



2025-2026 National Cherry Queen Application

(Please print or type both sides of application)



Miss Tessa Nico
2024-2025
National Cherry Queen

Application Deadline

Postmarked on or before May 5, 2025

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Address _____

(The above address will be used for our official mailings. Please feel free to include another address if necessary)

Cell _____ Email _____

(We will use email as our main form of communication with you. Please list an email that you check regularly.)

Emergency Contact _____

Phone _____

Parent Names _____

Education

High School Name _____ Grad Year _____

College _____ Expected Grad Date _____

Major _____

A bio sheet detailing information you would like to share with the judges and for publicity purposes is required as part of the application process. Please see attached page of application for details.

I attest that the above information is true and correct, and that proof thereof can be produced upon request. As a candidate of the National Cherry Queen title, I have met all of the requirements stated in the official National Cherry Queen Candidate contract and will abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the National Cherry Festival and Queen's Committee.

Candidate Signature _____ Date _____

Application Requirement

Please submit a one-page resume detailing information (awards, hobbies, organizational memberships, future goals, etc.) you would like to share with the judges. **This resume' is required for the application process and will be a part of the judging process and will be scored.** You may submit your resume' in outline or resume style. We also ask that you submit a bio, 250 words or less, describing yourself. A sample bio is enclosed. ***Your name must appear on the top of the sheet and information should be limited to one side of one sheet.***

Additional Information

Why do you want to be National Cherry Queen? _____

How did you find out about this competition?

Do you have any food allergies or dietary requirements we should know about? **Yes / No** If yes, please list your requirements below:

Please list newspapers and/or radio stations in your home area we may contact about your participation:

Initial the following items when completed:

_____ Application completed and signed

_____ Sponsor or sponsors authorization completed and signed

_____ **Total sponsorship fee of \$500.00 postmarked on or before April 14 or \$600 April 15 through May 5, 2025 from one or more sponsors. Once sponsorship fees have been submitted, there is no refund. However, the sponsor will be listed as a general program sponsor. Please make checks payable to "National Cherry Festival" and send to: National Cherry Festival; 521 S. Union Street, Traverse City, MI 49684**

_____ Official Candidate Contract signed and enclosed

_____ Your Candidate Bio and one-page resume' completed and enclosed

_____ One (1) color, high resolution, digital headshot (at least 300 dpi) similar to the Queen's picture above. This image will be used for the judge's books, media, and marketing materials. Please email photo to: queenscommittee@cherryfestival.org; Please include your sponsor(s) name with your email.

_____ **Please submit an unedited video from your phone (please only 1 minute or less in length) of you telling the judges about yourself. Think about what you'd like them to know about you! Make sure to include your name and where you are from in the introduction. The deadline for this submission is on or before Monday, May 5 at 5 p.m. to queenscommittee@cherryfestival.org.** If you have any issues with submission, please email us.

Please do not send in your application without all items completed as listed above. Should you have any questions, please contact Angela Saylor, Director of Queen's Activities, at (231) 649-1617 or email queenscommittee@cherryfestival.org for more information.



Sponsoring Organization Information and Authorization

Thank you for sponsoring a young lady for the National Cherry Queen Competition. Each year, young ladies from all over Michigan compete for the chance to earn college scholarships, and for the opportunity to be a national spokesperson for the Cherry Industry and the National Cherry Festival. This year, we proudly boast scholarship awards of \$15,000.

Our Queen Selection competition takes place in two phases; "**Candidate Interviews/Selection**" on May 16-17, 2025 and the "**Final Queen Competition**" during National Cherry Festival week.

Candidate Interviews/Selection, May 16-17, 2025: All initial candidates participate in a series of 3 judged interviews, 1 cherry industry speech presentation, a personal introductory video, and resume'/application. A panel of judges will assess each candidate during these interviews, speech, as well as the quality of the video and personal resume' submission. The four candidates with the highest points at the end of Candidate interviews will receive a \$1,500 scholarship award to the school of her choice, a Festival wardrobe, and advance to the final round of competition during National Cherry Festival Week with all-expenses paid while in Traverse City.

