

# *Junior Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant*

*We 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 and meet new people. We believe this pageant will help you to be more self-confident and help build valuable life skills to use in years to come, perhaps in college, on job interviews, etc. Please be sure to read all information provided on these pages.*

## **FOR COMPETITOPN YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:**

- 👑 A formal dress (no teen pageant gowns, no length requirements)
- 👑 A dress or suit for the interviews (Sunday church or wedding attendance dress)
- 👑 T-shirt and shorts for the production number – **A \$20 fee for T-shirt will be required for the production number.**

All clothing must be seen and approved by the Directors prior to the pageant. (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.)

## **ORIENTATION AND PRACTICES**

Registration Deadline– Orientation

**ORIENTATION IS MANDATORY.** All contestants, and at least one parent or guardian, must attend, and a signature of both will be required showing that both understand the rules set forth to participate in the Mercer County Fair Pageant.

All practices are mandatory. **No parents will be allowed at practices.** The Pageant Directors may or may not authorize an excused absence. The rehearsal is a mandatory, nonnegotiable practice. Please follow the calendar provided for all dates and times involved.

Admission to the fair is provided for the contestant only. All family members and friends attending the pageant must pay the fair gate admission fee.

**ENTRY FORMS**

The Pageant Directors must have a phone number and email address where you can be reached.

Do not be afraid that you are putting too much material on the application sheet. We may not use it all, but the emcee will be reading some of this information while you are on stage. Hobbies and interests can be anything you like to do. If you have collections, include that too. As far as “likes” and “dislikes” these are a few examples: *I like sunsets, sitting around a campfire, and anything chocolate. I dislike spiders and rude drivers.* Please limit to three each. This is your chance to convey who you are so let your personality shine.

The forms must be submitted before or at Orientation.

**JUDGES**

The judges are from outside of Mercer County. Their expertise may vary but they are all professionals. We respect the difficult job they have and will honor their final decision.

**SCORING**

Each category carries a percentage of the total score. Each category is judged and scored independently for all categories. The time, manner, and method of conducting and judging the contest shall be solely within the discretion of the pageant officials and the decision of the judges is final.

Scoring is as follows:

Personal Interview	35%
Speech and Communication Skills	25%
Stage Presence and Formal Dress	20%
Impromptu Question	20%

Total points: 100%

**👑 Personal Interviews:** This will be a timed event with 3-5 minutes for each girl. Attire should be a nice Easter Sunday or wedding attendance dress.

**👑 Speech Competition:** Topic will be decided at a later date. Please limit the speech to 30 seconds. You will use a hand held microphone, no podium.

**👑 Formal Dress Competition:** A formal dress should be appropriate for 11 to 13 year olds. The dress should not be an evening gown. The Pageant Directors must review all dresses.

**👑 Impromptu Question:** The question will be immediately following the interview and will be the same question for all contestants.

# Official Pageant Rules

- 👑 Contestant must be a U.S. Citizen, and a resident of the State of IL and Mercer County for six months prior to pageant date.
- 👑 Contestant must be a natural born female.
- 👑 Contestant must be between the ages of 11 and 13 as of **July 10, 2019**
- 👑 Contestant may not be a reigning county fair queen or a former county fair queen.
- 👑 Once a contestant has been named Junior Miss Mercer County Fair, she cannot compete in said division again.
- 👑 No professional models will be eligible. However, attendance at a charm school or receiving expense money for modeling will not classify a contestant as a professional.
- 👑 Contestant agrees to:
  - a) Be personally interviewed by the judges.
  - b) Appear on stage in formal dress for judging.
  - c) Present a thirty second memorized speech on stage for judging.
  - d) Answer an impromptu question.
  - e) Participate in the opening production number.
- 👑 No parents will be allowed in the dressing room or at practices.
- 👑 Anything lost, stolen, or damaged during the pageant practices or the pageant is not the responsibility of the Pageant Directors or the Mercer County Fair.
- 👑 Any official reports of misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior of a contestant or a parent will result in immediate disqualification.
- 👑 Any visible tattoos must be covered with clothing or body makeup.
- 👑 All visible piercings should be without jewelry except for one earring in each earlobe.
- 👑 Contestants will have access to the Mercer County Pageant Closet. Rental will be available on first-come-first served basis. Prices are reasonable, and all fees will go to the Pageant Fund.
- 👑 Each contestant will be required to sell a minimum of 50 raffle tickets with a prize given to the one selling the most. You are responsible for the purchase of the tickets if they are not sold. Proceeds will go to the Pageant Fund.
- 👑 The Queen, Junior Miss, Little Miss and ALL Queen Contestants will hold a 50/50 drawing every night of the fair. All Queen Contestants must work a minimum of two nights. The money earned goes directly to the Pageant Fund and a portion, determined by Pageant Directors will be used to help purchase the Queen's State competition wardrobe. The Queen is responsible for the difference.
- 👑 If 21 or more contestants enter completed applications by Orientation night, there may be a preliminary judging.

