

WSRBA Youth Contests Guidelines

Are you a youth who wants to:

- Learn more about rabbits and cavies?
- Win money to help you attend the next ARBA National Convention?
- Win awards?
- Represent your state and district at a national competition?
- Have fun?

If any of these apply to you, then you should enter in the Royalty contest at this year's WSRBA Convention!

What is Royalty?

The Royalty contest is an educational contest that tests participants' knowledge of rabbits and cavies. There are eight categories (Lord, Lady, Prince, Princess, Duke, Duchess, King, Queen), and which category a contestant competes in depends on their gender and age. The WSRBA Youth Contests closely mirror the national ARBA Youth Contests, allowing contestants a great opportunity to practice for the national contests. The competition consists of five parts, the final four of which happen the Saturday of WSRBA Convention. All awards will be announced during the banquet on Saturday night. The five parts are:

1. **Written application:** When filling out the application, applicants must answer 16 questions, which ask about everything from what breeds the applicant raises, how the applicants care for their animals, what awards the applicant has won, and how the applicant has been a leader in their project. Applications are usually typed, can be up to 7 pages long, and are submitted prior to WSRBA Convention.
2. **Written Test:** The written test consists of questions testing all areas of rabbit and cavy knowledge. Most of the test content comes from the *ARBA Standard of Perfection* and the book *Raising Domestic Rabbits and Cavies*. Contestants will take the test on the Saturday morning of the convention.
3. **Breed ID:** The Breed ID contest requires contestants to identify the breed, showroom variety, registration variety, and number of classes the breed is shown in (4 or 6), of 25 animals. 20 of these animals will be rabbits, and 5 will be cavies.
4. **Judging or Showmanship/Handling:** Contestants over the age of 11 participate in the Judging contest, where they will place four classes, each consisting of four animals. Contestants ages 9 to 11 will participate in Showmanship, which can be done with a rabbit or a cavy. The ARBA Showmanship Scorecards will be used for this portion of the contest, and can be found on the ARBA and WSRBA websites. Contestants under the age of 9 will participate in Handling, which requires them to demonstrate their ability to handle their rabbit or cavy. The handling portion is done at the same time as the interview portion of the contest.
5. **Oral Interview:** Each contestant will be interviewed by a panel of two or three volunteer judges. The questions asked will be similar to the questions asked in the application. Contestants will be judged on the content of their answers, as well as their personal presentation.

How Do I Sign Up?

There are two important things you should do first, if you'd like to sign up:

1. Become a member of WSRBA. All Royalty contestants must be WSRBA members. Membership applications are available on the WSRBA website (WSRBA.net).
2. Get a Royalty application form from the youth page of the WSRBA website. (wsrba.net/youth/)

Then, follow the instructions on the Royalty application form. Make sure to follow them closely in order to avoid deductions on your application score. All WSRBA Youth Contest applications are submitted online.

So How Do I Win Money to Attend ARBA Convention?

Each year, WSRBA awards scholarships to youth to help them cover the costs of attending the ARBA National Convention. WSRBA will determine the number and amount of scholarships to be awarded before the royalty contests begin on Saturday. To be eligible to win a scholarship, youth must compete in the WSRBA Royalty contest, be a Washington resident, and be between the ages of 5 and 18 on the closing day of the upcoming ARBA National Convention. Scholarship winners will be determined based on each contestant's overall score in the Royalty contest, with the youth with the highest scores winning the scholarships. For example, if 6 scholarships are to be awarded, then the 6 scholarship-eligible youth with the highest overall Royalty scores will win the scholarships. Scholarships must be accepted by July 1st. In order to accept their scholarships, scholarship winners must be or become an ARBA member and agree to attend ARBA Convention and fully participate in the ARBA youth team, Royalty, Achievement, and Management contests. If a youth winning a scholarship is unable to fulfill the scholarship requirements or does not claim their scholarship by July 1st, the scholarship will be offered to the eligible contestant with the next highest score. The WSRBA board may choose to award additional scholarships after the competition based on the amount of money raised for the youth fund at the awards banquet.

