

# Miss Rodeo Florida Pageant comes to Okeechobee

Special to the Okeechobee News

The Miss Rodeo Florida Association and contestants from all around the state of Florida will be pulling into town on Thursday, Sept. 26, for the start of a three-day pageant weekend. Four new rodeo queens will be selected to represent the great sport of rodeo during the 2014 rodeo season.

Contestants range in age depending on the title they are competing for. The Miss Rodeo Florida contestants are between the ages of 19 – 25, the Miss Teen Rodeo Florida contestants are between the ages of 15 – 18. Both groups compete in speech, appearance, impromptu questions, rodeo knowledge, personal interviews, and horsemanship. They win scholarships and prizes. The winner of the Miss Rodeo Florida title will go on to compete for the title of Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The younger contestants compete for Miss Rodeo Florida Princess age 11 – 14, and Miss Rodeo Florida Sweetheart age 7 – 10. They do not compete in the category of horsemanship. Winners receive a crown, trophy, sash and miscellaneous prizes and will attend rodeos, parades and community events throughout the state of Florida during their year as rodeo queens.

"Okeechobee was selected as the host city for this year's pageant due to

their willingness to accommodate our group and their ties to rodeo within our state," says Sandy Steinruck, President of the Miss Rodeo Florida Association. Steinruck adds, "We look forward to showcasing Okeechobee, a city rich in rodeo traditions to all who attend."

The horsemanship competition is free of charge and takes place on Friday between 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. A Stars & Stripes Dinner and Fashion Show follows at 6:30 p.m. at the Okeechobee KOA Resort. On Saturday is an Armed Services Luncheon at noon and concludes with the awards ceremony at 2:30 p.m., held at the Okeechobee KOA resort. Dinner and luncheon tickets can be purchased in advance at Eli's Western Wear in Okeechobee beginning Aug. 10 or by contacting Pageant Director, Michelle Harper at 863-634-6397. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for kids 10 years old and under. Tickets will be sold at the door for an additional \$5.

The deadline to submit contestant applications is Aug. 17. For additional information, please visit [www.MissRodeoFlorida.com](http://www.MissRodeoFlorida.com).

For information regarding this press release, please contact Judy Herstich at 407-396-4646.



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Current Miss Rodeo queens are Sierra Coward, CarrieAnn Clements, Jenna Smeenck and Nicole Boulton.

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