The judging for the preliminary will be completed using the same scoring criteria as listed above. Preliminaries will be held the morning of the pageant. At this time, all contestants will be interviewed and a small pageant in front of the judges will take place. This will be open to the public. After all judging is completed, the official pageant auditors will tally the scores and determine a top ten. The results will be sealed in an envelope to be announced at the pageant. The top ten girls will then compete in their pageant dresses on stage in front of the judges. A score will be added to their previous score to determine the winners.

**If chosen as Junior Miss Mercer County Fair**

- 👑 The Junior Miss would need to be available to make appearances on the fairgrounds throughout Fair Week. If selected as Junior Miss Mercer County Fair, 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. Tardiness or missing functions will not be tolerated.
  
- 👑 The Junior Miss must agree to not enter any other pageant during her reign.
  
- 👑 The Junior Miss, or anyone with the Junior Miss (includes chaperone), will not partake of alcoholic beverages or any illegal drugs while representing the Mercer County Fair at any functions.
  
- 👑 The Junior Miss, or anyone with the Junior Miss (includes chaperone), will refrain from smoking cigarettes or any other substances while representing the Mercer County Fair at any function.
  
- 👑 The Junior Miss will present herself appropriately and in good moral standing in all areas and must sign the Social Media Contract.
  
- 👑 Significant others will not join in appearances. There will be no public display of affection by the Junior Miss or her court toward a boyfriend or girlfriend during the fair week or at any function. This includes any photographs or comments on social media or any promiscuous behavior while representing Mercer County Fair at any functions.
  
- 👑 All items purchased in whole or part with pageant funds will be the property of the Mercer County Fair Pageant. The Mercer County Fair Board will have control of all funds and items purchased with those funds.

**Appearances**

Attendance at the following events will be required upon winning the title of Junior Miss Mercer County Fair, and any extra appearances must be prearranged and approved by the Pageant Directors with a two week notice. Requests for extra appearances are not guaranteed to be approved.

Required events are:

1. Mercer County Fair Week (Day and night events)
2. Mercer County Fair Board Meeting-A minimum of two (Contestants, parents, and all titleholders' must request to be on the agenda in advance to attend any fair board meeting.)
3. County Fair Day at Illinois State Fair
4. Additional local pageants and parades
5. The Mercer County Fair Board and Pageant Directors may designate such other Mercer County events as they come up.

The Junior Miss will represent the Mercer County Fair at as many other area pageants and functions as possible. She will be chaperoned by the Pageant Directors or by a chaperone assigned by the Directors. Please remember your crown is not a right, but an opportunity, and all chaperones and officials are volunteers. Their time should be highly respected. All personal appearances as Junior Miss Mercer County Fair, as well as any photographic sessions and pictures released as the role of Junior Miss Mercer County Fair, shall be approved in advance by the Pageant Directors.

