

Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

2023 PA FAIR QUEEN STATE COMPETITION

January 19-21

APPLICATION PACKET

We have received your Fair's request for an Application for the 2023 PA Fair Queen Contest. We look forward to your Fair Queen's participation in our state competition!

INSTRUCTIONS:

This application is designed to be submitted completely online. <https://forms.gle/Memye1hMhoHpvQVA8>

You will need a **computer**, access to the **internet** and a **Google email account** (Gmail).

Contact Karen Dobson (kardob@msn.com or 610-212-6180 cell) if you have issues with any of these.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Download Official Application Documents** from the website – <https://www.pafairs.org/p/convention/queen-contest>
 - 01-CERTIFICATION
 - 02-RESUME
 - 03-REGISTRATION
2. Complete each APPLICATION DOCUMENT FORM (01 - 03 above) and save to your computer
3. Compose a **SHORT BIOGRAPHY** (see sample below)
4. Select a digital **CONTESTANT PHOTO** (see specifications below)
5. Compose the **ESSAY** – “What My Fair Means To My Community” (see sample below)
6. Go to **GOOGLE FORMS** - <https://forms.gle/Memye1hMhoHpvQVA8>
7. Complete the
 - a. CONTESTANT INFORMATION
 - b. COORDINATOR INFORMATION
8. **Upload** the APPLICATION DOCUMENTS
 - a. **01-CERTIFICATION form** (download from website)
 - b. **SHORT BIOGRAPHY** *See Sample below*
 - i. Word processed document
 - ii. Maximum length = 150 words

Amy Smith – Best County Fair

Amy is the 18-year-old daughter of John and Mary Smith of Anytown, PA. She is currently studying nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. She received the Knights of Knowledge Award as an Honor Student at the Anytown High School from which she graduated in 2022. While in High School, Amy was a member of the FFA, Student Council, Pep Club, Band and was the Feature Twirler/Majorette for the Band Front. She was a runner-up in the 2019 Junior Miss before competing in the 2022 Best County Fair Queen Contest. Her employment experiences include Hamburger Harry's, babysitting, and working at her local fair in the French fry stand. Amy also serves as a volunteer at the Anytown Community Hospital. In her spare time, she enjoys skiing, swimming, dancing and reading.
(Word Count: 129)

Submit online application and required documents **by November 15**. <https://forms.gle/Memye1hMhoHpvQVA8>

Mail payments to PSACF, 128 Cumberland Rd, Bedford, PA 15522 postmarked by **November 15**.

An **Official Contestant Packet** will be sent to all contestants who complete both steps above by the deadline.

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- c. **CONTESTANT PHOTO** (and PHOTOGRAPHER'S RELEASE if required)
 - A. Vertical/Portrait orientation
 - B. .JPEG file format
 - C. Resolution: minimum of 1065 x 750 pixel dimension
 - D. Color or black & white acceptable
- d. **02-RESUME form** (download from website)
- e. **ESSAY**
 - A. Topic: "What My Fair Means To My Community".
 - B. Word Count: 300 words or less (don't count the title).
 - C. Format: typed or word-processed; handwritten essays will receive a scoring deduction of -5 points.
 - D. 1" on top, bottom, left and right.
 - E. Font Size: 12 pt
 - F. Font Color: Black
 - G. Spacing: Double space the essay
 - H. Header: include Contestant's name and name of Fair she is representing on the top right-hand corner of each page
 - I. Footer: include total word count on the bottom right-hand corner of the last page.

Contestant: Amy Smith Fair: Best County Fair
Application Item #5: Essay What My Fair Means To My Community
(insert essay text here, typed/word-processed, 1" margins on all sides, font size 12", black print and and double-spaced)
Essay Word Count: 295

- f. **03-REGISTRATION form** (download from website)
9. Mail payments
- a. Contestant Registration (\$125)
 - b. Any extra tickets for banquet meals
 - c. All payments are made payable to "**PSACF Convention Account**"
 - d. Mail all payments, along with a COPY of the 03-REGISTRATION form, to:
Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF)
Attn: Harry Reffner
128 Cumberland Road, Bedford, PA 15522

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Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

REFERENCE INFORMATION

A. DATES

The PA Fair Queen State Competition is a 3-day event held at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center in Hershey, PA in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) and Pennsylvania State Showmen's Annual Convention. The PA Fair Queen Contest begins on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 19** and concludes with the Coronation Banquet on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**. Each Contestant is expected to arrange her personal schedule as she **must attend all contest activities and judged events**.

