

Dear State/Provincial Queens,

First and foremost, I want to give a big congratulations to all of you for not only qualifying for Nationals, but winning your State title. You are already leaving a legacy by receiving this huge accomplishment. The memories you're making along this journey will last a lifetime. All the people you meet and the places you will go are unforgettable. Girls, be proud of yourself and be sure to recognize how talented, unique, and amazing you all are!

One piece of advice I would like to give you girls before going into this memorable contest is, be yourself, be original, be you! God has given all of us amazing talents that are designed to fit all of us perfectly. Do not be afraid to use those talents you have! There is nobody that is you, so be proud of who you are and the person you are becoming! I can promise you no matter if you are in the rodeo arena or life's arena, being yourself will always shine through. You are all here because you have a deep love for this sport and you recognize how amazing not only the NHSRA is but the western way of life. One of my favorite quotes states "Dreams and Dedication are a Powerful Combination." No matter the outcome, no matter where life takes you, never stop chasing your dreams. Do not be afraid to isolate yourself and focus on the goal. Embrace your uniqueness, never doubt yourself. Just believing in yourself holds so much power. Watch your thoughts, they become your words, watch your words they become your actions. Staying true to who you are and believing in yourself has a huge impact. Through this contest and even after, I encourage you to embrace the journey with unwavering faith. It may not be easy, but it is undeniably worth it. Trust in God and in your preparation. I promise you will be amazed by the outcome.

Being the National High School Rodeo Queen as well as a State/Provincial Queen, gives you continual opportunities. Take up all those opportunities to serve, educate, lend a helping hand, and share your sweet spirit. Be the best version of you.

As you all travel to the National High School Finals do not forget to take a deep breath. You all have put in the work to get here and you will all do amazing things. The meet and greet will be Wednesday July 10th. This was one of my favorite parts of the contest. You get the opportunity to meet all your fellow contestants and to make lifelong friendships. As you go through the contest, cheer, and support everybody. You all are in the same situation. You have the nerves, the excitement and the adrenaline going on at the same time. The friendships that start to grow at the meet and greet will carry on throughout the contest. Remember to be kind, be yourself, support each other in every aspect of the competition and trust your preparation. I am so proud and of you and the NHSRA is so proud of you too. Travel safe, and I cannot wait to see you all so soon in Rock Springs, WY.

Joyfully,
Harlee Stokes,
National High School Rodeo Queen 2023-2024