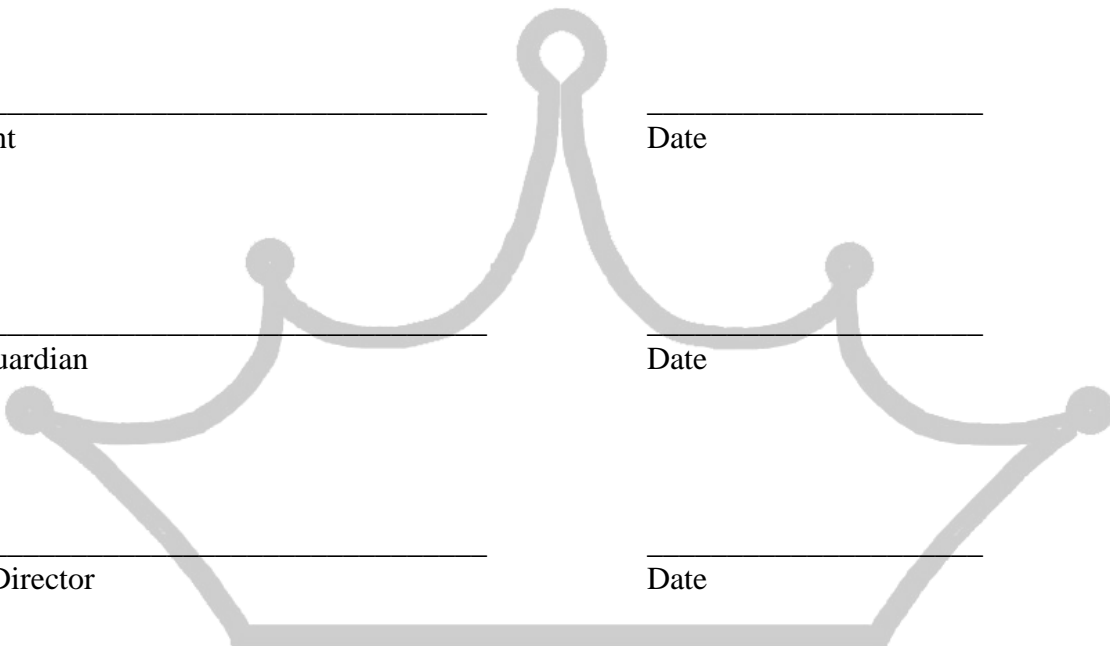
Parents of the Junior Miss may attend appearances; however, to allow the Queen the opportunity to serve her reign, parents are asked to allow independence and freedom for her to do so. Parents will not be the chaperone unless asked by the Pageant Directors.

If the newly selected Junior Miss cannot fulfill all of the expressed duties or violates any rule set forth for a contestant, she will relinquish her title, crown and scepter, and all prizes upon the direction of the Board of the Mercer County Agricultural Society (Fair Board). The first runner-up will then be eligible for the title.

**The following Contract must be signed before entering and again upon the winning of the title of Junior Miss Mercer County Fair.**

**CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge that the personal data as shown on the application is correct; and that I have read and understand the Junior Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant Official Rules and Duties. I understand that the time, manner, and method of conducting the pageant is solely within the discretion of the Pageant Directors and that the decision of the judges is final. I hereby agree to comply with all rules of the Junior Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pageant Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

