

MERCER COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PAGEANT

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BE SURE TO READ ALL THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THESE PAGES!

The pageant crew and I feel that this is much more than a beauty pageant. It is also an experience that we hope will guide you in the future. Not only will you learn more about your outer beauty, but you will become more aware of your inner beauty. We hope you have fun; we know you'll meet new people. We believe this pageant will help you to be more self-confident and to help you in years to come, perhaps in college, job interviews, etc. I am available to answer any questions you may have at any time so do not hesitate to call if you need help with anything.

FOR COMPETITION YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- A formal gown (floor length preferred, tea length acceptable)
- One-Piece swim suit and heels (swim suit must be one color shoes must be taupe)
- A business style dress or suit for the interview
- Production number attire – **A \$20 fee for T-shirt will be required for the Production Number,**

You will need to have your entire wardrobe for the pageant. We will be reviewing your selections (**AS DIRECTOR, I RESERVE THE AUTHORITY TO INSTRUCT ANY ENTRANT TO CHANGE ANY ATTIRE SHOULD HER FIRST SELECTION BE TOO REVEALING OR INAPPROPRIATE FOR COMPETITION**). You may also wear any shoes to the workshop, but may be asked to wear a pair of your heels to rehearse in (if possible with 2 1/2" or higher heel). This height is not mandatory but you will find that we carry ourselves different in heels and they also give the legs a longer look.

ALL WORKSHOPS AND PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY

Please follow the calendar provided for all dates and times involved.
Practice location has changed to the Merchants Building with the exception of Dress Revue June 14th at the Old YMCA!

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ENTRY FORMS

I must have a phone number where you can be reached. If you do not have a phone, please give a number where you can be reached or messages may be left for you. Please provide the name and relationship (friend, neighbor, aunt, etc.) for this phone number.

Do not be afraid that you are putting too much material on the application sheet. We may not use it all, but the M.C. will be reading some of this information while you are on stage. (Feel free to use back of sheet) Hobbies and interests can be ANYTHING you like to do. If you have collections, include that too. As far as “likes” and “dislikes” to give you an idea what we are looking for: I like sunsets, sitting around a campfire, and anything chocolate. I dislike spiders and rude drivers.

JUDGES: They are highly experienced at judging and are all from outside of Mercer County. They really enjoy talking with contestants and you will enjoy them.

Again, do not hesitate to call us or email us anytime. We are here to help you and to try to make this pageant a good experience for everyone. PRINT THIS PAGE, CALENDAR, AND RULES SHEET FOR YOUR REFERENCE.

RETURN APPLICATION, ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE FORMS TO:

rjclawl@winco.net

or contact

Joni Caldwell - 902 18th Street, Viola, IL 61486 Ph. 309-596-2292

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GENERAL RULES

Registration Deadline – June 1, 2010

- Candidates must be single and never have been married, divorced or had a marriage annulled. It must be understood, also, that contestants entering a local pageant cannot have had a child.
- A candidate must be a minimum of 16 years of age and not have reached her 22nd birthday by January 1, 2011.
- No professional models will be eligible. However, mere attendance at a charm school or a girl receiving expense money for modeling will not be classified as professional.
- Any Queen will be disqualified if she fails to have a chaperone with her during the pageant in Springfield. The Director will designate an official chaperone.
- Scoring: Each category carries a percentage of the total score. Each category is judged and scored independently for all categories. Percentages are: Personal Interview 35% Formal and Face 20% Speech and Stage Presence 25% Swimsuit 20%.
- Personal Interviews: This will be a timed event - three (3) minutes for each candidate.
- Evening Gown Competition: A gown should reflect a candidate's individual personality. It should be in your best color with shoes coordinated.
- Swimsuit Competition: Swimsuit must be one-piece and one color only. No plunging necklines or extreme high on the hip styles. Taupe colored high-heeled shoes are mandatory.
- Speech Competition: Topic is of contestant's choice. Please limit speech to one minute. You will use a hand held microphone, no podium.
- Modeling, Makeup and Dressing Room: Candidates will be required to attend all workshop/practices prior to contest for modeling, makeup and judging competitions. No parents will be allowed in the dressing room.

EACH CONTESTANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SELL 30 RAFFLE TICKETS WITH A PRIZE TO THE ONE SELLING THE MOST. PROCEEDS WILL HELP THE PAGEANT FUND.

