



Harvest Queen Pageant

September 12, 2026

Jr Queen Pageant Starts at 1:00pm

Senior Queen Pageant Starts at 5:00pm

**Location: Entertainment Pavillion, Hillsborough County Fair
(pre-registration is mandatory)**

Harvest Queen Pageant Information & Rules

Entry Fee \$50 (non-refundable)

Entry fees include professional headshots to be entered in the photogenic contest.

Applicants must secure payment online and complete application.

Deadline for entry is August 17, 2026

Mandatory Events for Pageant

Events will be held at the Hillsborough County Fair Exhibit Hall

Photoshoot Social and Pageant Workshop

August 18, 2026

Pageant Rehearsal

September 10, 2026

September 11, 2026

Pageant

September 12, 2026

Junior Contestants arrive by 12:00, Pageant starts at 1:00pm

Senior Contestants will begin to arrive at 3:00pm for interviews (times will be given out at rehearsal), Pageant starts at 5:00pm

Queen's Luncheon (New queen's, first maids and mother)

September 13, 2026



Judging Criteria

Judging will be based on facial beauty, personality, confidence, and overall appearance.

Consent & Liability Release

I, the undersigned parent or legal guardian of the above-named contestant, hereby give consent for the use of photographs, video, and/or likeness of the contestant in publications, television, promotional materials, brochures, social media, or other media as deemed appropriate by the Hillsborough County Fair.

I further agree to release and hold harmless the Hillsborough County Fair, its directors, staff, and volunteers from any and all liability for injuries, accidents, or damages that may occur during the contest or throughout the contestant's reign if crowned.

Crown & Banner Policy

I understand that crowns and banners are to be worn only during the official contest and at events or appearances approved and directed by the Pageant Directors.

Rules & Regulations

I agree to abide by all rules and regulations established by the Hillsborough County Fair Pageant. I understand that failure to comply with these rules may result in elimination from the contest and/or forfeiture of title.

I certify that all information provided regarding the contestant is true and accurate. I understand that all information is subject to verification by the committee, and any discrepancies may result in elimination from the contest and/or forfeiture of title.

I further understand that the Hillsborough County Fair and Pageant Directors reserve the right to interpret and enforce all rules and regulations and to make final decisions regarding any matters, questions, or disputes.

General Information

- The pageant is open to Hillsborough County residents only. Must be enrolled in a public, private school or homeschool or a student enrolled in junior college or university in Hillsborough County.
- Contestants who have previously won a Harvest Queen or Jr. Harvest Queen title are not eligible to compete again in the same division they previously won. Current Royalty (including Queens and First Maids) are not eligible to compete in next year's pageant. Their reign ends with the coronation of the new Royalty.
- Current titleholders from other Hillsborough County pageants are not eligible to compete for Harvest Queens and First Maids.
- Any contestant crowned as a titleholder shall not compete in any other pageants or pageant-like contests during her reign. **FFA Sweetheart and High School Calendar Girl competitions are permitted; however, you may not represent those titles in any capacity when the expectation is to represent the Harvest Queens.**
- This pageant is designed to encourage confidence, poise, and fun.

Winner Responsibilities

Contestants crowned as Harvest Queens and First Maids winners are expected to participate in local parades and additional approved events throughout their reign. Including media appearances, fair events, community events



and volunteer activities. Outfits for appearances and events will be provided by the parents and must be approved by the Pageant Directors. Coordinated, age-appropriate attire may be required for group appearances.

Pageant Information

Contestants will be allowed to get dressed in the holding room but be aware that space is limited. There will be a drawing at the mandatory meeting to assign contestant numbers

Jr. Harvest Queen contestants will not participate in a formal interview process. Contestants should arrive at the fairgrounds dressed in their casual wear outfit and prepared for introductions on stage.

Each contestant will have 30 seconds to introduce herself and share information about an event that takes place during the Hillsborough County Fair. Since the Queen and First Maid serve as ambassadors and frequently introduce events throughout the year, this portion of the competition is designed to showcase your confidence, personality, and speaking abilities. Contestants may reference the official Hillsborough County Fair calendar when selecting an event to present.

Following introductions, contestants will compete in the evening wear competition. At the conclusion of evening wear, the Top 5 contestants will be selected and invited back on stage to answer an impromptu question.

After the final round of competition, a Jr. Harvest Queen and Jr. First Maid will be crowned. Winners will then be asked to remain for the Harvest Queen Pageant.

Harvest Queen contestants will participate in a 4–6 minute interview with a panel of professional judges. Interviews will take place at the fairgrounds on the day of the pageant beginning at 3:00 PM. Individual interview times will be assigned according to contestant number order. Contestants should arrive dressed in their designated interview attire for this portion of the competition.

