

The 2026 Lady-N-Waiting Contest will be on **Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, at the fairgrounds in Yuma. It will start at **9am** and will start with horsemanship followed by the speeches, Interviews, and written test. You will need to submit the attached application, typed essay, and two letters of recommendation delivered to Yuma County Commissioners Office, **no later than Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm**. All the contact information is listed below.

## **Lady-N-Waiting Contest Rules and Regulations**

### **General:**

The Yuma County Fair and Rodeo Queen serve as the official host for the Yuma County Fair and Rodeo and is also the representative of the Yuma County Cattlemen's Association and Yuma County agriculture. The Queen Committee strives to make the contest a memorable experience and in turn asks for full cooperation. The committee is confident that the Lady-in-Waiting that is chosen each year will represent this county and the program in a grand manner and will carry those traits into her Queen year. The contest will be intense and demanding, and we ask for your total concentration. If there is anything the Queen Committee can do for any contestant to help prepare, please ask.

1. The Queen Committee has complete authority over the entire YCFRQ contest and all events and activities that involve the contestants.
2. Contest eligibility requirements are:
  - a. Must be single and never married and/or pregnant or with a child.
  - b. Must be 16 years of age by Dec. 31st for the year of tryout and not older than 21 years of age by the day of tryouts.
  - c. Must sign the application and have a parent or guardian also sign the entry application if under 21 years of age.
  - d. Must sign the liability of waiver.
  - e. Must agree to follow all contest rules as established by the Queen Committee with the possibility of disqualification for infractions.
  - f. May not have held any other County Queen titles
3. All problems or complaints are to be referred immediately to the Queen Committee. Breaking any rules and/or conduct unbecoming the YCFRQ by a contestant may lead to disqualification from the contest.
4. All applications must reach the Yuma County Commissioners Office by **5:00pm on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, if mailed or can be directly handed to the Yuma County Commissioners Office by **5:00pm on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.
5. The contest will be held the day prior to the opening of the Yuma County Fair. Contestants will be judged on speech and interview, poise and personality, horsemanship, written test, and a written essay.
6. Each contestant must bring her own horse and riding equipment, which may be borrowed.
  - a. A tie-down may be used.
  - b. Spurs may be worn at the discretion of the contestant.
  - c. No stallions may be used.

- d. Horses and Contestants must be prepared to carry a flag and switch horses with other contestants as part of the competition.
  - e. Attire for Horsemanship will be a White Button shirt, blue or black jeans and a western cowboy hat. For speeches, tests, and interviews, if contestants would like to change into Western Luncheon attire aka western dresswear that will be permitted but not required.
7. All contestants will then be required to aid the current YCFR Queen and Lady-in-Waiting while handing out ribbons at shows and making other appearances during the fair. Current Queen will provide contestants with a timeline for fair events and needs during county fair.
  8. The day of tryout is also the Princess Program at 5:00pm. All contestants will be required to attend.
  9. On the day of tryouts please come preprepared to decorate your horse stall that afternoon. Your horse will be at the fairgrounds for the entire fair, please come prepared.
  10. Once all applications are in, the current Queen and LIW will be in contact with all contestants to set up a couple of practice days before the tryout day.

### Lady-N-Waiting Contest Judging:

All judges are carefully selected and are invited to judge because of their ability and expertise. They are instructed to visit with all contestants as much as possible. The judges for this contest are instructed that the type of girl the YCFR Queen Committee seeks is one who exemplifies:

- Sincerity
- Integrity
- Attractiveness
- Intelligence
- High moral standards
- Maturity
- Public speaking ability
- Knowledge of the Yuma County Fair and Rodeo and Yuma County agriculture
- Knowledge of Yuma County if which they will be a title holder for
- Knowledge of current events
- Knowledge of the sport of rodeo, their horse, and equipment

Contestants will be judged in 4 general areas -- Speech & Interview, Poise & Personality, Horsemanship, Application/Written Test/Essay for a total of 300 points to each contestant.

**Speech & Interview:** The aim of this division is to select the girl who rates the highest in intelligence, common sense, ability to speak in public, projection, and showmanship. Every applicant will be required to give a 5–7-minute prepared speech on “**How can I promote Yuma County and its agriculture?**” During the judging, each applicant will be interviewed by a panel of judges to determine their knowledge of agriculture and rodeo and their duties and responsibilities as a representative of Yuma County.

