



2025 Sumter County Pageant Rules and Regulations

Saturday February 22, 2025

11:00 am (Little Miss, Princess, Junior Miss)

6:00pm (Teen, and Miss)

This pageant is sponsored by the Sumter County Fair Association and directed by the Miss Sumter County Pageant Director and Committee. There will be five (5) Divisions of competition:

Little Miss Sumter County	(Ages 5-7)
Sumter County Princess	(Ages 8-10)
Jr. Miss Sumter County	(Ages 11-13)
Miss Teen Sumter County	(Ages 14-16)
Miss Sumter County	(Ages 17-24)

Age will be determined by the contestant's age as of February 1, 2025. The pageant will be conducted through the selection of three (3) finalists, one of whom will be the crowned Division Queen. The three finalists shall be declared by a public accountant following the final tabulation according to the judging at the conclusion of the pageant.

The Pageant Director and Committee will govern the prizes awarded.

It is very important that all contestants and parents understand that whoever is crowned a Sumter County Queen must abide by the Pageant Director and Committee decisions concerning the Year of Service. This includes, but not limited to, what you wear, who your chaperone will be, the activities you will participate in concerning your title and other such responsibilities as are required of you as a Sumter County Queen. The Pageant Committee makes these decisions. Anything you do contrary to these rules could result in the loss of your title and prizes.

You will make no appearance as a Sumter County Queen except those approved by the Pageant Director and/or Committee. An approved chaperone must accompany all appearances of a Sumter County Queen. This rule applies particularly to news/media appearances and interviews. Your chaperone must be present for all media questions and answers, or appropriate arrangements made and approved by the Pageant Director and/or Committee.

1. **FILING OF APPLICATIONS:** Application must be completed before the designated deadline as determined by the Pageant Director and Committee.
2. **PROCESSING OF APPLICATION:** The Pageant Director and Committee will determine eligibility of applicants as related to the residence, age, grade point average and other general rules of the pageant.
3. **COMPLIANCE WITH RULES AND REGULATIONS:** The applicant's or guardian's signature on the application will be considered as evidence that the applicant/guardian **HAS READ AND AGREES TO ABIDE BY ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PAGEANT, AND THAT THE APPLICANT AGREES TO ATTEND ALL ANNOUNCED MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS.**

Failure to follow these rules may result in elimination from the pageant. All absences must be approved in advance by the Pageant Director or Pageant Committee to be considered acceptable.

4. **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:**
 - a. **CANNOT REPEAT:** Whoever is crowned as a Division Queen **WILL NOT** be allowed to compete for that particular title any year thereafter.
 - b. **AGE, SEX, AND SCHOOL STATUS:** An applicant must be born a female. She must be between the ages of 5 and 24 years of age. The competition age will be

determined by the contestant's age on February 1, 2025. All contestants must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher to participate in the pageant. Grades will be reviewed and calculated on a predetermined date by a member of the Pageant

Committee. Entry fee will not be refunded should the contestant not meet the school status requirements as stated.

- c. Applicants must be a resident of Sumter County or attend a Sumter County School including The Villages Charter School and Lake Sumter State College.
 - d. GOOD MORAL CHARACTER: Each contestant must be of good moral character.
 - e. MARRIAGE OR PREGNANCY: Applicant must be single, not engaged, never having been married, or never have had a marriage annulled. Applicant must never have been pregnant or never birthed a child. Upon conclusion of the Pageant, since marriage or pregnancy could interfere with the fulfilling of a winner's responsibilities to the title of Sumter County Queen, any member of the court who marries or becomes pregnant will automatically forfeit their position and prizes (Crown, Sash, Trophy, and any other gifts obtained by winning the pageant.) In such cases, the Pageant Director and Committee will determine the course of action to be followed.
 - f. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TITLEHOLDER: After final selection of the Sumter County Queens, she shall portray good conduct, morals, and good manners. She should conduct herself with dignity and at all times be a credit to the Miss Sumter County Pageant and the Sumter County Fair Association as well as the community she represents. All social media (Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) will be monitored for compliance of good moral character. Failure to follow these rules will be considered cause for dismissal from the position she holds as well as forfeiture of her prizes.
 - g. TITLEHOLDERS FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES: Following her selection as a Sumter County Queen, the titleholder will be required to make future appearances on behalf of her title as well as a representative of Sumter County and the Sumter County Fair Association. Any exceptions to such requested appearances must be approved by the Pageant Director and Committee. The following appearances and responsibilities are considered mandatory for the titleholders.
 - Sumter County Fair (February 28-March 10, 2025)
 - Following year's Dress Rehearsal & Pageant
 - Bushnell Fall Festival Parade & Pig Chase
 - County Christmas Parades
 - Christmas events
 - Annual food drive
 - There may also be other events the Pageant Director and/or Committee may need the titleholders to attend. Missed appearances could result in the loss of title and forfeiture of prizes.
 - All clothing will be approved by the Pageant Director or assigned Committee Member before any and all appearances.
 - Titleholder will be available for all photo sessions.
 - Titleholder will be available for any and all fundraisers for the upcoming year.
5. DISQUALIFICATION: In the event the titleholder should be disqualified, the first runner-up shall become the recognized titleholder until the new titleholder is crowned the following year. Disqualification will result in the loss of prizes. (Crown, Sash, Trophy, and any other gifts obtained by winning the pageant.)
 6. RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES: Once the application is submitted to participate in the competition, the contestant agrees not to participate in any other city, county or state pageant which conflicts with the Sumter County Pageant and/or responsibilities of the title.
 7. CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS: An applicant under eighteen (18) years of age must have the written permission of her parents or legal guardians to participate in the pageant.
 8. JUDGING PROCEDURE: Tabulated and announced decision of the judges will be final. In the event of a tie the Dress Score of the competition will be used as the tiebreaker. Scores will not be contested at any time by the pageant committee, participants or families. Scores are not released after the pageant under any circumstances.