For on-stage introductions, Harvest Queen contestants will change into a casual wear outfit. Each contestant will have 30 seconds to introduce herself and share information about an event that takes place during the Hillsborough County Fair. Since the Harvest Queen and First Maid serve as ambassadors for the fair and are often asked to introduce events throughout the year, this segment is designed to highlight confidence, poise, personality, and public speaking skills. Contestants may reference the official Hillsborough County Fair calendar when selecting an event to present.

Following introductions, contestants will compete in the evening wear competition. At the conclusion of evening wear, the Top 5 contestants will be selected and invited back on stage to answer an impromptu question.

At the end of the competition, a Harvest Queen and Harvest First Maid will be crowned. Winners will then be asked to remain for official photos following the pageant.

The **Most Photogenic Award** will be presented to one Jr. Harvest Queen contestant and one Harvest Queen contestant. Photos for this competition will be taken exclusively by the official Harvest Royalty photographer and will be used for judging purposes.



Scholarships will be awarded to the Harvest Queen, Jr. Harvest Queen, Harvest First Maid, and Jr. Harvest First Maid at the conclusion of their reign. Scholarship funds must be used within four years of the recipient's high school graduation date.

A **People's Choice Award** will also be presented during the competition. The contestant receiving the highest number of votes will be named the winner. Each donated \$1 will count as one vote. One winner will be selected from the Harvest Queen division and one winner from the Jr. Harvest Queen division.

In addition, the pageant will recognize a "**Crowned Supporter**" Award recipient for outstanding sponsorship efforts. This award will be presented to the contestant who raises the highest amount in sponsorships in each division, including one Harvest Queen contestant and one Jr. Harvest Queen contestant.

One armband will be provided to each contestant for complimentary admission for one parent on pageant day. Armbands will be distributed during contestant check-in. General admission to the pageant is \$10 per person. Backstage helpers and chaperones will be available on pageant day to assist contestants at the designated drop-off area and throughout the event.

Jr. Harvest Queen contestants must report backstage, doors open at 12:00 PM. Late arrivals will be disqualified.

Harvest Queen contestants should arrive at the fairgrounds at their assigned interview time. Following the interview portion of the competition, contestants will change into their casual wear outfit. All Harvest Queen contestants must report backstage, doors open at 4:00 PM. Late arrivals will be disqualified.

To maintain the professionalism and appearance standards of the pageant, the following rules will apply:

- No food or colored beverages will be permitted backstage.
- No visible tattoos are allowed.
- Large facial piercings, including nose rings and eyebrow rings, are not permitted.
- Contestants must be naturally born females, single, never married, and have never borne a child.
- Evening wear attire must remain age-appropriate and tasteful. Slits may not extend above the knee, plunging necklines are not permitted, and two-piece gowns must not expose the midriff.

We are always looking for sponsors for the pageant. If you would like to help support the Harvest Queen Pageant in any way, please contact the Pageant Directors or the Fair Office 813.737.3247

Questions?

TheHarvestQueens.HCF@gmail.com

Casey Simmons Runkles – 813.478.9563

Dr. Evie Simmons D'Amico – 813.478.1354



Harvest Queen Pageant

Harvest Queen Program – Social Media Policy Acknowledgment Form

This form confirms that I have read and understood the Harvest Queen Program social media Policy. I agree to comply with the policy to maintain a positive, respectful, and family-friendly image for the Harvest Queen Program and the Hillsborough County Fair.

Key Points of the Policy

- I will represent the Harvest Queen Program and the Hillsborough County Fair positively on all social media platforms.
- I will not post offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate content related to the program or its participants.
- I will respect confidentiality and will not share behind-the-scenes details, judges' names, or score sheets.
- I will refrain from responding to or posting negative comments online.
- I understand that violations may result in warnings, removal of privileges, or disqualification.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement	
I, acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all rules, regulations, policies, and requirements set forth by the Hillsborough County Fair Harvest Pageant and the social media policy. I understand that failure to comply with these rules and regulations may result in elimination from the contest and/or forfeiture of title.	
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)	
Parent/Guardian Signature	
Date	
Contestant Name	
Contestant Signature (Printed)	



Harvest Queen Pageant

Contestant Name		
Parent's Name		
Email Address		
Address		
Phone Number		
Contestant's Birthday		
Official use only	Paid	Verification

Age Division (as of September 1, 2026)	
Select one age group	
Harvest Queen Ages 16-19	Jr. Harvest Queen Ages 13-15

Contestant # _____ (name), she is the daughter of _____ (father) and _____ (mother) _____ (other). _____ is in the _____ grade at _____ (school). Her hobbies include (list 3) _____, _____, _____.

She is involved in (list 3) _____, _____, _____.

Three words that describe you: _____, _____, _____.

Future College or Career Plans _____.





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