

Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty Policy and Procedure

The Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty serves as ambassadors for the Rio Arriba Country Fair in addition to Rio Arriba 4-H and FFA Clubs. The Royalty represents the Fair as well as the community with the highest level of poise and integrity. Each recognizes the importance of promoting a positive image.

Selection to serve as Royalty is a privilege and an honor. The Royalty willingly fulfills responsibilities with grace, dignity, and courtesy at all times. The Royalty serve as role models who exhibit good moral character and social behavior.

LIABILITY & RELEASE

- This Royalty Handbook policies and procedures for the Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty program effective as of June 2024, supersedes all previous editions of the Royalty Handbook and other policies and procedures of the past.
- These policies and procedures of this Royalty Handbook do not constitute a contract or agreement of any kind. The Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty serves at the will of the Rio Arriba County Fair Board and may terminate the Queen or any Royalty Members at any time, and without advance notice, procedure or formality. The Rio Arriba County Fair Board, at any time and in its sole discretion and without prior notice, may change or delete any of these policies, with the exception that there will be no change to our "at will" policy.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All eligible applicants must meet the following criteria. Each year there will be one Queen, one Junior Queen, one Princess, and one Junior Princess crowned. Please contact the Royalty Advisor appointed by the Fair Board with any questions.

Royalty Advisor: Clarissa Baca-Bustos (505) 929-0578

- Contestants must be a Rio Arriba County resident and be a member of 4-H or FFA programs.
- Must not have a criminal history.
- Must maintain a 2.5 GPA
- Queen must be between the ages of 14 and 19.
- Junior Queen must be between the ages of 12 and 13.
- Princess must be between the ages of 8 and 11.
- Junior Princess must be between the ages of 5 and 7.
- Queen must be between the ages of 15-19 years, as of January 1st.

AWARD OF TITLE

The Royalty titles will be awarded to the individuals with the highest score of out the possible 50 points in their respective categories.

Upon award of title, appointed Royalty and their parents will be required to sign a code of conduct and acknowledgement of responsibilities that will be valid until the end of their reign.

Notice: If there are multiple contestants for a position while some royalty positions have no competitors, the age limit will not apply. The runner-up may be awarded the runner-up title and serve as Jr. Queen or Princess to ensure all titles are filled.

Responsibilities as Queen

(include but are not limited to the Queen)

- Reign begins at the Crowning Ceremony and runs for one full year.
- Assist with as many 4-H events as possible.
- Attend Rio Arriba County Fair Board Meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. unless excused by Royalty Advisor.
- Schedule of events assigned to Royalty may be provided by Royalty Advisor.
- Invite royalty from other counties to the Rio Arriba Country Fair & Rodeo.
- Write thank-you notes to sponsors, vendors and buyers for all events attended.
- Assist in all Rio Arriba County Fair & Rodeo promotions as requested by the Rio Arriba County Fair Board.
- Assist the Royalty Advisor with the following years Royalty Clinic and Contest.
- Royalty cannot hold any other Rodeo Queen/Princess titles in or out of Rio Arriba County during their reigning year.
- Ride in all Grand Entries at the Fair & Rodeo *(Currently optional but subject to change)*.

Royalty Required Events

- Rio Arriba County Fair
- County Council Meetings
- A minimum of three outside events/appearances during the year after which you are responsible for presenting back to the Rio Arriba Country Fair Board at the following Fair Board Meeting.

* As a representative for the Rio Arriba County Fair, you will be invited to attend certain events. Many of the events you will attend will be by invitation only and the Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty will respect and follow the rules set forth by the host of these events. The amount of days dedicated to these events will be determined by the Queen separately based on their schedule, budget and approval of parents.

