

## THE look

## Cowgirl up!

DON SOME **WESTERN CHIC**  
AND GIDDYAP TO GILBERT DAYS

**B**RIGHT, FLASHY AND ELABORATE Western clothes, worn onstage by such celebrities as **Roy Rogers** and **Dale Evans**, represented the romanticism and appeal of Hollywood's Old West.

Today that once-cherished tradition is fading, but a group of talented young women is working to keep it alive.

The **Cowgirls Historical Foundation**, a non-profit organization based in Tempe, was founded to increase appreciation of America's Western heritage and the equestrian lifestyle. It will be participating in **Gilbert Days**, a festival that celebrates the town's Western heritage and begins today.

Members dress in vintage outfits, some dating back more than 50 years, and vintage-inspired clothing and accessories to represent the glitterati of the Hollywood Western age.

"We provide community service to promote Western heritage that this country is slowly turning away from," says **Taryn Brady**, an **Arizona State University** student and a foundation member.

The vintage clothing the cowgirls wear is adorned with rhinestones, Austrian crystals and exquisite embroidery.

Cowboys on the trail in the Old West never would have worn such sparkle, but Rogers, the "King of the Cowboys," inspired the look, saying he wanted to be seen by children in the farthest seats in the theaters.

Brady and her family have been riding for years. Her grandmother was a 1950s Reno rodeo queen, and her great-grandfather is in the Reno Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Cowgirls foundation members will ride in the Gilbert Days parade at 9 a.m. Nov. 17 and will appear in the grand entry of every rodeo performance.

"The majority of the cowgirls in the foundation have held rodeo royalty titles from Gilbert's rodeo," Brady says. "So it is an honor to carry on the tradition and also share our love of horses with the public."

To learn more about the Cowgirls Historical Foundation, visit [calendarcowgirls.com](http://calendarcowgirls.com).

**Gilbert Days**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of **Gilbert Days**, a celebration commemorating Gilbert's rich Western legacy, with events today through Nov. 18. Each day features something special, from a re-enactment of the historical Pony Express ride and a barrel-racing contest to a jackpot-roping contest and, the most popular of all, rodeo events. Find a complete schedule and more information about Gilbert Days at [gilbertdays.com](http://gilbertdays.com).

**Western wear**

**Taryn Brady** of Mesa mixes Western wear with her look all the time. The key, she says, is to pick one Western piece to mix in so you don't go overboard.

She's with her horse, Yeller, and wearing a pair of her own vintage brown boots, a Kensie blue silk blouse, \$68 at **Dillard's**, Paige premium denim jeans, \$176 at **Scottsdale Jean Company**, and a Kenneth Cole Reaction gold-tone necklace, \$42, and bracelet, \$48, both at **Macy's**.

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