

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 gown (floor length preferred, tea length acceptable)
- 👑 A one-piece swimsuit and heels (swimsuit must be one color, shoes must be taupe)
- 👑 A business style dress or suit for the interview (No pants)
- 👑 Production number attire – **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 contestant to change any attire should her first selection be too revealing or inappropriate for competition.)

ORIENTATION AND PRACTICES

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. Interviews will take place on the day of the pageant, earlier in the day at the Mercer County Intermediate School (Times TBA). This is a required part of the judging. There are no wrong answers. The judges will be especially interested in your mental alertness, sincerity, and general knowledge. You will be seated across from the panel. Be aware of your appearance, vocabulary and manners. Check to be certain your clothing fits correctly when seated and your skirt is not too tight or short.

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 Evening Gown	20%
Physique and Swimsuit	15%
Impromptu Question	5%

Total points: 100%

👑 Personal Interviews: A business suit is not required but is preferred. No cocktail dresses or pants. Nothing too tight or revealing. This will be a timed event with 3-5 minutes for each contestant.

👑 Speech Competition: Topic is of contestant's choice (No controversial subjects). Please limit speech to one minute. You will use a hand-held microphone, no podium.

👑 Evening Gown Competition:

- Gowns must be floor length and should lightly touch the floor (with heels on).
- Splits in skirts should be no further than 4 inches above the top of the knee.
- Open backed dresses must stop at your natural waistline.
- Hi-low dresses, cutouts, sheer fabrics, extreme cleavage, shawls, wraps and gloves are not allowed.
- Accessories should enhance your look, not overwhelm you.
- DO NOT wear powder or lotion that has glitter in it.
- Heels should have a back and an appropriate heel height to allow you to walk with grace and poise.

👑 Swimsuit Competition: Swimsuit must be one-piece and one color only. No plunging necklines, extreme high on the hip styles or accessories on the suit. Taupe colored high-heeled shoes are mandatory.

👑 Impromptu Question: One random question will be asked on stage following the formal and speech competition.

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 single and have never been married, divorced or had a marriage annulled. It must be understood, also, that contestants entering a local pageant cannot have had a child.
- 👑 Contestant must be a minimum of 16 years of age and not have reached her 22nd birthday by **January 1, 2019**.
- 👑 Contestant may not be a reigning county fair queen or a former county fair queen.
- 👑 Once a contestant has been named Miss Mercer County Fair Queen, she cannot compete in said pageant 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 in a business suit by the judges.
 - b) Appear on stage in a one-piece, solid color swimsuit with taupe heels for judging.
 - c) Present a one-minute memorized speech on stage for judging.
 - d) Answer an on-stage question.
 - e) Appear on stage in an evening gown for judging.
 - f) 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 chosen as Miss Mercer County Fair

- 👑 Contestant agrees to represent Mercer County and compete for the title of Miss Illinois County Fair. This contest will be held in January in Springfield, Illinois. The Queen will be accompanied during that time by a chaperone designated by the Pageant Directors, or she will be disqualified.
- 👑 The Queen will need to be available to make appearances at the fairgrounds throughout fair week. If selected as Miss Mercer County, she will agree to participate in functions becoming of a Queen, which might arise during the year. Activities connected with the Mercer County Fair shall take precedence over all other personal appearances. Tardiness or missing functions will not be tolerated.
- 👑 The Queen must agree to not enter any other pageant, except the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant, during her reign.
- 👑 The Queen, or anyone with the Queen (includes chaperone), will not partake of alcoholic beverages or smoke cigarettes or any other substances during any fair functions or other functions while representing the Mercer County Fair.
- 👑 The Queen 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 displays of affection by the Queen 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 clothing for the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant will be approved by the Pageant Directors.
- 👑 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 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. The Northern Zone Meeting
4. County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair
5. State Queen Contest
6. Additional local pageants and parades
7. The Mercer County Fair Board and Pageant Directors may designate such other Mercer County events as they come up.

The Queen 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.

