



SLO County Sheriff's Rodeo Queen Pageant 2026

Hosted by the SLO Sheriffs Rodeo Foundation

Event Date: April 4,2026

Location: Hearst Equestrian Center/Midstate Fairgrounds, Paso Robles

Contact: Jenn Katich, Queen Coordinator

Email: jennkatich@gmail.com

559-760-1953



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
RODEO

Welcome to the first annual **SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Queen Pageant!** This exciting new tradition celebrates the western heritage, horsemanship, and community pride that define San Luis Obispo County. Hosted by the **SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Foundation**, this pageant is dedicated to recognizing young women who exemplify leadership, integrity, and a true love for the western way of life.

This year marks the inaugural crowning of our titleholder, who will make history as the first representative of this program. She will serve as an ambassador for the **SLO Sheriff's Rodeo**, participating in parades, community events, and local rodeo activities throughout the year.

The SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Queen Pageant provides an opportunity for contestants to develop their skills in **public speaking, horsemanship, and community ambassadorship**. Contestants will be judged on **horsemanship, interview, speech, appearance, personality, and rodeo knowledge** — all qualities that reflect the values and spirit of our rodeo family.

We are honored to welcome each contestant to this memorable first year. Whether you are here to compete, learn, or simply celebrate our western heritage, your participation helps establish a legacy that will grow for years to come

SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Queen along with two runner-up contestants will be chosen at the conclusion of this year's contest. In the event the winner is unable to fulfill her responsibilities as outlined in the contest guidelines, the first runner-up contestant will assume the winner's position. If she is unable to fulfill the responsibilities as outlined in the contest guidelines, the second runner-up will assume the winner's position.

This packet includes an overview of the contest, eligibility requirements, selection process categories, horsemanship reining pattern, schedule of events, and application.



Contestant Eligibility Requirements

- Resident of SLO county
- Willing and able to fulfill all the “queen’s responsibilities” during her reign
- Age 17-24 must be within the age range on the day of competition.

Contest Categories and Guidelines

The SLO Sheriff’s Rodeo Queen 2026 and runner-ups will be selected based on the highest combined scores in two categories: Horsemanship (50%), and Poise, Personality & Appearance (50%). In the case of a tie in overall scores, the Horsemanship scores will be the deciding factor.

Horsemanship (50% of overall score)

- Horsemanship will be scored and broken down into three (3) categories.
 - o Salute/flag carry
 - o Mount/dismount and impromptu questions
 - o Simple reining pattern
- Contestants will provide their own horse for the contest, and the same horse must be used for all categories of the competition.
- Horses must be in a bridle for the salute and reining pattern sections of the competition. No broken bits or training bits. Rommel or split reins should be used.
- Any coaching from outside of the arena during the competition is not permitted. Cheers are welcomed.
- The day of the competition, contestants shall warm-up/school their own horses.
- **Attire:** Western jeans, long-sleeved western shirt or blouse, accessories of your choice, belt and buckle, western boots, and western hat. Gloves and chaps are optional. Neatness of dress and appearance (person, horse and tack) are important.

- Scoring will be based on the contestant's horsemanship skills, not on the ability of the horse.
- Contestants will be asked horsemanship and general equine questions.

Poise, Personality & Appearance (50% of overall score)

This portion of the contest will include:

- Personal interview before the panel of judges
- Modeling
- On-stage impromptu questions
- Speech (3 to 5 minutes, self-prepared speech on any aspect of rodeo)
- **Attire:** Western boots, western pants, suits, dresses or skirts, western shirt, blouse or jacket, accessories of your choice, belt and buckle, and western hat.

Horsemanship

All contestants will be asked to perform a simple reining pattern, flag carry and salute, as well as mount and dismount. Contestants will be asked two to three questions by the judges.

