



# 2023 Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest Rules

Directors in Charge  
Kathy Hambleton, Marjie Pollard & Lisa Reyes

Chairman – Desiree Zepeda

**ALL RULES APPLY TO FAIR QUEEN CANDIDATES AND FAIR QUEEN WHETHER SPECIFIED OR NOT. ALL DATES AND TIMES WITHIN THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

**This is not a beauty contest. You do not need artistic talent to enter.**

<b>Application Document Submission – Must be received by June 15, 2023</b>		
❖	Certified Mail – PO Box 428 Rosenberg, TX 77471	
❖	Hand Delivered to Fair Office – 4310 HWY 36 S, Rosenberg, TX 77471 (Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9AM to 4PM)	
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<b>Social Media Due</b>	<b>7/13/23</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Bio Due Date</b>	<b>8/10/23</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Official Transcript Due</b>	<b>8/17/23</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Essay Due</b>	<b>8/24/23</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Service Record Forms Due</b>	<b>9/21/23</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>

### Purpose

The purpose of the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest is to select a Fair Queen to represent the Fort Bend County Fair and provide scholarships to winning contestants.

### Exhibits (to be provided after acceptance at Orientation)

- A. Fair Queen Scholarship Event Schedule & Deadlines
- B. Release of Liability
- C. Sash Agreement
- D. Service Record Form
- E. Candidate Bio Guidelines
- F. Social Media Guidelines

### Duration

The dates of competition for the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest will begin at the Queen’s Orientation on Sunday, July 9, 2023 and end on Friday, September 29, 2023, at the completion of Grand Entry.

### Eligibility

The Fort Bend County Fair Queen Contest is opened to the first twenty (20) participants who meet the below eligibility requirements.

1. Fair Queen Candidates must be at least 15 years of age and not more than 19 years of age on September 1, 2023. A certified copy of the birth record may be requested.
2. Fair Queen Candidates must be U.S. Citizens and reside in Fort Bend County.

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3. Fair Queen Candidates must be (and always have been) female as recorded on their birth certificate.
4. Fair Queen Candidates must be attending high school.
5. Fair Queen Candidates may never have been married or have had children or be pregnant at the time of the Fort Bend County Fair. If the Fair Queen becomes pregnant or is married during her reign, she will be required to relinquish her title and her scholarship and will immediately cease and desist her representation as Fair Queen. The remainder of the Fair Queen's scholarship will pass to the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up.
6. Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen must not have been charged with or convicted of any criminal offense. This includes but is not limited to misdemeanors (such as minor-in-possession, driving under the influence, criminal mischief, destruction of property, etc.; apart from minor traffic violations). Additionally, there must be no adjudications presently pending against the candidate.
7. Any individual having been crowned Fort Bend County Fair Queen is not eligible to be a Fair Queen Candidate again.
8. Fair Queen Candidates must provide their official transcript to show academic eligibility. A transcript must be emailed to (kharris@fbcfa.org) or mailed directly from the school to the Fair Office and be received by Thursday, August 17, 2023. In addition, they must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 and follow the rules as outlined by the Fort Bend County Fair Association Scholarship Rules. Please note that such transcripts can be requested at any time by the Fort Bend County Fair Manager. While the Texas Education Agency interpretation on extracurricular activities (as distributed May 2, 1985, and detailed under Update Number 2 example 1 and explanation 6 on page 240) remains intact, the following rule must be in effect for the Fort Bend County Fair. A Scholastically Ineligible Student will not be allowed to participate.
9. All Fair Queen Candidates must have a current Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement on file in the Fair Office to participate.

### **Rules**

Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen agree that they must abide by the Fort Bend County Fair Association General Rules and Regulations, Fort Bend County Fair Association Scholarship Rules, as well as the following Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest Rules:

1. Fair Queen Candidates or Fair Queen MAY NOT use alcohol, any form of illegal drugs, smoke, vapor, or use tobacco in any form. Zero tolerance policy will be enforced and should the situation arise, the candidate will be notified immediately and may result in the candidate being disqualified.
2. Fair Queen Candidates must agree to be personally interviewed by the judges and understand that the decision of the judging panel is final. Judges' scoresheets will remain confidential and become property of the Fort Bend County Fair.
3. Fair Queen Candidates must be of good moral character. If any candidate or Fair Queen is deemed to participate in inappropriate comments, immoral or indecent acts or behavior in any way, including but not limited to on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and the like) that candidate will

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be ineligible for the contest. If any Fair Queen Candidate is found to have engaged in any immoral or indecent acts, the Fair Queen Candidates may be found ineligible.