**Horsemanship:** The aim of this judging is to select the girl who rates the highest in riding ability, mounting, and dismounting, balance, and position. The Committee reserves the right to ask contestants to switch horses during any part of the contest. Also, contestants must be prepared to carry a flag while horseback. Only one horse may be used during the tryout. This section will consist of a queen run, carrying of flag, basic rail and cattle work and knowledge of your horse, equipment, and care. The judges may ask for additional exercises if needed for them to make an accurate decision. A general reining pattern will be presented 10 minutes before this portion of the contest begins for contestants to study and execute.

**Poise & Personality:** The aim of this judging is to select the girl who rates the highest in posture, poise, fashion sense, conversational ability, genuine interest in other people, sense of humor, and over all happy outlooks. Every applicant must adhere to a dress code during the judging and fair. For the day of judging, applicants must wear blue jeans, a white long-sleeved collared shirt, and a black cowboy hat for the horsemanship portion and a dress outfit for the interview and speech. Other western collared shirts and cowboy hats are allowed for the remainder of the fair events. All clothing must be clean, fitted, and starched. Points from this section will be split into two parts. Most of the points are given for the day of the contest and based on appearance, attitude, and personality and five points to be given by “undercover” judges, watching the applicants as they aid the Queen and Lady-in-Waiting throughout the fair.

**Application/Essay/Recommendations/Written Test:** Every applicant must submit at least a 500-word typed essay on, “Why are rodeo queens so important to the sport of rodeo? How will you be able to make a suitable candidate to be the next Lady-in-Waiting?” These will be judged on grammar, spelling, and creative thinking/content. Grammar and Spelling will be judged separately by a licensed teacher. There also needs to be two letters of recommendation to go with the typed essay and the application. Be prepared for a written test. The suggested study material would be Rodeo, 4-H/FFA Rules, know Yuma County and its history.

## Checklist:



**Application**



**Essay** (a minimum of 500 words on “Why are rodeo queens so important to the sport of rodeo? How will you be able to make a suitable candidate to be the next Lady-in-Waiting?” This needs to be a typed essay, or it will not be considered for evaluation.



**Two Recommendation letters**



**Signed Borrowers Agreement**

Please return the application no later **5pm on May 29<sup>th</sup>** to:

- Yuma County Commissioners office
  - (Attn: Fair Queen Committee)
    - 310 S. Ash Street #A, Wray CO 80758
    - 970-332-4151

**APPLICATION FOR Lady-In- Waiting 2026**  
(may be handwritten or typed)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Education History: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholastic Plans and Future ambitions: \_\_\_\_\_

Experience with Rodeo, Horses, Horse Shows, etc.:

Honors and Awards:

Hobbies:

Yuma County Fair Queen/Lady-in-Waiting Waiver for tryouts

In consideration of my application being accepted, I hereby for myself, my executor, administrators and assignees, agree to abide, and that they shall abide, by all rules and regulations pertaining to the Yuma County Fair & Rodeo Lady-in-Waiting Contest- and I and they assume all liabilities and responsibility for any loss, accident or injury, whether as to property or person, arising in any way out of the operations or activities of your committee or management, in any event or part of any performance of while in, on or about the premises of the Yuma County Fairgrounds. As for the consideration previously mentioned, I further agree to reimburse your committee and management from and against any loss or damage sustained by you by reason of any claims made by any of my executors, administrators, or assignees. Also, I hereby release the right, title, and claim of any photographs that may be taken by the management for their use. I certify that I know the rules of the contest and agree to abide by them. The undersigned has read the foregoing release carefully and fully understands the meaning and effect to the same.

Candidate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If Contestant in under 21 years of age:

Approved and attested by:

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent or Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Office Use Only Below*

Queen Coordinator Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ X: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Borrower's Agreement and Deposit Receipt**

**Deposit received from (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cash:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check#** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian (If under 18):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of Deposit \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**For use of the Contestant Sashes from YC Fair and Rodeo Queen Committee**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that by signing this agreement agree to the deposit of \$100.00 for use of the Fair Queen Contestant Sash. I understand that I will receive the sash the morning of tryouts and will return the sash the Wednesday afternoon after the contestant winner is announced. I understand that if I lose, damage or failure to return the sash to the Fair Queen Committee by Monday night will result in forfeiting my deposit amount of \$100.00 for replacement purposes.

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If Contestant in under 21 years of age,

Approved and attested by:

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent or Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_