B. COMPETITION STRUCTURE:

PSACF member fairs in good standing may send a contestant to the State competition. Contestant cannot be a former Fair Queen winner nor a former PA Fair Queen contestant.

The purpose of the State competition is to select the new PA Fair Queen and one (1) Alternate who will represent the PA State Association of County Fairs and the Department of Agriculture for one (1) year. They receive a \$2,500 and \$1,000 scholarship, respectively, upon meeting all obligations.

After the State competition, the new PA State Fair Queen will serve in the following capacities:

1. Attend and participate in events/activities at Fairs across Pennsylvania.
2. Represent Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs at sanctioned events and appearances
3. Promote greater public understanding, awareness, and interest in Pennsylvania agriculture.

C. RULES:

Below are the Official PA Fair Queen Program rules. All Fairs participating in the Program must use all of the Contest Rules listed below for their Queen contest. Rules must be listed in the Fair's Premium Book.

The same rules will be used for the State Competition. All contestants must comply with all the rules to be eligible for competition. The PA Fair Queen Program is not responsible for any other rules that a fair adds to PA Fair Queen Program-approved rules (*ex: county residency, talent, entry fees, etc.*)

Each Fair Queen contestant must

1. Be a female who is a U.S. citizen and a resident of Pennsylvania.
2. Be at least age 16, but no older than 20, years of age as of June 1 of the year entering the local contest.
3. Be certified as the winner by the local fair where she was crowned.
4. Have not been a former local Fair Queen winner, nor a former PA Fair Queen contestant.
5. Not hold any other State title for any other commodity group or pageant during her reign.
6. Have her parent(s)' or guardian(s)' consent to enter the competition.
7. Be single, have never been married, have not been pregnant nor given birth to a child.
8. Act in accordance with the PA Fair Queen "Behavior Policy" – *see attached*
9. Meet all time commitments, Queen obligations and "Dress Code" as set forth by the PA Fair Queen Program – *see attached*.

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D. FAIR QUEEN BEHAVIOR POLICY:

The Contest's governing Board shall have the sole discretion to determine whether, in its judgment, the Queen, Alternate or Contestants may continue to participate in the Program, in the event that the Board determines that any statement or representation is not true and accurate, or that any action is inconsistent with the rules, standards and dignity of the Program.

The following will be considered violations of the Policy and will be grounds for immediate disqualification, dismissal and/or being banned from future Queen competitions:

1. Any infractions of any Queen Contest rules.
2. Smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, chewing gum, foul language and/or public displays of affection to dates/boyfriends while wearing crown and/or sash and representing the Queen Program.
3. Engagement in any illegal, unpartisan, unethical, indecent and/or morally questionable behavior, including but not limited to online representations on the Internet such as social networking sites (*Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, etc.*).
4. Use of any illegal controlled dangerous substances or abusing the use of alcohol or other dangerous substances.
5. Any defamation of the Queen Contest, its winners and contestants, and the Fair or the PA Fair Queen Program and their Directors and Committee members, whether it be oral or written. This includes postings on the Internet.
6. Any uncooperative or unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after the competition.
7. Appearing in crown and banner at any event without an official invitation from an authorized event coordinator or event board member.

E. FAIR QUEEN DRESS CODE:

Wearing of the Fair Queen crown and/or sash is to be considered an honor and privilege. The bearer is now an ambassador representing herself, her family, her community and Fair.

While fashion styles may change, good taste does not!

Therefore responsible, appropriate, and professional appearance is expected while the Queen is wearing her crown and sash:

Attire that is conducive to the specific appearance or event (i.e. business casual, formal, etc.)