Final Queen Competition, June 28 – July 5, 2025: A new panel of secret judges will assess the qualities of each of the four Queen finalists as they serve as court members to the current Queen at various events. By mid-week, Candidates will begin interviews with the secret judges. The new National Cherry Queen and 1st Runner-Up will be announced at the Queen's Coronation. The 1st Runner-Up will receive a total scholarship award of \$2,000 and the new National Cherry Queen will receive a total scholarship award of \$10,000!

Your generous contribution will help a young lady receive an amazing experience. In addition, your sponsored candidate will include the name(s) of their sponsor at several public speaking opportunities throughout Selection Weekend.

Although becoming the National Cherry Queen is ultimately the goal, it is our sincere hope that each participant will experience significant personal growth, wonderful memories and experiences, and develop lifelong friendships. Thank you for being a part of this experience.

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Sponsor Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (s) _____

Website Address: _____

Authorized Sponsor Representative (Please print) _____

Authorized Representative Signature _____ Date _____

*Please make checks payable to the "National Cherry Festival" and mail to:
521 S. Union Street, Traverse City, MI 49684*

Sample Candidate Bio

Grace Boyles

2018-2019 National Cherry Queen

Grace is the 20-year-old daughter of Pete and Anne Boyles of Traverse City. She is a 2016 graduate of Elk Rapids High School and is entering her junior year at the University of Michigan where she is double majoring in Communications Studies and Creative Writing and Literature. Grace spends her time in Ann Arbor studying, enjoying sporting events, and participating in several student organizations. She is the executive producer of an all-women's sports show on WOLV TV called "Wolverine Women" and is an associate producer for Big Ten Network Student U at Michigan.

Grace was incredibly blessed to have served the Elk Rapids community as the 2017 Miss Elk Rapids. She is deeply thankful to have had the opportunity to advocate for her hometown all across Northern Michigan and to have been able to give back to the community which helped shape her into the young woman she is today. Grace fell in love with connecting with the people of Elk Rapids at Wednesday Nights on River Street and being a role model for the young girls on her Court and in the community.

Driven by her passion for sports and people's stories, Grace hopes to pursue a career in sports broadcasting.

Grace is graciously sponsored by Parker Harvey PLC.



2025-26 NATIONAL CHERRY QUEEN CONTRACT

- 1) All qualified candidates will compete in Candidate Selection Weekend, in which four girls will be chosen as a finalist for National Cherry Queen, held May 16-17, 2025. Candidates must be present the entire Selection Weekend. The four finalists chosen will return for final competition June 28 - July 5, 2025 during the week of Cherry Festival. The crowning will take place at the Queen's Coronation, Friday July 4, 2025 at the Traverse City Opera House.
- 2) Entrant agrees to abide by all rules established by the Queen's Committee and must sign the Candidate's Contract to signify this agreement.
- 3) Entrant must be a single female, never have been married or divorced and cannot be currently or throughout her reign cohabiting in lieu of marriage. She must not be pregnant, nor have any children.
- 4) Entrant must be between the ages of 19 -25 as of July 4, 2025. An Entrant is a high school graduate or other institution of equivalent scholarship standing and can produce a diploma as proof thereof.
- 5) Entrant must be a resident of the State of Michigan.
- 6) Entrant must be of good character and conduct. The National Cherry Festival Queen's Committee may refuse entry to any applicant felt to be lacking in good character or displaying poor conduct.
- 7) Entrant is not under contract to any person, firm, organization, or corporation, nor have any other legal obligations that would prevent participation in the National Cherry Queen selection process.
- 8) Entrant will cooperate with the Program Director as to the format of the Program. Entrant agrees to time, manner, and method of judging, which shall be solely within the discretion of the National Cherry Queen's Committee and the National Cherry Festival. The decision of the judges and governing body will be final.
- 9) Entrant acknowledges that if chosen as the National Cherry Queen or has been chosen as one of the four finalists for 2 years, she is no longer eligible to compete even if all other eligibility requirements are met.
- 10) Contestants are not permitted to smoke or drink alcohol at **ANY TIME** during the competition. Contestants are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner so as not to bring discredit to herself, the program, or the National Cherry Festival.
- 11) Entrant must never have been convicted of a crime, is not or ever been a willing party to any wrong-doing, corruption, or financial impropriety.
- 12) Contestant authorizes the use of contestant's name and likeness for publication as the National Cherry Festival deems appropriate. This authorization shall include the use of all photographs, recordings, videos, or audiotapes made during the competition itself or during a title holder's reign.
- 13) It shall be understood that any violation of the Candidate's Contract, which includes the above Rules & Regulations, may cause automatic elimination from further judging, even during the competition itself, without advance notice.
- 14) Entrant understands that an educational scholarship will be awarded to her in the amount of \$1,500 if selected as a final four Queen Candidate and is paid directly to the school of her choice. In the event the entrant fails to abide by the rules and regulations governing this contest, she will immediately forfeit the scholarship and also forfeit the position of Queen Candidate if deemed necessary by the National Cherry Festival. In the event she does not wish to avail herself of the educational advantages of this scholarship, then she shall forfeit this scholarship.