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OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Age Requirement: A minimum of 16 years of age and not have achieved the 22nd birthday by January 1, 2011.

Residency: Entrant must be a U.S. Citizen, a resident of the State of IL and Mercer County for six months prior to pageant date.

Entrant may not be a reigning county fair queen or a former county fair queen.

Entrant must be single and never married, divorced or had a marriage annulled and cannot have ever been pregnant or have had a child. Entrant may not have been convicted of a felony.

Professional models are not eligible: however, mere attendance at a charm or modeling school does not classify one as a professional. A contestant whose income is substantially obtained through modeling would be considered a professional.

Entrant agrees to appear in a one-piece swimsuit, formal and afternoon attire for judging. She could possibly be required to appear in sportswear also, but the judges would not score that portion. Entrant must also agree to be personally interviewed by the judges.

Entrant agrees that the time, manner and method of conducting and judging the contest shall be solely within the discretion of the pageant officials and that the decision of the judges is final.

If chosen a Miss Mercer County Fair, entrant agrees to represent Mercer County and compete for the title of Miss Illinois County Fair, 2011. This contest will be held in January 2011, at Springfield. The candidate will be accompanied during that time by a chaperone designated by the pageant director. The queen would also need to be available to make appearances on the fairgrounds throughout Fair Week. If selected as Miss Mercer County, entrant would agree to participate in functions becoming to a queen, which might arise during the year. Activities connected with the Mercer County Fair shall take precedence over any and all other personal appearances. She must agree not to enter any other beauty contest, except the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant, during her reign. All personal appearances a Miss Mercer County Fair shall be approved in advance by the Pageant Director, as well as any photographic sessions and pictures released as the role of Miss Mercer County.

Prerequisites and duties of the newly selected queen will be:

- The queen will not partake of alcoholic beverages while representing the Mercer County Fair at any function.
- It is strongly suggested that the Queen refrain from smoking while representing the Mercer County Fair at any function.
- The Queen will represent Mercer County Fair at as many other area pageants and other functions possible.
- The Queen will be chaperoned by the Pageant Director or by a chaperone approved by the Director at any time she is representing the Mercer County Fair.

If the newly selected queen cannot fulfill all of the expressed duties or violates any rule set forth for a candidate, she will relinquish her title, crown and scepter, and all prizes upon the direction of the Pageant Director. The first runner-up will then be eligible for the title.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE

The undersigned has voluntarily elected to become a candidate in the 2010 Mercer County Fair Queen Pageant. To induce the Mercer County Fair Board to accept my application to be a candidate, I hereby execute this Acknowledgment and Release. If I am a minor, my parent or legal guardian has also executed this Acknowledgment and Release. I acknowledge the following:

1. The Mercer County Fair Queen pageant is an informal contest, the winner of which will receive no substantial pecuniary or monetary benefit.
2. The judging of said contest may be subject to errors and irregularities because of the informal nature of the contest, and any such errors and irregularities are anticipated and are acceptable to me.
3. The judging of the contest will be based on the individual preferences and opinions of the judges, and such judges shall not be required to follow established criteria of any kind to determine the equalities they should assess, measure or evaluate.

In view of the above and further in view of the informal nature of this contest, and in consideration of the acceptance of my application to compete as a candidate for Mercer County Fair Queen, I hereby forever release, indemnify and agree to hold the Mercer County Fair Board, its agents, employees, directors and judges, entirely harmless from any liability for any errors, defects, irregularities or unfairness, or injuries or damages which may arise directly or indirectly from my participation as a candidate in the contest. I hereby waive and release any and all claims, demands, suits, actions and causes of action against the Mercer County Fair Board, its agents, employees, directors and judges for any such liability, injury or damage which I may suffer as a result of the foregoing and as a result of my participation as a candidate.

I understand I may have this Acknowledgment and Release reviewed by an attorney of my choice and have been given the opportunity to ask questions and ask for explanation of any provision herein, which I do not understand or with which I do not agree.

I further understand and agree the Mercer County Fair Queen Pageant will not be held in accordance with any established rules of eligibility or qualification. If any such rules of eligibility or qualification are established, I understand the Mercer County Fair Board shall have the right, in its sole discretion, at any time and from time to time to waive or deviate from any such rules.