

# HAPPY TRAILS: A REPORT FROM THE RODEO ROAD

By Mackenzie Carr  
Miss Rodeo America 2012

Hello again,

My month of October laid claim to two events that revolved around the amazing women within the rodeo industry. I began with a trip to Lincoln, Nebraska for the Women's Professional Rodeo Association Finals and followed it with a jaunt to Fort Worth, Texas for the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. These two organizations acknowledge the great accolades of western women, similar to that of Miss Rodeo America Inc.

Both the WPRA and the National Cowgirl Hall

of Fame have been empowering women for many years. The WPRA gives women an opportunity to compete in events that they would not otherwise get to compete in at professional rodeos, while the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame pays homage to the accomplishments of the women of the American West. Having the chance to attend both functions and take part in the honoring of remarkable women was really a once in a lifetime opportunity. I also enjoyed being able

to visit parts of Nebraska and Texas that I had never been to before. Thank you again to both the WPRA and the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame for your kindness and unending support.

Attending these two events reminded me of all that MRA Inc. does for young women and the sport of rodeo. For over 50 years, the Miss Rodeo America Pageant has been choosing women from across the country to serve as the first lady of rodeo. The first pageant consisted of only 9 contestants, and has grown today to encompass over 30 different state rodeo queens. The pageant brings in young women from all backgrounds;

some who grew up with a ranching background and some who did not. However, both share the common love of western heritage and the agriculture industry. Many of the former Miss Rodeo Americas continue to contribute to the organization, the sport of professional rodeo, and western lifestyle long after their reign comes to an end. These distinguished alumni and other contestants for the crown are proven leaders who are highly motivated and dedicated

in their quest to preserve the legacy and legends of the American West. It is not just one girl who reaps the benefits of Miss Rodeo America Inc. The MRAI Scholarship Foundation distributes thousands of dollars annually in scholarship benefits to help talented deserving young women further their studies and become tomorrow's leaders. Long after their rodeo queen journey has come to an end, women are still being impacted by the MRAI Scholarship Foundation.

It is moving to have seen the influence that the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, and Miss Rodeo America Inc. has had and continues to have on the women of our country. These organizations seek to protect and preserve our Western Heritage and lifestyle. I consider myself lucky to be a part of a program that impacts so many. As my time wearing the Black Hills Gold Crown lessens, I am caused to reminisce about the endless opportunities that have arisen and countless memories I have made while serving as Miss Rodeo America. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work as a representative of America's Original Professional Sport, promoting a way of life that was founded on the legacy of the American Cowboy.

Until next time.



Mackenzie at the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame Inductions.



Mackenzie with an aspiring rodeo queen at the Women's Professional Rodeo Association Finals.

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