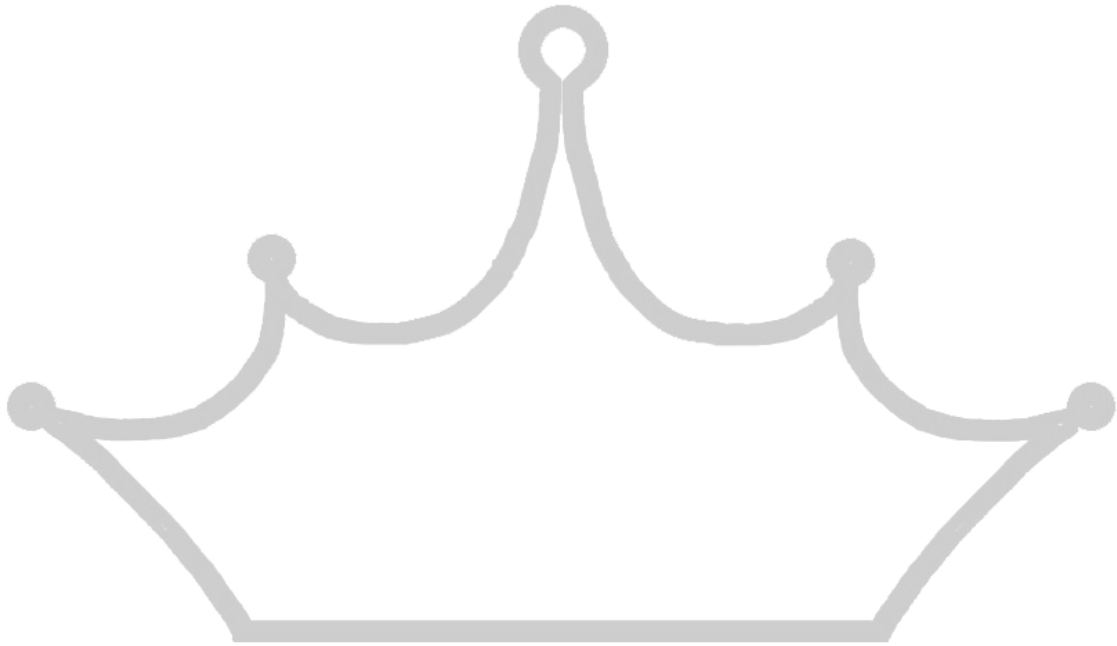
Please remember your crown is not a right, but an opportunity, and all chaperones and officials are volunteers. Their time should be highly respected. All personal appearances as Miss Mercer County Fair, as well as any photographic sessions and pictures released as the role of Miss Mercer County Fair, shall be approved in advance by the Pageant Directors.

Parents of the Queen 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.

All arrangements and correspondence will be directly between the Queen and Pageant Directors. It will be the Queens responsibility to inform the parents.

If the newly selected Queen cannot fulfill all 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 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 you have fun in a positive atmosphere while learning life skills to help you grow into a positive role model and successful young lady.



PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION TO: 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

Facebook-Mercer

County

Fair

Pageant

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE

The undersigned has voluntarily elected to become a candidate in the Miss 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 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 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 Miss 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

Screen Names

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

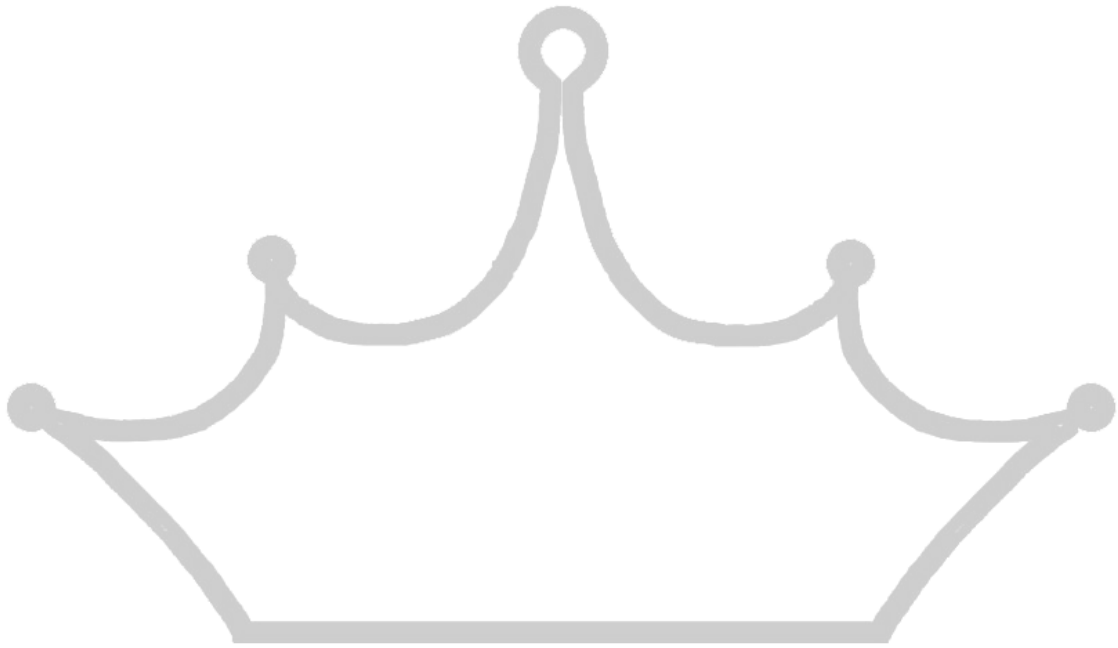
Date

Pageant Director

Date

Mercer County Fair Board President

Date



2018 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.

Eye Color: Click or tap here to enter text.

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

High School Attending/Attended: Click or tap here to enter text.

High School Graduation Date or Year: Click or tap here to enter text.

College Attending/Attended: Click or tap here to enter text.

College Major: Click or tap here to enter text.

College Minor: Click or tap here to enter text.

Future Plans: Click or tap here to enter text.

Employment: 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.

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

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

Click or tap here to enter text.