Alterations to the attire rules may be made only if

1. Severe weather or unsafe conditions exist and
2. The Fair Queen's official coordinator or Board Member has approved an alteration consistent with the professional appearance expectations

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GENERAL APPEARANCE ATTIRE RULES

1. No Jeans
2. No outfit that shows cleavage.
3. Dresses/skirts must be no shorter than the height of a dollar bill (approx 2.5") from the bottom of the dress/skirt hem to the top of the knee cap.
4. No clothing that advertises, promotes, or glorifies the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or anything inconsistent with the dignity of the Queen Program.
5. No visible piercings (other than earrings); no visible tattoos



Figure 1: shoe boots no higher than ankle height

Figure 2: livestock exhibitor attire



FOOTWEAR RULES

1. No Sneakers
2. No Flip Flops
3. No Boots – rule applies to
 - a) NO cowboy/western style boots
 - b) NO thigh-high or over-the-knee boots,
 - c) NO muck boots,
 - d) NO work boots “Shoe Boots”, with or without a heel, are permitted if the shoe boots are no higher than ankle height (see Figure 1)



Figure 3: boots permitted in livestock barns and show ring if worn with pants and the pant legs are worn out over

LIVESTOCK BARN & SHOW RING ATTIRE

1. If the fair queen is a visitor in the livestock barns or show rings:
 - a. follow the General Appearance Attire and Footwear Rules (slacks, dresses, skirts)
 - b. Crown and Banner
 - c. Closed-toe shoes for safety reasons.
2. If the fair queen is in the show barns and/or ring as an exhibitor:
 - a. Khaki or similar boot-cut style pants and a presentable shirt (no jeans) (See Figure 2)
 - b. NO Crown. NO Banner
 - c. Closed-toe shoes for safety reasons.
 - d. If the fair queen is also presenting ribbons or awards during her time as an exhibitor, then she may only wear her crown and banner for presentation segment; but not while showing livestock.
3. Boots may be permitted in livestock barns and/or show ring if worn with pants (see 2.a. above) and the pant legs are worn out over the boots (see Figure 3)

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Pennsylvania State Fair Queen Program

F. APPLICATION:

The complete Application must be **submitted online by November 15** via Google Forms. Application must include

- Completed online Google Form - <https://forms.gle/Memye1hMhoHpvQVA8>
- Uploaded **01-CERTIFICATION form**
- Uploaded SHORT BIOGRAPHY (Word or Adobe .pdf document)
- Uploaded CONTESTANT PHOTO (.JPEG format, vertical orientation)
- Uploaded PHOTOGRAPHER'S RELEASE (if required)
- Uploaded **02-CONTESTANT RESUME form**
- Uploaded ESSAY – “What My Fair Means To My Community”; 300 words or less
- Uploaded **03-REGISTRATION form**

Application Forms can be downloaded from <https://www.pafairs.org/p/convention/queen-contest>

Handwritten or re-formatted applications will receive a scoring deduction of -5 points off the Essay score. Late entries (postmarked after November 15) will receive a scoring deduction of -30 points.

The Queen Program reserves the right to refuse a Contestant's eligibility if a complete Application is received after November 15. The Fair Queen Coordinator will be notified in this case.

G. CONTESTANT FEE:

A \$125.00 Application Fee (payable to “PSACF Convention Account”) must be submitted to the PSACF Executive Secretary Harry Reffner, 128 Cumberland Rd, Bedford, PA 15522 **postmarked by November 15**. This fee covers the Contestant's contest registration, a ticket for the Thursday Banquet, and a ticket for the Coronation Luncheon banquet. The PA Fair Queen Program is not responsible for any other costs associated with the State contestant's participation in the competition including travel, clothing, hotel accommodations and other meals.

H. CONTESTANT REGISTRATION:

Contestants must register through PSACF using the official **03-REGISTRATION form**.

Deadline – form submitted online by November 15; payment postmarked November 15.

Instructions:

1. Use **03-REGISTRATION FORM**
2. List Contestant's Name (*exactly as it is to appear in all contest documents*)
3. Enter “1” for “Queen Contestant Fee - **\$125**”
4. A ticket for the Banquet (Thursday) and Queen Coronation Banquet (Saturday) are already included in the Contestant Fee.
5. Register for any other desired ticketed events.
6. Note any dietary special needs.
7. **Register all other Contestant guests (parents, chaperone, friends, family, etc.) as applicable on the same form.**
8. Mail **payment** to PSACF, 128 Cumberland Rd, Bedford, PA 15522 **postmarked by November 15**

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I. CHAPERONE:

Application must designate an adult chaperone to be always responsible for their Queen Contestant during the PA Fair Queen Contest. Chaperones may be the Queen Coordinator, a Fair delegate, or a family member/guardian, and need not be the same person during the 3-day contest event. A chaperone must check-in with the Contestant on the first day of the contest.