BUDGET

The Rio Arriba County Fair Board determines the budget for the Fair annually. Within that budget there is a line item that is designated specifically for the Royalty Program. The Royalty will be required to operate within that budget in addition to seeking out additional sponsorships with the Queen leading this effort as to not abuse the generosity of local businesses and community members. All donations, fundraisers and royalty luncheon income must be paid to the Rio Arriba County Fair Association and will be allocated from there to pay for expenses. The Royalty Advisor, Queen, and Fair Board will meet during the Fair Board Meetings to discuss the royalty budget breakdown as necessary.

****ALL EXPENSES MUST BE PRE-APPROVED BY THE ROYALTY ADVISOR****

ROYALTY CODE OF CONDUCT

- Conduct yourself as a lady at all times when representing the Rio Arriba County Fair Association whether in Queen/Princess attire or not. This includes behaving in a polite and gracious manner at all times. The Queen/Princess should never be seen arguing with anyone (this includes family). Yelling and acting out towards others is considered inappropriate behavior.
- The Queen/Princess must remember that she is in the public eye and is expected to represent the Rio Arriba County Fair Association & Rodeo properly.
- The Queen/Princess is expected to attend all required events in a punctual manner.
- The Queen/Princess is allowed to attend events that are not required as long as they are run through the Royalty Advisor prior.
- The Queen/Princess and her mount must always be appropriately groomed and well turned out. The Queen's/Princess's mount must show good care and the Queen/Princess must remember this at all events. The Queen/Princess should have no visible tattoos or piercing with the exception of having piercing in the ears.
- The Queen/Princess will always wear the designated attire when representing the Rio Arriba County Fair & Rodeo. This may include but is not limited to jeans, belt, buckle, tiara, western boots with a heel, hat and long sleeve shirt that matches the rest of her attire. Clothing should be clean and pressed. All clothing should be modest and tactfully worn. Hair and makeup should be nicely and tastefully done. The Queen/Princess should also wear her sash.
- The Queen's/Princess's tack, no matter how old or new, should also be clean and show good care. This includes checking tack often for any needed repairs.
- The Queen/Princess should always remember that even when not in official attire, she is in the public eye. This means that swearing, vulgarity, crude

remarks, smoking, chewing tobacco, illegal drug use, and drinking alcoholic beverages are inappropriate and can result in a reprimand or dismissal.

- Always remember to handle your horse as a horsewoman. All training and discipline should be done at home or in lessons. If discipline is needed, it should be done in a tactful and inconspicuous manner.
- The Queen/Princess should, in no way, display any affection with a significant other. This includes but is not limited to kissing, hand holding and sitting on laps. The Queen/Princess cannot live with a significant other.
- If the Queen/Princess is a minor (under 18), she should be supervised by a chaperone/parent.
- The Queen/Princess will refrain from slandering others. The Queen/Princess must avoid all inappropriate behavior and or language. This includes all information and slanderous remarks made via text, phone, photos, internet chat, or other social media outlet. During the time you are a member of the Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty, NEVER include your city, address, or any other contact information other than your email address on ANY website you maintain.
- If the Queen/Princess, or their families have questions or issues these must be directed through the Rio Arriba Fair Royalty Advisor first. If the issue cannot be resolved, then consult the County Fair Board.
- The Rio Arriba Country Fair Queen/Princess is representing the Rio Arriba Country Fair and all of Rio Arriba County. This should be a fun and positive experience.
- The experience as Rio Arriba Fair Royalty can be as fulfilling as you want to make it. It is entirely up to the Queen/Princess as to how much or how little she experiences. It is expected that the Queen/Princess and her family respect the opinion of and decisions made by the Royalty Advisor and Fair Board. Failure to comply with Royalty Advisor and/or Fair Board will result in a warning and potential loss of title – no negotiation.
- **Most importantly, if you have questions, ASK!** Call your Royalty Advisor, Clarissa Baca-Bustos at (505) 929-0578.

