

Official Rules and Regulations

The Manatee County Fair Queens Pageant is a long-standing tradition in Manatee County. The pageant is an opportunity for girls and young women in Manatee County to showcase their beauty, poise, grace, intelligence and accomplishments. Manatee County Fair Queens serve as good stewards and ambassadors for the Manatee County Fair and the community. We invite and welcome you to be a part of this prestigious tradition and reach for your dreams. If you have any questions, please feel free to email the pageant team at manateecountypageants@gmail.com.

Important Dates and Locations

- **Sunday, October 27th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.– All Pageant Forms and Entry Fees are due by Pageant Orientation @ Kendrick Auditorium, 1303 17th St. W., Palmetto, FL.**
- **Saturday, November 16th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. - Manatee County Fair Queen Pageant – Palmetto High School Auditorium, 1200 17th St. W., Palmetto, FL**

Minimum Requirements to Compete in the Pageant

(NOTE: Some of the minimum requirements may not apply to younger contestants).

Contestants must...

- a.) Have been born a female and be registered for the appropriate age category on the day of competition.
Mini Miss: Ages 7-9
Little Miss: Ages 10-12
Junior Miss: Ages 13-16
Miss: 17-22
- b.) Live or attend school in Manatee County.
- c.) Be single and never married or have had a marriage annulled.
- d.) Not be pregnant or ever have borne a child.
- e.) Current titleholders may not compete but can compete the following year in a different age category.
- f.) Never been arrested. She must not have been suspended from school during the current or previous school year.
- g.) Have never performed any act or engaged in any activity or employment that is or could reasonably be characterized by the Manatee River Fair Association as dishonest, immoral, or indecent.
- h.) The Manatee River Fair Association must be notified of any prior commitments or contracts prior to competing if those prior commitments or contract would interfere with the contestant fulfilling their fair queen obligations if chosen to represent the fair. This includes any other current pageant titles held.

General Pageant Competition Information

Competition Categories:

Opening Number – Not Judged

Contestants will wear denim jeans or skirts and purple Manatee County Fair Pageant T-shirts. T-shirts will be distributed at orientation.

Closed Interview – 30% of overall score

- Judges will ask questions to contestants using information on their contestant entry form or general personality type questions. Questions about their experiences and involvement with the fair could also be asked.
- The Mini and Little contestants will interview in pairs for 5 minutes.
- Junior and Miss contestants will be interviewed individually for 6 minutes each.
- All contestants will be wearing personally selected school/business type outfits i.e.: dress, suit, pantsuit, jumpsuit etc.

On-Stage Question – 15% of overall score

The emcee will ask each contestant 2 predetermined questions. One question will be related to the fair and one from their contestant entry form. Contestants will wear their personally selected Western Wear outfits.

Western Wear – 25% of overall score

After the on-stage questions, the emcee will then allow each contestant to model their Western Wear outfit on stage. The emcee will read information from the contestant entry form about each contestant during this moment. This is a fun, upbeat part of the competition.

Formal Wear – 30% of overall score

This is the elegant portion of the competition. Contestants will be wearing formal dresses of their choice and appropriate for their age division. Consideration should be given to fit and style such as slits and low-cut designs. This is a slower walk, and contestants can take their time walking the stage.

Judging and Final Scoring:

- Three judges will be selected by the Manatee County Fair Team and Board.
- Judges will be oriented to the selection process prior to the pageant.
- Announced decisions are final. Judges' documents are destroyed after the pageant. Scores and feedback are not given.

Contestant Responsibilities

Attend Contestant MANDATORY Orientation.

The orientation will be **Sunday, October 27th, 2024, at at the Kendrick Auditorium, 1303 17th St. W., Palmetto, FL. Mini Miss and Little Miss Contestants at 1:00 pm. Junior and Miss Contestants at 2:00 p.m.** Orientation is mandatory for each contestant and their parent or guardian. Contestants must be dressed photo ready. Photos taken at orientation are for press purposes and are not judged. Any exceptions please email the fair team at manateecountypageants@gmail.com

Tickets

Each contestant receives 10 tickets to the pageant and is encouraged to pre-sell them to friends and family. Tickets are \$10 each. Money from the sale of tickets is due on pageant day before entry into the closed interview. We would love for you to sell ALL your tickets, but if you do not, the unsold tickets are also due at the time of the interview. You may turn in a combination of tickets and money, but it all must equal \$100.

Backstage

Mini Miss and Little Miss contestants may have one person to help them change. No men or boys are allowed backstage. No exceptions!!!

Junior Miss and Miss contestants must be self-sufficient with changing, hair and makeup. No men or boys are allowed backstage. No exceptions!!!

There will be volunteers backstage to help with zipping, priming, and prepping contestants for the stage.

Crowning and Awards

- Miss - \$1,500 **Ellen Meade Memorial Scholarship**. Scholarship is awarded upon completion of a full year reign. It must be paid within 4 years of receipt. Tuition may be paid directly to the school the queen enrolled in or tuition reimbursement from the fair can be paid upon receipt of enrollment documentation. In the event the Miss Fair Queen should abdicate, become disqualified or is unable to fulfill their duties and/or complete their year's reign, the first runner up will be crowned. Any unused scholarship will be forfeited.
- All title holders win a queen's crown, sash, trophy, flowers, and unlimited entry to the fair and unlimited access to the midway rides.
- Runners up in each age category receive a trophy.
- All contestants receive a Manatee County Fair Pageant t-shirt and 2 tickets to the Manatee County Fair (one for contestant and one for a parent/guardian).

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

1.) Contestant Entry Form and Entry Fee due by the day of orientation, Sunday, October 27th, 2024.

2.) Pageant notarized form due no later than the day of the pageant, Saturday, November 16th, 2024, upon check in. A notary will be provided at orientation and upon check in.