What If I Can't Attend WSRBA Convention?

Youth who can't attend WSRBA Convention are not eligible to compete in WSRBA Royalty. They can, however, compete in the Management and Achievement contests, which only consist of applications. Youth must be WSRBA members and ARBA District 1 residents to be eligible to compete in the WSRBA Management and Achievement contests. Youth not attending Convention can also compete in the WSRBA Washington State Team & District 1 Team T-Shirt Design contests by submitting an original t-shirt design that will be used on the WA or D1 team t-shirts at ARBA National Convention. Youth must be WSRBA members to compete in the WA State Team T-Shirt Design Contest, but all youth from D1, regardless of WSRBA membership status, are eligible to compete in the D1 Team T-Shirt Design Contest. Youth not attending WSRBA Convention can also compete in the Educational Contest, which includes items created by the contestants, provided that the contestants can find transportation for their items to Convention. The applications for these contests can be found on the youth page of the WSRBA website (wsrba.net/youth/). Youth not attending WSRBA Convention are also eligible to compete in all of the youth contests at ARBA Convention.

What If I Will Be at WSRBA Convention, But Can't Compete in Royalty?

Youth attending WSRBA Convention, but not competing in Royalty, are welcome to compete in the Breed ID, Judging, and Showmanship contests on a walk-in basis. They are eligible to receive awards in these contests, so they should plan to attend the awards banquet Saturday night, but are not required to be present at the banquet in order to win.

What If I Am Not from Washington?

Youth who are not Washington residents are welcome to participate in all or most of the youth contests, including Royalty, provided that they are a WSRBA member. Out-of-state youth are not eligible to win or place in their Royalty category, however, and are not eligible for a scholarship. They can win and place in the other portions of the contest, though, including Management, Achievement, Breed ID, Judging, and Showmanship. Only WSRBA members from ARBA District 1 are eligible to compete in Achievement and Management. All contestants will receive a results packet, allowing them to see how they did in the contest, and out-of-state contestants will be told how they placed overall. Competing in the WSRBA contests provides out-of-state contestants a great opportunity to practice and hone their skills in the Royalty contests before ARBA Convention, as the WSRBA Youth Contests closely mirror the ARBA youth contests.

How Do I Qualify to Be on a Team and Represent Washington State at ARBA Convention?

Washington State youth who compete in Royalty, or the walk-in Breed ID, Judging, and Showmanship contests at WSRBA, and are attending ARBA National Convention, are eligible to be placed on a Washington State team in Breed ID, and Judging or Quiz Bowl (depending on age). These youth are also eligible to be placed on the District 1 teams. Washington State youth that do not compete in Royalty or the walk-in contests at WSRBA Convention may also be placed on a Washington State or District 1 team if space permits, however youth that compete in the WSRBA contests receive first priority. Teams are divided based on the age of the contestants. Youth must be from Washington State in order to be placed on a Washington State team, but youth from any part of District 1 are eligible to be placed on the District 1 teams. Washington State youth are placed on teams based on their scores in the Breed ID and Judging contests from WSRBA Convention. The top-scoring Washington youth are first placed onto Washington teams, and the remaining youth are considered for District 1 teams. Out-of-state youth from District 1 do not need to compete in the WSRBA Youth Contests to be placed on a District 1 team. In cases where there are more youth vying for a place on a team than available places on the team, youth will need to submit scores from a previous youth contest, and those with the highest scores will be placed on the team. However, when placing members on teams, great efforts are made to ensure that all youth get an opportunity to be on at least one team.

To get more information about the contests and download the contest application forms, go to the WSRBA Youth page on the WSRBA website (WSRBA.net/youth/).

If you have any questions, contact Kelsi at Kelsi.L.Ramos@gmail.com or text her at (509) 619-2295.