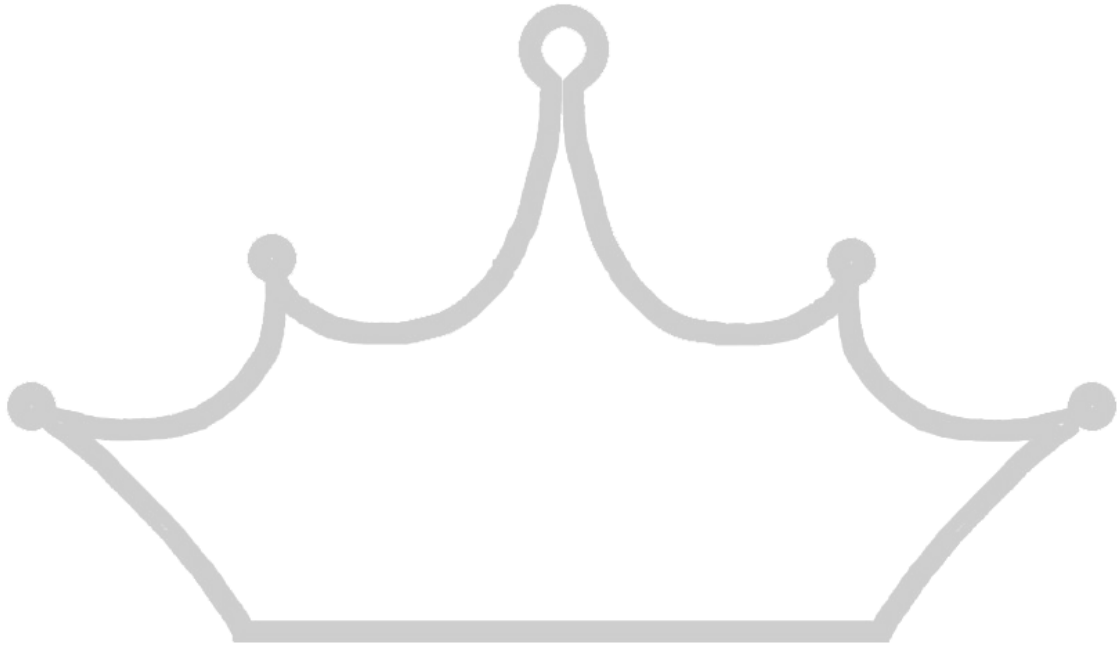
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mercer County Fair Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Pageant Directors, Pageant Committee, and Mercer County Fair Board acknowledge that the pageant is a function regulated by the Mercer County Agricultural Society, which owns all rights and title to the phrase Mercer County Fair Pageant. It is the express direction that such function shall be conducted without violation of the Constitution of the State of Illinois or any of its laws. Discrimination based upon race, color, creed, national ancestry, religion, sex or sexual orientation will not be permitted. Nor will discrimination based on physical or mental handicaps be permitted. The purpose of this competition is to promote each participant's dignity.

Violations of this policy are to be brought to the attention of the Mercer County Agricultural Society Board of Supervisors (Fair Board).

*The Directors and Pageant Committee would like to thank you for your support and patience as the pageant is undergoing changes. Our goal is to help your daughter have fun in a positive atmosphere while learning life skills to help her grow into a positive role model and successful young lady.*



PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION TO: [mercercountyfairpageant@gmail.com](mailto:mercercountyfairpageant@gmail.com)

\*A returned application validates the signature of the Acknowledgement and Release Form\*  
All forms and contracts will be reviewed and signed at Orientation.

Pageant Director  
Ledith Whitehall  
Cell 309-550-8808

Assistant Pageant Director  
Elyse Whitehall  
Cell 309-992-8895

Email – [mercercountyfairpageant@gmail.com](mailto:mercercountyfairpageant@gmail.com)

Facebook-Mercer

County

Fair

Pageant

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE**

The undersigned has voluntarily elected to become a candidate in the Mercer County Fair 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 Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant is an informal contest, the winner of which will receive no substantial 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 Junior Miss Mercer County Fair, 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 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 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## SOCIAL MEDIA CONTRACT

### Miss Mercer County Fair Contestant Social Media Policies

The Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant contract is very clear regarding inappropriate behavior of any type wherever it is found. This document specifically addresses social media. Once you make the decision to participate in our program, your past and present activity is a determining factor in your eligibility. If inappropriate language, photos, videos, or any other form of communication are discovered, your eligibility is at the sole discretion of the Mercer County Fair Board and Pageant Directors. This is a zero-tolerance policy that will be enforced.

If you have questions regarding the appropriateness of your social media posts, language, photos, video, etc., ask yourself these questions: *“Can I stand on stage in front of the Miss Mercer County Fair judges and show them my social media posts? Can I repeat the language that I have used, or the language others have posted on my site?”*

The following are the official guidelines for participating in social media for any participant in competition. If you're creating or contributing to blogs, wikis, social networks, virtual worlds, or any other kind of social media, these guidelines are for you.

