants, parents, friends, and relatives to display the highest degree of sportsmanship during the pageant and subsequent coronation. Each contestant should be mindful that they are representing the Miss Cowboy Culture Scholarship Program, the CCC, and our Western lifestyle. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, could result in disqualification, and affect future eligibility to compete in the MCC Scholarship Program.

PARENTS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES – The Miss Cowboy Culture Scholarship Program welcomes and encourages your presence during the competition. The MCC Scholarship Program requests complete cooperation during program activities and at no time during the competition shall any one disturb the contestants. All family, friends and relatives are responsible for obtaining tickets for all events.

AGREEMENT

By signing below, you agree that you have read and understood the rules for the Miss cowboy Culture Scholarship Pageant.

I agree to the requirements as listed above. I understand that these rules, regulations, and promotional activities are subject to change. Furthermore, I give the Cowboy Culture Celebration Executive Director, Board of Directors, and the Executive Director of the Miss Cowboy Culture Scholarship Pageant permission to use my photos, biographical information, and appearances to promote the Cowboy Culture Celebration.

Contestant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____