J. MEALS:

The Contestant's \$125.00 fee includes her ticket for the PSACF Banquet (Thursday), a Pizza Party (Friday) and her ticket for the Coronation Banquet (Saturday). Use the **03-REGISTRATION form** and **submit online by November 15**.

***Reminder! Contestants have a Pizza Party on Friday night.
Contestants should NOT order Showmen's Banquet tickets for Friday night.***

Other guests (parents, chaperones, friends, family, etc.) may also order tickets for these meals. These must be listed on the 03-REGISTRATION form and payment received by the deadline. The PA Fair Queen Program does not handle any meal registrations.

NOTE: The PA Fair Queen Program reserves the right to limit the number of tickets available for banquets should restrictions on indoor gatherings be imposed by CDC, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or the PA Department of Health. First preference will be given to Contestants and the guests listed on their 03-REGISTRATION form should that situation arise. After the deadline, any remaining tickets will be sold to other guests on the waiting list.

Any other meals, other than the Thursday night banquet and Saturday Coronation banquet, are the responsibility of the contestant/fair/family.



K. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Deadline – October 15

As of August 2022, the Queen Contestant Hotel Reservation process will NO longer be part of the Contest Application process. The fair queen contestant, her coordinator, family and/or fair are now responsible for making the contestant's hotel room reservation. The PA Fair Queen Program will not be collecting the room reservation requests.

A block of rooms has been reserved for contestants at the convention rate. The hotel reserves the right to release any unused contestant rooms after the October 15 deadline.

There is a separate Contestant Hotel Room Reservation Form is available for download at

<https://www.pafairs.org/p/convention/queen-contest>

The 2023 form has instructions how to confirm and pay for the contestant's room.

(HOTEL continued on next page)

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Deadline for Contestant Hotel Rooms: October 15.

- Email the completed form directly to Hershey Lodge – mamaxwell@hersheypa.com
- Receive a Confirmation Number via email from Hershey Lodge within 72 hours
- Call the Hershey Lodge Reservation Toll-Free Line – 855-729-3108 and add a Credit Card to that confirmed reservation. No advanced deposit is being charged.

The hotel room costs are NOT included in the \$125 Contestant Fee. Contestant hotel room reservations and payment are the responsibility of the contestant, coordinator, family and/or fair.

Anyone else requiring a hotel room must make reservations directly with Hershey Lodge by calling the group reservations team at 855-729-3108 to make reservations or make changes to their existing reservations by phone.

L. STATE COMPETITION JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. **Written Essay** on the topic "**What My Fair Means To My Community**". (300 words or less)
Judging Criteria: Content, Grammar, and Spelling.
2. **Personal Interview** - each contestant will meet alone with the panel of 3 judges.
Judging Criteria: Conversational ability, the answers to the questions, appearance/poise, activities, and knowledge of the fair industry.
3. **Speech Presentation** on the topic "**Why You Should Come To My Fair**" (3-5 minutes; timed event).
Persuasive speech appropriate for an audience of adults. The audience is the panel of 3 judges along with any other parents, fair members, or guests who wish to view the presentations.
Props that enhance this speech for this targeted audience are permitted, but not required. Contestants are judged on the effectiveness of their public speaking skills; not "entertainment".
Overhead projectors or Powerpoint presentations are not permitted.
Judging Criteria: speech content (to include agriculture), speech format, conveying a message, public speaking ability, and poise/presence.
4. **Stage Introduction** - conducted on stage in front of the convention banquet guests (approximately 300 people) including the 3 Judges. Each Contestant makes a personal introduction to the audience, similar to that which a Fair Queen would give when visiting a Fair or other public event. The Contestant has approximately 15 seconds to make this introduction.
Judging Criteria: content, stage presence, and appearance.
****NOTE**** - the contestants will be required to wear **BUSINESS/PRESENTATION ATTIRE** for the Stage Introductions on Thursday night. (Business Dress appropriate for a professional presentation or public appearance). **NO EVENING GOWNS for the Thursday Stage Introductions competition.**