As a member of the Mercer County community, you are representing our county when you are participating in social computing. Posting as a representative of the Mercer County Fair family is not a right but an opportunity, so please treat it seriously and with respect.

## 1. Disclose

Your honesty or dishonesty will be quickly noticed in the social media environment. Please represent the Mercer County Fair ethically and with integrity.

- **Be transparent:** Use your real name, identify that you are associated with the Mercer County Fair Pageant, and be clear about your role.
- **Be truthful:** If you have a vested interest in something you are discussing, be the first to point it out and be specific about what it is.
- **Be yourself:** Stick to your area of expertise; write what you know. If you publish to a website outside the Mercer County Fair Pageant realm, please use a disclaimer something like this: “The postings on this site are my own and don’t necessarily represent the Mercer County Fair Pageant’s positions, strategies or opinions.”
- **Be conscientious:** Keep in mind that what you write is your responsibility and failure to abide by these guidelines could put you at risk of losing your title.
- There is no clear line between your association with the Mercer County Fair Pageant and your personal life. Always be honest and respectful in both capacities. With the ease of tracing authors back from their posts and the amount of information online, finding the actual identity of a poster from a few posts and a screen name is not impossible. This creates an avenue for outside parties to link your personal writings to those you’ve done as a Mercer County Fair Pageant representative. Always write as if everyone knows you. Never write anything you wouldn’t say out loud to all parties involved.

## 2. Protect

Remember, if you’re online, you’re on the record – everything on the internet is public and searchable. What you post is ultimately your responsibility.

- **Don’t slam the Mercer County Fair Pageant or anyone associated:** Play nice. Anything you publish must be true and not misleading.
- **Don’t over share:** Be careful out there – once you hit “share” you usually can’t get it back. Plus being judicious will help make your content crisper and audience-relevant.
- **Did you mess up?** If you make a mistake, admit it. Be upfront and be quick with your correction. If you’re posting to a blog, you may choose to modify an earlier post – just make it clear that you have done so.
- **Avoid hazardous materials.** Do not post or link to any materials that are defamatory, harassing, or indecent!
- **Don’t promote other brands with our brand.** Do not promote personal projects or endorse brands, causes, or opinions when posting as a representative of the Mercer County Fair Pageant unless you have received approval from your Director.
- **Always trackback.** When reposting or referencing a post on one of the Mercer County Fair Pageant’s online sites, provide a link to the original post or story.

**3. Use Common Sense**

- **Perception is reality.**

In online social networks, the lines between public and private/personal are blurred. Just by identifying yourself as a Mercer County Fair Pageant representative, you are creating perceptions about your expertise and about the Mercer County Fair Pageant. Do us all proud.

- **The Internet is not anonymous, nor does it forget.**

Everything written on the Web can be traced back to its author one way or another and very easily. Information is backed up often and repeatedly, and posts in one forum are usually replicated in others through trackbacks and reposts or references.

- **Do not return fire.** If a negative post or comment is found online about the Mercer County Fair Pageant or yourself, do not counter with another negative post. Instead, publicly offer to remedy the situation through positive action. Seek help from your parents or your director, in defusing these types of situations.

*REMEMBER: Everything you post on any form of social media is public information. It is a permanent record of your character, personality, moral beliefs, behavior and reputation.*

Please list ALL social websites in which you participate (Ex, Blogs, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.). Also list your screen names.

**Social Networks**

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**Screen Names**

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**MISS MERCER COUNTY FAIR CONTESTANT SOCIAL MEDIA AGREEMENT**

The Mercer County Fair Pageant, in recognizing and honoring the traits of honesty, good character, talent, poise, intellect, leadership and good judgment in women who participate in our program, has developed Social Media Policies for the purpose of enabling our participants to wisely participate in social media. By signing this agreement, you also acknowledge having read the previous document entitled “Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant Contestant Social Media Policies”.

