



COMPETITION OUTLINE & ELEMENTS



Rounds 1, 2, and 3 will run concurrently on Thursday, August 16, 2012. *
A mystery round may be inserted at any time throughout the competition.

DIVISIONS-EAST MEETS WEST AT PROJECT COWBOY-MADISON!

Each division will have identical point values to determine one over-all Project Cowboy Champion.

Western Division: Open to all breeds that are shown in Western disciplines. Project Cowboy competition elements reflect Western maneuvers and obstacles.

English/Gaited Division: Open to all breeds that are shown in English and Gaited horse disciplines. Project Cowboy competition elements will reflect English and Gaited maneuvers and challenges.

ROUND 1: "HORSEMANSHIP 101"

Contestants will be required to complete elements that may include, but are not limited to:

- Unbridle and bridle
- Pick-up hind feet
- Mount and dismount from right side (mounting block provided)
- Canter, Lope for Fast Gate to cone and stop
- Back up 5 feet

ROUND 2: "ARE YOU GOOD IN THE SADDLE?"

Contestants will be required to complete elements that may include, but are not limited to:

Western Division

- Rail work to right and left – Walk, Trot and Lope/Canter
- Circles - Lope/Canter slow small circles, and fast large circles showing speed control to the right and left with lead changes
- Obstacles such as bridge, tunnel or elevations
- "Show us what you're made of!" After pattern is complete, contestants will have 60 seconds to showcase their horsemanship talents in a personal freestyle.

English/Gaited Division

- Rail work to right and left with appropriate gaits called by announcer
- Diagonal movement across the arena in two directions (lead changes if appropriate to breed)
- Obstacles may include but not limited to bridge, serpentine, walkovers, etc.

www.TakingTheReins.net or www.ProjectCowboy.net

*Taking The Reins is operated by the Midwest Horse Fair®. Project Cowboy is owned by Bland/Colbert, LLC. *The first day of the Project Cowboy Madison competition will begin on Thursday, August 16, 2012 as a preview day for attendees. Taking the Reins will officially open on August 17, 2012 with paid admission.*

- “Show us what you’re made of!” After pattern is complete, contestants will have 60 seconds to showcase their talents in a personal freestyle.

ROUND 3: “ARE YOU GOOD ON SCREEN?”

Contestants will participate in a screen test that may include, but is not limited to:

- Introduction of his/her self
- 30 second TV script

1ST ELIMINATION: “ARE YOU IN THE COWBOY STATE OF MIND?”

All contestants enter the coliseum for elimination. The Top 50, based on the combined scores of rounds 1, 2, and 3, will advance to the next round. Judges reserve the right to bring back more than 50 at their discretion.

ROUND 4: CAN YOU THINK ON FOUR FEET?

The Top 50 Contestants will ride their own horses through an obstacle course while wearing a microphone and answering rapid-fire random questions on horsemanship, horse anatomy, and horse myths and theology. The course will have a time limit with obstacles that may include but are not limited to:

Western Division

- Bridge or obstacle crossing
- Carry an object
- Go thru, over, under or around obstacles
- Mystery obstacle

English/Gaited Division

- Three components of Level 1 Dressage Test
- Bridge or Obstacle Crossing
- Go thru, over, under or around obstacles
- Mystery obstacle

2ND ELIMINATION: “BUNK HOUSE TO HEADQUARTERS”

All Contestants ride in arena for elimination. The Top 25 will advance to the next round. At their discretion, judges reserve the right to bring back more than 25.

ROUND 5: “ROUND PEN CONNECTION”

The Top 25 contestants will be scored on their ability to connect with an equine in a round pen setting.

3RD ELIMINATION: “TOP HANDS STEP FORWARD”

All Contestants ride in arena for elimination. The Top 10 will advance to the next round.

ROUND 6: “ARE YOU GOOD WITH ANY HORSE?”

The Top 10 Contestants will draw for a new mount to compete on in a challenge.

ROUND 7: “RIDE “EM LIKE YOU STOLE “EM!”

The Top 10 finalists and their best mounts will “ride for their life” in a grand finale of freestyle competition to determine “**The Next Great American Cowboy.**”

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