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M. OBLIGATIONS:

If selected as the new PA Fair Queen, the Queen will receive her scholarship upon fulfilling the following obligations:

- a. Attend all PA Fair Queen Program sanctioned events including, but not limited to: Cornucopia (Harrisburg), Ag Progress Days (Rock Springs, PA), Farm-City Day (Harrisburg), the Pennsylvania Farm Show (Harrisburg), and the PSACF Convention (Hershey).
- b. Attend fairs in all four (4) zones of the PSACF, when invited.
- c. Attend other events/obligations that may arise on behalf of the PSACF.
- d. Keep an Event Summary log (Event name and location, purpose/target audience, number of attendees, and contact person).
- e. Make a scrapbook and create a display for the 2024 PSACF Convention showing how she promoted fairs and agriculture during her reign.
- f. Attend and participate in the entire 2024 State Fair Queen competition and crown the 2024 State Fair Queen.
- g. Show proof of scholarship eligibility by presenting a current tuition bill or grade report from her college/university.
- h. Was exclusively the PA Fair Queen for her entire reign and did not participate in any other pageants nor hold a title for any other commodity group during that time.

In the event of her marriage, pregnancy or any other reason that would keep her from fulfilling her obligations during her reign as the PA Fair Queen, the new Queen will relinquish her title, crown, privileges, and all gifts, and will be succeeded by the First Alternate.

N. CONTEST:

Contestants are to bring only their Fair Queen Sash – **NO CROWNS!** The Dress Code policy (*Section D*) will be enforced (*may bring crown if getting portrait photos taken by the contest photographer*).

The time, manner, and method of conducting the State Contest are solely within the discretion of the PA Fair Queen Contest Coordinators and their Board of Directors, and the decision of the Judges is final. Judging comments and judging scores are **not available** for distribution during or after the competition.

A complete and detailed **Official Contestant Packet** will be available in December from Contest Coordinator Karen Dobson. The Contestant Packet will be available for download online. Copies will be mailed only if requested.

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O. Tentative 2023 Schedule and Attire ¹

Thursday, January 19	Contestant Orientation	3:30 pm	Business Dress (appropriate for a job interview) <i>(Fair Sash, Suit, dress pants, skirts, blouse, blazer, dress, etc.)</i>
	<u>Judged:</u> Stage Introductions	6:00 pm	NO GOWNS! Business Attire appropriate for a professional presentation or public appearance. Fair Sash.
	Contestants' Group Photo	8:00 pm	Same as above
Friday, January 20	<u>Judged:</u> Personal Interviews	Assigned time slot	Business Dress (appropriate for a job interview) <i>(Fair Sash, Suit, dress pants, skirts, blouse, blazer, dress, etc.)</i>
	Leadership Seminar	11:00 am or 2:00 pm	Business Dress (appropriate for a job interview) <i>(Fair Sash, Suit, dress pants, skirts, blouse, blazer, dress, etc.)</i>
	Judges' Reception	5:30 pm	Business Dress (appropriate for a job interview) <i>(Fair Sash, Suit, dress pants, skirts, blouse, blazer, dress, etc.)</i>
	Contestants' PIZZA PARTY hosted by 2022 PA Fair Queen Anna Haldeman	7:00 pm	Contestant TShirts Casual/Comfortable – jeans permitted <u>NO</u> Fair Queen Sashes
Saturday, January 21	<u>Judged:</u> Speech Presentations	Assigned time slot	Business Dress (appropriate for a professional presentation or public appearance. Fair Sash
	Coronation Rehearsal	4:00 pm	Evening Gown, Fair Sash
	Coronation Banquet and Ceremony	6:00 pm	Evening Gown, Fair Sash

¹ Subject to change; A complete and detailed Official Contestant Packet will be available in December from Contest Coordinator Karen Dobson. The Contestant Packet will be available for download online.

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