Reining Pattern

- Enter arena at the jog
- Stop in the center of the arena
- Turn and face judges
- Begin with left lead, circle at a lope large fast followed by small slow
- Switch leads
- Right lead circle at a lope large fast followed by small slow
- Switch leads. On the left lead circle around to middle, rundown to the end of arena and stop.
- Two and half turns to the left
- Run down to opposite end of arena and stop
- Two and half turns to right
- Run down half way to the middle of the arena and stop, then back 15-20 steps.
- Nod to judges to signal completion of pattern.

Upon completion of the reining pattern, walk to the gate and pick up a flag for the flag carry/salute portion of the horsemanship competition.

Salute/flag carry

For this portion of the competition, the flag will be provided for you. Enter the arena carrying a flag. Circle the arena one time at a slow and controlled lope. Then circle the arena a second time with the flag at a faster but still controlled pace. Stop at the gate and hand the flag to arena personnel. Make a third and final presentation ride around the arena saluting the crowd. Stop in the center of the arena, pause, then walk or jog to judges.

Properly Dismount

Judges will ask two to three general horsemanship questions.

Properly mount and exit the arena.

If the judges should choose, they may ask the contestants back into the arena for further evaluation or questions. This is at the judge's discretion.

Contestant's Responsibilities during the Competition

- Participate in and be on time to all events.
- Exercise a positive attitude and conduct herself in a professional sportsmanship-like manner.
- Be prepared! Study, practice, and don't be afraid to ask questions!

Ready for Fun, Let's DO IT!

You may print and email back the application or click links below to sign all required documents. Applications must be submitted by 12pm on March 6, 2026. No exceptions. Please contact Jenn with any questions.

Submit completed applications to:

Jenn Katich

[**jennkatich@gmail.com**](mailto:jennkatich@gmail.com)

Please Use Subject: 2026 Queen Application



Application for the SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Queen 2026

Contestant Information

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Age on Jan 1, 2026: _____

Home Address:

County of Residence: _____

(Must be San Luis Obispo County)

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if minor): _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Horse Information

Horse Name: _____

Breed: _____ **Age:** _____

Color/Markings: _____

Owner's Name (if not contestant): _____

School / Employment

Current School or Employer: _____

Grade Level / Position: _____

Experience (Optional but encouraged)

Rodeo or Horsemanship Experience:

Previous Titles (if any):

Required Attachments

Please include the following with your completed application:

- Copy of birth certificate or legal proof of age
- Current photo (headshot or full western attire)
- Signed code of conduct

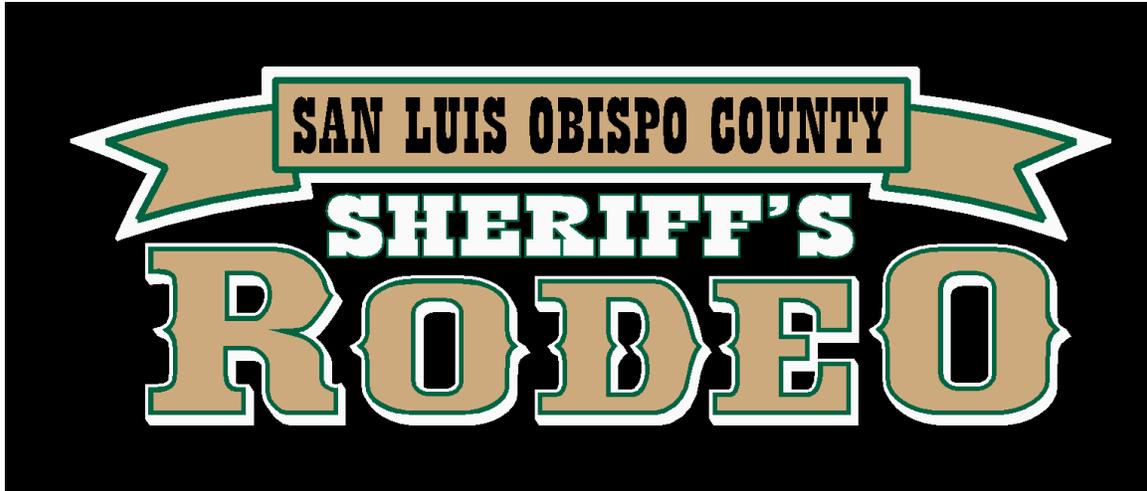
Agreement & Signature

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate. I understand that any falsification may result in disqualification. I agree to abide by all rules of the SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Pageant.