9. DRESSING ROOM TO BE CLOSED: During the pageant competition, the dressing room will be closed to everyone except the following: the contestant, one contestant assistant, pageant committee members and designated volunteers. All contestants, assistants and volunteers will be required to stay in the dressing room for the ENTIRE pageant including intermission.
10. PAGEANT COMPETITION: Competition will consist of the following:
- a. LITTLE MISS & PRINCESS:
 - >On-Stage Introduction representing 20% of the total score
 - >On-Stage Question representing 15% of the total score
 - >Modeling of Outfit of Choice representing 30% of the total score
 - >Dress representing 35% of the total score (party dress)
 - b. JR. MISS:
 - >On-Stage Introduction & Question representing 25% of the total score
 - >Outfit of Choice representing 25% of the total score
 - >Talent representing 25% of the total score
 - >Evening Wear representing 25% of the total score (long dress)
 - c. TEEN & MISS:
 - >Seven-minute interview representing 25% of the total score
 - >On-Stage Introduction & Question representing 15% of the total score
 - >Outfit of Choice representing 20% of the total score
 - >Talent representing 20% of the total score
 - >Evening Wear representing 20% of the total score (long dress)
- Competition Rules and Guidelines will be provided as a separate document but are to be considered binding with the signing of this document.
- A Talent Request Form is required to be submitted for each contestant performing talent by the designated date on the "Pageant Schedule".
- Contestants will be allowed only one submission. No changes will be allowed after the Talent Request Form is submitted, unless approved by the Pageant Director and/or Committee.
11. REHEARSALS: All rehearsals are as listed on the Pageant Schedule handout. First rehearsal will be open to contestants, coaches, and parents. All other rehearsals will be closed to everyone except contestants *unless* otherwise specified by Pageant Director. Dress rehearsal will be at the Sumter County Fairgrounds the Friday before the pageant.

PAGEANT DAY & NIGHT:

- a. Little Miss and Princess: All contestants and assistants will be allowed in the dressing room at the Fairgrounds at 8:00 a.m.. Everything you will need for the full pageant must accompany you to the dressing room. All contestants will remain backstage until the conclusion of the pageant. NO EXCEPTIONS! The pageant will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. No early admission for contestant's family will be allowed. Auditorium will be emptied and closed between pageants. Doors for the public will open at 10:00am.
- b. Junior, Teen & Miss Divisions: All Teen and Miss contestants will report for the Interview portion of the pageant 15 minutes prior to their assigned Interview time. You will be expected to be *completely dressed and at the assigned location at the Sumter County Fairgrounds 15 minutes before the time of your interview*. It is crucial that you are ON TIME. Upon completion of your interview, you are to leave the area. All contestants and assistants are allowed in the dressing room at the Fairgrounds beginning at 8:00 am. Everything you will need for the full pageant must accompany you to the dressing room. All contestants will remain backstage during

your pageant. NO EXCEPTIONS! The Pageant will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. No early admission to the auditorium for contestant's family will be allowed. Doors for the public will open at 5:00 p.m.

12. PRIZES: Scholarships and Prizes for each titleholder will be as follows and awarded to the winners at the end of her reign.
 - a. Little Miss \$100 Cash Award
 - b. Princess \$100 Cash Award
 - c. Jr. Miss \$100 Cash Award
 - d. Teen \$ 200 Cash Award
 - e. Miss Winner (s) \$2,500 Scholarship
(Monies available contingent upon entries)
13. CONTRACTS AND CONTACT: All application should be completed on SumterFair.net to the Sumter County Fair Office. **Pageant Director should be the initial contact for any information or concerns about the pageant.** Questions regarding the pageant will be answered at Orientation on Tuesday January 28, 2025 or by contacting:

Emily Beesley MissSumterCoFI@gmail.com 352.771.6614 (call or text)

Sumter Fair Office 352.569.6851

2024 Rules and Regulations Agreement

I have read and agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Sumter County Scholarship Pageant. If crowned in the Miss Sumter County Pageant, I also agree to attend scheduled and required appearances as a Queen of the Miss Sumter County Organization. In such case that I cannot fulfill my obligations as Queen, as decided by the Sumter County Pageant Committee, I will forfeit my position and prizes awarded to me as a winner of the pageant.

Contestant Name: _____

Division: _____

Contestant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____
(If Contestant is under the age of 18)