4. Any Fair Queen Candidate or Fair Queen shall abstain from public displays of affection toward their boyfriend or significant other during the Fair week and while participating at any Fair function throughout the year.
5. Any Fair Queen Candidate who may be related to any Fort Bend County Fair Board Member or Queen Committee member will not be eligible to participate unless the Board Member or committee member abstains during discussions of the Contest and judging. Said Board Member may not vote on any matter that concerns the Contest or the Fair Queen.

**Duties – Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidates**

All Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen must comply with the following dress code at all times during Fort Bend County Fair activities:

- Awarded Sash
- Western Attire (Dresses must be fingertip length or longer)
- Jeans and Boots are recommended
- No visible tattoos
- No visible body piercings, with the exception of ears
- No shorts
- No sandals
- Candidate should have their hair and makeup presentably done at each event. Hair, makeup, and overall appearance should be age-appropriate.

Queen’s Orientation	7/9/23	2:30 PM
Enrichment/Derby Day	8/13/23	10:00 AM
Group Volunteer Day	August	TBD
Networking Event	TBD	TBD
Life Member/Committee Dance	9/9/23	6:00 PM
Sponsor Dinner	TBD	TBD
Interview	9/16/23	9:00 AM
Jr Royalty	9/16/23	9:30 AM
BBQ Cook-Off Awards	9/23/23	7:00 PM
Parade	9/29/23	9:00 AM
Coronation	9/29/23	5:30 PM

Fair Queen Candidates are required to attend all events listed above. If the candidate is not able to participate at all events, it will result in the candidate being disqualified. Photos will be taken at the Fair Queen Orientation and will be used to assist the judges in the scoring process.

**Events**

The Queen’s Orientation meeting for all Fair Queen Candidates will be held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, 2023. At least one parent or legal guardian must accompany each contestant if the Fair Queen Candidate is under 18 years of age. All Fair Queen Candidates must arrive dressed appropriately for initial contestant photographs. No shorts, cut-offs, ripped jeans, low cut dresses, or flip flops.

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The Queen Candidate Interview will take place at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

All candidates must participate in the Fair Parade on Friday, September 29, 2023. The contestants must ride on a float, which is to be provided by the Fair Queen Candidates. All candidates will be required to assist in the coordination and decoration of parade float. All candidates are required to ride on the provided float. All trailers and/or vehicles used in parade MUST be operated and driven by a licensed adult, preferably a parent or guardian of a candidate. No one other than approved adults should be in or around Candidate float or vehicle on parade day. The Jr Royalty court will join the Queen Candidates on the parade float.

The introduction of all Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidates, the coronation of the Fair Queen, and the presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up and Miss Congeniality will be at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2023. All Fair Queen Candidates are required to participate in the coronation ceremonies as well as Grand Entry immediately following coronation.

In the event of a natural disaster or other unavoidable events, the Fort Bend County Fair Association Executive Committee may change the dates and times of the contest, parade, coronation, and other activities associated with the Fort Bend County Fair Queens Scholarship Contest. It is the responsibility of the Fair Queen Candidate to provide the Queens Committee with at least two **valid** telephone numbers, a mailing address, and appropriate email addresses at which they can be reached, **as well as valid contact information for the Fair Queen Candidate's legal guardian.** It is the responsibility of the Fair Queen Candidate to remain in contact with the Director(s) in Charge, Chairman, and/or the Fort Bend County Fair Office to obtain any changes in locations, obligations, dates, times, and rules. Fair Queen Candidates will be issued a sash at the initial meeting and will be charged \$50 if the item is lost or damaged. The sash is the property of the Fort Bend County Fair Association and must be turned in prior to the coronation.

**Duties – Fort Bend County Fair Queen**

The Fair Queen Candidate selected as Fair Queen must sign a contract with the Fort Bend Fair Association immediately following her coronation.

The Fort Bend County Fair Queen will serve a term of one year as an ambassador of the Fort Bend County Fair. The Fair Queen is also expected to attend other Fair-sponsored events throughout the year, a list of which will be provided. The Fair Queen will also serve on the Fort Bend County Fair Association Queen Committee for the following year.

The chosen Fair Queen will represent the Fort Bend County Fair by being present at several activities during the Fair, including but not limited to, parade, auctions, receptions, rodeo events, livestock judging, and other events that may be requested by the Fort Bend County Fair Association. The Queen will also agree to attend civic functions and attend meetings throughout her reign. Failure to attend and participate in the required events may result in the relinquishment of the title and may jeopardize scholarship awards.

