



EL PASO COUNTY

FAIR

Queen Handbook

Program History & Purpose:

Since 1951, the El Paso County Fair Queen Program has provided the young women of El Paso County the opportunity to promote the El Paso County Fair. The Queen makes numerous appearances during her reign to spread knowledge about the El Paso County Fair, western way of life, and the county's agricultural heritage.

Contest Eligibility:

- Contestants must reside in El Paso County, CO.
- She must be at least 17 and in her Senior year of High School and cannot turn 23 during her reigning year.
- Must never be married or pregnant.
- Each applicant must have reliable access to a sound-minded horse, truck, and trailer during her reign.
- Applications must be complete and submitted on or before the due date. No late applications will be accepted. All rules will apply as of entry form due date.
- In the event of injury, the El Paso County Fair Queen must have her own health insurance as the El Paso County Fair Advisory Board, El Paso County Fair and Event Center, nor El Paso County will not be liable.

Contest Proceedings:

Contestants are judged based on the following criteria:

- Application content & presentation
- Horsemanship: Execution of pattern assigned by Committee, Queen's Wave, Horsemanship Interview
- Personal Interview: not open to the public
- Speech: 3 Minute Speech, Prompt to be decided by Committee and will be presented with application acceptance

Queen Responsibilities:

- ❖ Promote the El Paso County Fair by attending all events scheduled by the Queen Committee
- ❖ Attend as many events as Lady-In-Waiting as possible after the competition
- ❖ Present a positive attitude and appropriate behavior in every situation
- ❖ Host the annual Queen's Luncheon during the Fair in coordination with the next year's contest. Coordinating with the Queen's committee to provide food and courtesy gifts for visiting royalty and honored guests.

Code of Conduct:

A. Conduct & Behavior

- Exhibit appropriate, professional behavior and a positive attitude while representing the El Paso County Fair, especially during Queen Appearances
- Shall not engage in any behavior that is detrimental to the El Paso County Fair Queen Program or El Paso County Fair at any time.
- Attend all appearances scheduled by the Queen Committee
- Should the reigning Queen be contacted to participate in events not on the official schedule, the Queen Committee Chairperson must approve participation
- No vulgarity, negative speech, or gossiping will be tolerated at any time
- No drinking alcohol, smoking, or vaping in public while representing the Fair
- Queen will be escorted at every appearance by the Coordinator, member of the Queen's Committee, Member of the Fair Advisory Board, or County Staff
- Remain politically neutral while representing the Fair
- Inappropriate behavior, disrespect or unsportsmanlike behavior towards fellow competitors, other royalty programs, committee members, parents, trainers, or friends will not be tolerated.

B. Appearance

- Tiara, buckle, sash, and appropriate Queen attire will be worn whenever serving in the capacity of El Paso County Fair Queen. These items must be worn ONLY during committee approved events.
- Hair will be worn in a manner that is mutually agreed upon by the Queen and Queen Committee
- Hats should be appropriately shaped for the Fair Queen. No straw hats.
- Boots should be clean, polished, and coordinate with the whole outfit. Spurs are only to be worn while on horse-back.
- Skirts and dresses should be no shorter than 3 inches above the knee. Distressed jeans with holes are not permitted.
- Shirts and blouses must have sleeves no shorter than cap sleeves and are to be always tucked in. Shirts and blouses should be conservative in nature and not be too revealing.
- No visible tattoos or body piercings other than single holes for earrings allowed during reign.

C. Family/Friends/Significant Others

- Must work in the spirit of cooperation with Fair Staff and Fair Advisory Board
- Boyfriends/partners will not be present during official appearances. Public displays of affection will not be tolerated in person.
- Parents may be responsible for transportation and care for the horse during events.
- If the Queen is under the age of 18, parents should allow communication between Queen and Coordinators via text, phone call, and/or email.

D. Social Media & Cell Phone

- As a representative of the El Paso County Fair, the Queen's personal social media accounts should be kept clean and professional under the discretion of the Queen Coordinator and Committee.
- The Queen is encouraged to help the Queen Committee Chairperson in the creation of Social Media content, however the Chairperson or other authorized Committee members will have final say in posted material

E. Horse

- Must have access to a safe and reliable horse for all riding appearances.
- Tack should be clean and in good working condition. Horse should be clean and well-groomed for appearances.
- Must treat all animals humanely while serving as the El Paso County Fair Queen.

Disciplinary Action:

- A. The Queen will be furnished with a preliminary schedule as dates for events become available. If the events cannot be attended, the Committee Chairperson must be notified immediately. Requests for missed events will be reviewed on an individual basis. Two unexcused absences will result in forfeiture of title.
- B. Queen can be released of duties at the discretion of the Queen Committee with majority approval of the Fair Advisory Board for breach of contract or dereliction of duties. If major discipline actions are taken, the Queen will be required to relinquish any sponsored items including but not limited to: sash, buckle, clothing, bag, jacket, scholarships.
- C. Should the reigning Fair Queen be relieved of her duties, the 1st Runner-Up will be asked to accept the position of Fair Queen, assuming all duties from that date forward.

EL PASO COUNTY



Acknowledgement:

Signing this document confirms a commitment to uphold all the responsibilities listed within this document, and the responsibilities that come with being the El Paso County Fair Queen. The applicant commits that she will abide by any rules and regulations put in place by the El Paso County Fair Advisory Board, or by the Queen Committee. Additionally, the applicant acknowledges that if any rules or regulations are broken, it will immediately jeopardize her remaining time as the El Paso County Fair Queen. Committing to the role as the El Paso County Fair Queen means the applicant is committing to the El Paso County Fair, and will work diligently to make this a priority.

I hereby agree, as El Paso County Fair Queen, I will abide by standards set and included in this handbook.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

If Queen is under the age of 18:

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____