Contestant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian if Minor _____

Date: _____



SLO Sheriffs Rodeo Queen Contestant's Statement 2026

I, the undersigned SLO Sheriffs Rodeo Queen Contestant, agree to abide by the following statements and understand that violation of any will result in my immediate disqualification from this contest.

1. I will attend all required activities as scheduled and directed.
2. I will maintain a desirable attitude and conduct myself in a professional and honest manner.
3. I will meet and maintain the eligibility requirements.
4. I will not act, appear, or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs at any time while representing the SLO Sheriffs Rodeo and/or the Miss SLO Sheriffs Rodeo program.
5. I will comply with the guidelines set forth in the Contest Categories and Guidelines section.
6. I will not attempt to influence or affect the outcome of the contest at the expense of a fellow contestant, a contestant's property or horse, or any other behavior deemed unacceptable by the Contest Coordinator, Rodeo Coach, and/or judges.
7. I accept that the decision of the judges' is final and cannot be appealed.

Should I be crowned SLO Sheriffs Rodeo Queen 2026, I also agree to the following:

As SLO Sheriffs Rodeo's official ambassador, SLO Sheriffs Rodeo Queen, shall represent the SLO Sheriffs Rodeo foundation, in a positive, professional, and honorable manner.

I will adhere to and demonstrate high moral, ethical and professional character.

I will represent a high standard of sportsmanship and humane treatment of animals in competitive and pleasure events.

I will abide by the rules, laws and regulations of the law enforcement and fire agencies.

I will act, speak, and dress according to the esteem this title deserves at any time while in public.

I will strive to continually improve my horsemanship skills and knowledge about rodeo and agricultural life to better promote the sport of rodeo and the western way of life, as well as public safety and current events.

I will wear professional western attire that is suitable for the activity or event I am attending or involved with as Miss SLO Sheriffs Rodeo, including wearing a western hat, crown and sash.

I will be available for all reasonable requests and opportunities to appear in public on behalf of SLO Sheriffs Rodeo.

I will allow my name and photographs to be used at no obligation in the promotion of SLO Sheriffs Rodeo, including but not limited to print, television/video, radio, and social media.

I will promote SLO Sheriffs Rodeo as SLO Sheriffs Rodeo in a minimum of 3 rodeos during my reign. One (1) of these rodeos must be the SLO Sheriffs Rodeo, and one (1) should be the Santa Maria Elks Rodeo and/or California Rodeo Salinas. Other options include Santa Barbara Fiesta, Cal Poly Poly Royal, Breakawave. Attendance at other events are at the discretion of the titleholder in agreement with the coordinator.

I will consult with the Contest Coordinator and/or Rodeo Coach on a regular and often basis to schedule approved activities, events, and appearances as SLO Sheriffs Rodeo Queen.

I will uphold the honor, dignity, and requirements of the SLO Sheriffs Rodeo position, and be present through the coronation of the subsequent winner in 2027. This includes working with the Contest Coordinator to prepare for next year's contest.

I understand and accept that in the event I fail to comply in part or wholly with any of the above requirements as SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Queen, I will promptly be relieved of my title and its inherent duties, responsibilities, and benefits. The first runner-up will then assume the position, including the duties and responsibilities for the remainder of the reign, provided the first runner-up is eligible to receive that title as outlined above through a verification of the minimum standards. Should the first runner-up fail to meet those qualifications, or be unwilling to assume those duties, the second runner-up will be the new SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Queen, also contingent upon verification of having met the minimum standards.

All the information contained within this application is true and correct. I understand, accept, and am willing to carry out the duties and responsibilities, as outlined in this application, as SLO Sheriff's Rodeo Queen or as a runner-up in the event I am selected for either position.

Contestants Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

parent/guardian if minor _____