The Fair Queen is to be escorted at all times by a member of the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Committee while attending any function during the Fort Bend County Fair in her capacity as Fort Bend County Fair Queen.

Attendance at the following year's coronation, participation in the following year's parade, and participation in other events as deemed by the Fair Queen Committee are also mandatory. The previous year's Fair Queen will be provided a horse and carriage to be ridden in the Fort Bend County Fair Parade

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paid for by the Fair Queen Committee.

By accepting the Fair Queen title and other rewards, the Fair Queen understands and agrees that her behavior during her reign is a reflection of herself, her family, her school, and Fort Bend County. She must agree to behave accordingly, as a good role model and upstanding citizen.

The Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors may remove the Fair Queen from the position if the Board determines, in its sole discretion, that the Fair Queen has engaged in conduct that casts the Fort Bend County Fair in a negative light, the Fair Queen is not an appropriate role model and upstanding citizen, or the Fair Queen has violated any rules applicable to the Fair Queen, including, but not limited to, those contained in this document.

In the event the Fair Queen is removed by the Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors, relinquishes her title by choice, or is unable to fulfill her duties for any reason she may no longer represent herself as the Fort Bend County Queen and will be barred from participating in any future Fort Bend County Fair Scholarship Contests. The outgoing Queen is to return the Crown and Sash to the Fort Bend County Fair Association no later than five (5) business days from date of notification. Failure to return the above-mentioned items in a timely manner will compel the Fort Bend County Fair Association to order a duplicate crown and sash which will be billed to the outgoing Queen. Any scholarship amount to be awarded will be pro-rated in accordance with the length of time the chosen Fair Queen has served. The remainder of the scholarship amount that was to be awarded will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up.

### **Selection Criteria**

The Fort Bend County Fair Queen will be selected based upon a pre-determined scoring system outlined in this document.

Each Fair Queen Candidate will receive an individual score based upon scores obtained through the events outlined. Participation points will be determined at each event by the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Committee. The Interview, Essay, and Networking sections of the competition will be conducted by judges. No judge will reside in or be affiliated with Fort Bend County for the purposes of this competition. These scores will be the criteria used to select the Fort Bend County Fair Queen.

The Fort Bend County Fair Queen and her court will be crowned according to the following criteria: Points will be awarded to each Fair Queen Candidate based upon the following scale:

- A. Community Service – up to 40 points. Minimum of 40 hours at 501(c)3 organization that is located in Fort Bend County or is an organization that is affiliated with Fort Bend County. Points are based on the completion of forms completed by organizations. Organizations must be approved by the Chairman or Director(s) in Charge of the Queen’s committee. It is absolutely prohibited for any person of the said approved organization to evaluate/complete a community service form if related to the candidate in any way. In addition to individual service hours, candidates will serve at a local community event as a group, date and time TBD. Turn in Service Record Forms by Thursday, September 21, 2023 by 4:00 p.m.
  - 40 hours of community service – possible 40 points
- B. Interview scored by a panel of judges – up to 25 points. These interview sessions will be scheduled for all Fair Queen Candidates. Interview points will be averaged for each contestant.

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- Ability to converse – possible 15 points
- Personality – possible 5 points
- Poise – possible 5 points

C. Participation – up to 15 points. Participation points will be accumulated from the Queen’s Orientation of all queen candidates prior to the coronation. Sign-in sheets will be provided at all required events to verify their attendance. Failure to be punctual, wearing required attire, and attendance throughout the event or events such as; but not limited to meetings, appearances and practices will determine point accumulation. Fair Queen Committee decisions are final. Participation points will be averaged for each contestant. Points are based on the following:

- Attendance
- Participation
- Punctuality
- Specified Attire
- Attitude

D. Essay scored by a panel of judges – up to 15 points. Essay points will be averaged for each contestant. Emailed to kharris@fbcf.org in PDF format by Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

- Essay Topic: “If selected Fair Queen. What Qualities do you have to help make a difference at the Fort Bend County Fair?”
- Must be between 1000 to 1200 words, 12-point Times New Roman font, and double-spaced with a one (1) inch margin
- Must not include any identifying names or include candidate name anywhere on the narrative document including header and footer

E. Presentation scored by a panel of judges – up to 5 points. This will take place at the Networking Event. Presentation points will be averaged for each contestant.