I, (Name) \_\_\_\_\_, (Title) \_\_\_\_\_

ACKNOWLEDGE that inappropriate social media behavior will not be tolerated by the Mercer County Fair Pageant or any of its subsidiaries. I am attesting, by my signature hereto, and representing to my Pageant Director and the Fair Board President, that I have not posted on any type of social media either photos, videos, inappropriate language, or any other actions that would be considered inappropriate behavior in polite society. I understand that if any such materials are brought to the attention of the Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant or Mercer County Fair Board, I am in danger of losing my title immediately. I also understand that I must be friends with or followed by the Pageant Director, all Committee Members and the Fair Board President in all social media networks. Blocking or partial blocking will not be tolerated. Failure to comply will result in a loss of title. I agree that it is at the sole discretion of the Mercer County Fair Pageant to determine the consequences of any such actions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contestant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent /Guardian

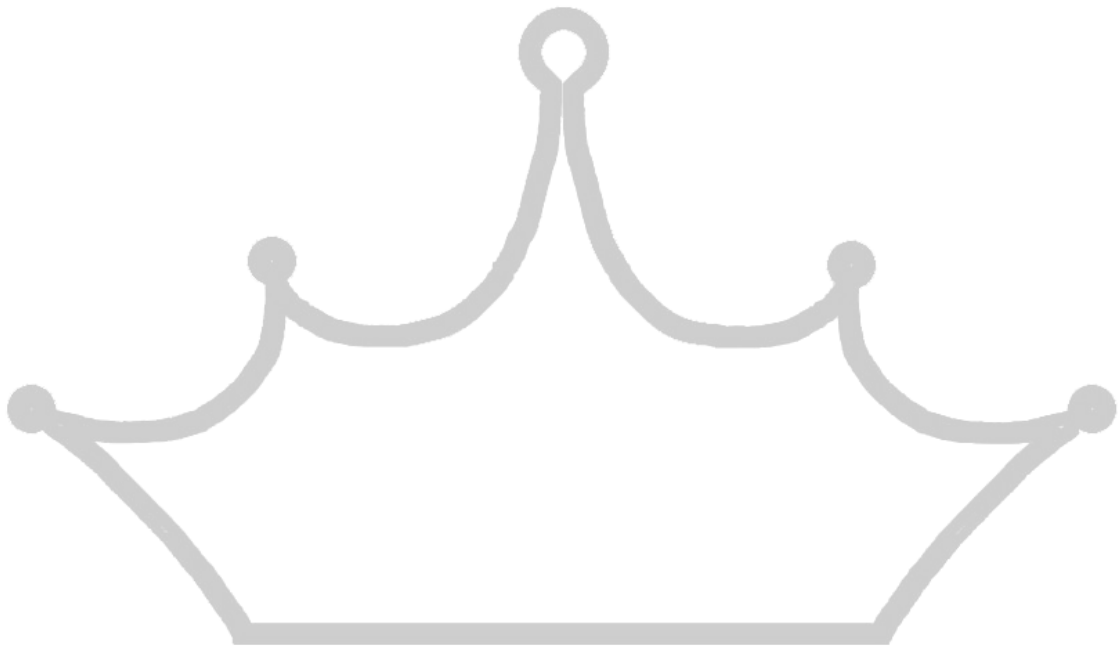
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pageant Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mercer County Fair Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# 2018 Junior Miss Mercer County Fair Pageant

**Contestant #** Click or tap here to enter text. (For Director use only)

**Name:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Hometown:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Date of Birth:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Age:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Height:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Hair Color:** Click or tap here to enter text.  
text.

**Eye Color:** Click or tap here to enter

**Name of Parents:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**School Attending and Grade:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Hobbies and Interests:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Special Honors:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Brothers and Sisters:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Pets:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Likes and Dislikes:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Future Occupation:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Why do you want to be Junior Miss Mercer County Fair Queen:**

Click or tap here to enter text.