If, after accepting the scholarship, she desires to discontinue her education, she shall forfeit any unused portion of this scholarship. If she has not started to use the scholarship fund within one year of the contest, she shall forfeit the entire scholarship fund. The scholarship is non-transferable. All unused scholarship funds shall revert into the National Cherry Festival Queen Scholarship fund.

- 15) Candidate agrees that if she maintains or is involved in electronic social networking sites such as Websites, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, blogs, message boards, etc., she will present a positive image which will not contain behavior such as negative postings, inappropriate photos, or inappropriate language.
- 16) If chosen as the National Cherry Queen, the entrant will agree to a one (1) year commitment with the National Cherry Festival, and as such will sign the official Queen's Contract and agree to relinquish any other title presently held.

IF SELECTED AS THE NATIONAL CHERRY QUEEN, the entrant must agree to the following.

- 17) If during the reign of the Cherry Queen she no longer meets the requirements of eligibility in the opinion of the Committee, she will forfeit her crown, and all awards presented to her.
- 18) Throughout the year the Cherry Queen will be required to attend and participate in numerous events. All appearances are scheduled, arranged, and supervised by the Queen's Committee or designated agent to reflect the values and high standards of the program and to enhance its visibility within our community, state, and nation. The 1st runner-up will have no continuing obligations. Only if the Queen is unable to finish her reign will she be called upon.
- 19) The Cherry Queen shall **NOT** appear in public as the National Cherry Queen without prior approval of the Director, or a designated agent. She will make public appearances only in the presence of a chaperone officially appointed for her by the Director. Furthermore, she will not bring guests along with her while making appearances; this includes family members and boyfriends.
- 20) Continued failure to attend scheduled functions, violations of her contract, or public conduct which the Queen's Committee deems to be a discredit to the Queen's program or to the National Cherry Festival, may result in action by the committee to remove the title.
- 21) The Cherry Queen shall follow all wardrobe guidelines throughout her reign during appearances as directed by the Director of the Queen's Program or her designee. In addition, there shall be no major alterations in physical appearance without approval by the Queen's Committee. This would include piercing (other than the ears), tattoos, dramatic changes in hair color or style, or other alterations that could be considered offensive.
- 22) The Queen will receive a \$10,000 scholarship paid directly to the school of her choice. If the Queen fails to abide by the rules and regulations governing this contest, she will immediately forfeit the aforementioned scholarship, and also forfeit the title of National Cherry Queen as deemed necessary by the National Cherry Festival. If she does not wish to avail herself of the educational advantages of this scholarship, then she shall forfeit this scholarship. If, after accepting the scholarship, she desires to discontinue her education, she shall forfeit any unused portion of this scholarship. If she has not started to use the scholarship fund within one year of the contest, she shall forfeit the entire scholarship fund. The scholarship is non-transferable. All unused scholarship funds shall revert into the National Cherry Festival Queen Scholarship fund. Furthermore, it shall be understood that the scholarship will be made in two equal payments over the course of the queen's reign.
- 23) In the event that the best interests of a contestant are threatened by enforcing any of the rules or regulations, the rule may be waived by a majority vote of the Queen's Committee, upon written request to the committee.

I hereby accept the terms, rules, and regulations stated in this contract.

Print Candidate Name

Candidate's Signature

Date