- Impromptu Question and Showmanship – possible 5 points

Additional points may be awarded to Queen Candidate’s based on the above scored criteria. In case of a tie in the total score or in any category, placement will be determined by the points awarded according to the Interview score first and will continue in order referenced above.

All Fair Queen Candidates are expected to display the highest level of sportsmanship during Fair-related activities. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disqualification and affect future eligibility to compete in the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest.

**Scholarships**

Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the scholarship awards presentation which will be held in the Spring of 2024. The Fair Office must be notified in writing if recipient is unable to attend and a parent or sibling must attend on the recipient’s behalf if recipient is unable to attend reception.

The scholarships are as follows:

\$5,000.00 – Queen      \$3,000 – 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up      \$1,000 Miss Congeniality

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## Funding of Scholarships

- A. Scholarship Payment Request Check List (payment request) will be emailed to scholarship recipients each semester.
- B. A thank you letter for the awarding of the scholarship must be submitted and addressed to the scholarship sponsor and hand delivered to the Fair Office by Thursday, October 19, 2023. Failure to do so will result in no scholarship money being paid.
- C. Payment request must include or meet the following requirements:
- Funding of scholarships will take place in the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters assuming all required documentation is submitted and all requirements are met.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> payment request – must submit official schedule indicating a minimum of 12 course hours for first semester.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> payment request – must submit official copy of the applicant’s official transcript from the Fall semester and must be emailed or mailed directly to the Fair Office from the school. Phone and/or computer “snapshots” of the transcript will not be accepted.
  - Applicant must be registered for and complete a minimum of 12 hours in each Fall and Spring semester that payment is requested. If a transcript is turned in with only 9 hours completed, the next semester’s payment will be forfeited. Mini and/or summer semesters do not qualify for scholarship payment.
  - 2.5 GPA **for each semester** must be maintained.
  - All information submitted must include the student’s legal name, number of course hours enrolled, the official name of the Texas college/university, Technical School, or Military Academy.
- D. Payment request must be submitted to the Fair Office email **kharris@fbcf.org** or by fax to 832-595-0808.
- E. Upon receipt and confirmation of required information each semester by the Fair Office, a payment will be mailed directly to the address provided on the payment request for the Texas college/university, Military Academy, or Technical School.
- F. Scholarship payments will be forfeited if the recipient fails to comply with the above requirements or does not receive payments in two (2) consecutive semesters.
- G. Payments are to begin the fall semester after high school graduation.
- H. Any remaining scholarship funds not redeemed at the end of the scholarship award period will be forfeited.

## Prohibited Acts

**For the purposes of these rules, the term “Fair Queen Candidate” also includes any Fair Queen Candidate’s family member, or any such individual acting on behalf of the Fair Queen Candidate.**

No Fair Queen candidate will participate in defacing another Queen candidate’s photo on any advertisement or printed material. Violation of this rule will constitute grounds for disqualification of the Queen Candidate.

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No Fair Queen candidate can represent themselves as a candidate until after she has attended the Queen's Orientation and her application has been accepted. Anyone promoting themselves as a Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidate prior to the submission of application forms and Queen's Orientation will be grounds for disqualification of the candidate.

Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen are encouraged to ensure there are no unseemly and/or offensive photos on their Facebook (or other social media) pages. This includes written comments, videos, and other sources of media. The existence of such materials, or the failure to delete or edit such content at the request of the Fair Queen Committee, will be grounds for disqualification.

Fair Queen Candidates may not be accompanied by anyone other than a parent or legal guardian to any Fort Bend County Fair-sponsored event. Candidates will be supervised at all times by members of the Fair Queen Committee at official fair events. All person's other than the candidate is responsible for paying any entry fees required by the Fort Bend County Fair Association at the time of entrance.

Fair Queen Candidates may not use cell phones or devices for personal use, other than in case of an emergency while attending any Fort Bend County Fair-sponsored event.

**The Fort Bend County Fair Association Board reserves the right to make additional rules, regulations, and amendments as necessary. Decisions of the Fort Bend County Fair Association Board of Directors are final.**

The Fair Queen candidate signing below, as well as her parent/legal guardian, acknowledge, represent, and agree that they have carefully read and fully understand all the provisions of this document, they have had sufficient time within which to consider this document, they accept and agree to abide by the terms of this document, and they knowingly and voluntarily execute this document.

**ALL RULES APPLY TO FAIR QUEEN CANDIDATES AND FAIR QUEEN**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

AGREED: \_\_\_\_\_ Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidate

AGREED: \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate Parent/Guardian Signature

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