DRESS CODE

- Royalty are always expected to wear a hat, tiara, sash, buckle and western wear (unless they are competing in their 4H/FFA event in the show ring).
- No undergarments should be visible at any time.
- Clothing shall be neat and clean, western boots must be worn at all times.
- Unacceptable clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, hair coloring, accessories, etc. includes spaghetti strap shirts; clothing that leaves bare or exposes traditionally private parts of the body including, but not limited to, the stomach, buttocks, back and breasts; items with reference to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons; items that are of a sexual nature; articles which by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute denote membership in gangs or advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior; or obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or legally libelous clothing. No visible body adornments (e.g. tattoos) are permitted.

RESIGNATION

- If a member of the Rio Arriba Fair Royalty has been dismissed, that member cannot compete in future Royalty tryouts.
- If the resignation was due to circumstances beyond the member's control, such as family illness, personal illness or other acceptable reasons, under the discretion of the Royalty Advisor and Fair Board, that member may tryout the following year.
- If there is a resignation or dismissal, all prizes must be forfeited and returned to the Royalty Advisor.
- Disciplinary Procedures
- For any violation of the code the Royalty Advisor and Fair Board will determine disciplinary action to be taken and their decision is final.
- If an individual is dismissed, the prizes will be forfeited.
- The Royalty Advisor and Rio Arriba County Fair Board will investigate any possible rule violation and/or misconduct and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, which may include written reprimand and/or immediate dismissal based on the severity of the violation.

PARENTS

The role of parents in the Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty program is to support your daughter first and foremost. However, you will be coordinating your daughter's events and appearances with the assistance of the Royalty Advisor appointed by the Fair Board. Please remember that this honor is your daughter's and it is her responsibility to represent the Rio Arriba County Fair & Rodeo.

The following rules apply to anyone traveling with a member of the Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty.

- Any person traveling with a member of the Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty will be expected to be cordial and friendly to the Advisor, other Royalty groups, and any other persons associated with the event they are attending.
- Information about travel, luncheons, tickets, etc. should be directed to the Rio Arriba County Fair Royalty Advisor and NOT the visiting coordinator.
- Remember to keep your personal issues private. Airing your grievances publicly hurts our program and the Royalty. All problems can be resolved by using our chain of command, Step#1 Advisor, Step#2 Fair Board Chairman, Step#3 Fair Board as a whole.

I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE RIO ARRIBA COUNTY FAIR ROYALTY POLICY AND PROCEDURE (THIS DOCUMENT) AND I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO ADHERE TO THE POLICIES CONTAINED HEREIN AND TO ANY AND ALL FUTURE REVISIONS APPROVED FOR INCLUSION WHILE I AM A MEMBER OF THE RIO ARRIBA COUNTY FAIR ROYALTY PROGRAM.

ROYALTY Print Name

ROYALTY Signature

Date _____

ROYALTY 4H or FFA Club Name

4H or FFA Club Leader Print Name

Print Name (Parent/Guardian)

Signature (Parent/Guardian)

Date _____

Royalty Advisor: Clarissa Baca-Bustos

Signature (Royalty Advisor)

Date _____

Scorecard Points

SPEECH

Speech selection:

Interesting and entertaining – should be related to agriculture, home economics, 4H, FFA or the history of Rio Arriba County.

POSSIBLE 10 POINTS AVAILABLE _____

Projects confidence, pleasant, friendly, relaxed, poised and sincere.

POSSIBLE 10 POINTS AVAILABLE _____

MODELING

Makes an onstage presence; posture is straight and moves with fluid motion.

POSSIBLE 10 POINTS AVAILABLE _____

IMPROMPTU QUESTIONS BASED ON 4-H KNOWLEDGE

Did the Contestant respond to the question in the correct context?

POSSIBLE 10 POINTS AVAILABLE _____

PERSONAL INTERVIEW/SUMMARY

Was the contestant able to discuss their age, school, 4H projects with confidence?

POSSIBLE 10 POINTS AVAILABLE _____

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **out of 50 TOTAL**