



2024 Contest Information & Deadlines Update 1 of 5

Reference Key:

WAF = Wisconsin Association of Fairs
WI FOTF = Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs
WSF = Wisconsin State Fair

Each contestant will receive an email as of the dates listed below, it is your responsibility to contact the WAF office at info@wifairs.com or 715-536-0246 if you do not receive them. Each update will add new information to prepare for the contest. Please reference all four updates. They are also posted on the WAF website, www.wifairs.com.

- Contest Information & Deadlines 1 of 5: Emailed October 20
- Contest Information & Deadlines 2 of 5: Emailed November 1
- Contest Information & Deadlines 3 of 5: Emailed December 1
- Contest Information & Deadlines 4 of 5: Emailed December 20
- Contest Information & Deadlines 5 of 5: Emailed January 1

Contest Deadline Reminders:

November 15	Banquet Registrations for Family at Early-Bird Rate
November 15	Early Hotel Arrival Reservations
November 15	Food Allergies Due
December 28	Auction Description Form Completed
January 7, 2024	Arrival At Hotel, Completed Medical Form, Auction Items
January 7-10, 2024	WI FOTF Contest & WAF Convention, Chula Vista Resort, WI Dells

1. **Contest Materials:** Reference materials needed for the upcoming contest can be found on the WAF website, or they have been emailed directly to the contestant. See reference below.

◆ **Emailed to Contestants:**

1. Contestant Contact Information
2. Contest Schedule – will be emailed December 1

◆ **Found at www.wifairs.com under the Fairest of the Fairs tab, Convention Details & Forms:**

1. What to Expect at WI FOTF Contest Video Link
2. Convention Packing List
3. Appearance Check List
4. Auction Booklet Sample Descriptions and Pictures
5. FAQ for Family & Friends
6. Medical Form
7. Chula Vista Directions & Map of Resort
8. Arrival at Chula Vista Video Link

2. **Contestant's Contact Information:** Enclosed is a contact sheet with all of the contestants, their order number, room number, email and cell phone information. This information is being shared with all of this year's contestants and the WAF Fairest committee. If you have any corrections to the contact information provided, please let Jayme Buttke, WAF Office, know immediately at info@wifairs.com or 715-536-0246. This information is not posted on our website, but rather attached in the email. The order of the contestants was selected randomly.

3. **Contestant Registration:** As part of the official application all candidates provided a \$200 registration fee. This fee covers your registration, hotel room, meals, banquet, commemorative polo shirt and a link to all of the photos from the contest.

Meals and Food: Your meals Sunday lunch through Thursday breakfast and daily snacks are included in your pre-paid entry fee. All meals, except Thursday breakfast will be with other contestants and/or judges. Upon your arrival on Sunday, lunch will be provided. **If you have specific food allergies, please email WAF at info@wifairs.com by November 15, so appropriate meal choice arrangements can be made.** All meals are served buffet style except for Sunday lunch and Tuesday dinner. Seconds are available on the buffet lines. You should never go away from a meal hungry, so please eat as much as you want.

4. **Hotel Lodging:** All of the contestants will be staying in the South Tower of Chula Vista. Rooms will be shared two contestants per room with one bathroom and two beds. The room comes with a small refrigerator and microwave. You are welcome to bring food, but just know you are not in your room a lot during the contest. Reservations have already been made for all of the contestants. A sheet containing the names of the contestants and their room assignments is enclosed. Your room fee is covered by the WAF, but if any additional expenses are incurred i.e. phone calls, movies, etc., it is your responsibility to pay for these at checkout. **DO NOT check into your room upon arrival**, as they will not be ready. The committee will store your luggage and secure the keys for your room.

5. **Scrapbook:** Please bring a scrapbook to share with the other contestants about what you did as your local fairest. Scrapbooks will be on display for our convention attendees as well, so they can get ideas on how to expand their FOTF programs. Scrapbooks are not judged, but rather a way to share ideas. Scrapbooks can be a traditional scrapbook, photo book, or photo album. Scrapbooks in digital format, i.e. laptops or tablets will not be displayed. Please bring your scrapbook along on Sunday to the WI FOTF Orientation.

6. **Contest Schedule:** A complete schedule for the WI FOTF Contestants will be emailed by December 1. We have four days full of activities with breakfast beginning as early as 7:00 a.m. and your day concluding at approximately 10:00 p.m. We are a separate contest within the WAF Convention; therefore, the majority of the events on your schedule are not open to the convention attendees. Meet the Contestants, Auction, Preliminaries, Showcase of Entertainment, and the Banquet are the only times you will see the rest of the convention attendees. There may be limited time at these events to socialize with coordinators, fair boards, parents, etc. A complete WAF convention schedule is available online under the convention section.

7. **Interviews:** Each contestant is assigned a number which reflects the order they will appear on stage, in interviews, etc. The order of the contestants is selected randomly by WAF after the registration deadline. All of the judging takes place while events are happening within the FOTF meeting room. Activities, speakers, programs, etc. do not stop while judging is taking place.

1. Individual Interview: Each contestant will have an individual interview with a panel of three judges. The length of the interview will be determined by the judges and the WI FOTF Committee. All individual interviews will have the same maximum interview time.
2. Group Interview: Groups are determined by the judges and will consist of 5 to 7 contestants.

8. **Convention Registration For Contestant Family:** If you have family members that would like to attend the convention separate from the banquet, they may register online. **Early-bird reservations are due by November 15** at \$50 per person. Registration from November 16 to December 31 is \$70 and on-site is \$100. Please note, the contestants are not part of the general WAF Convention and have a different schedule.

<https://www.wifairs.com/f/44?pType=2&pID=2761>

This form is primarily for the fairs to use, so please be sure they list the name of your fair when registering. (Example: Jane Doe, ABC Fair Fairest Family).

9. **Banquet Tickets for Contestant Family:** If you have family members that would like to attend the banquet on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., **early-bird reservations are due by November 15** with a cost of \$40 per ticket. November 16 to December 31 the cost of a banquet ticket is \$60. To purchase banquet tickets please use the following link:

<https://www.wifairs.com/f/44?pType=2&pID=2761>

10. **Communication With Family/Fair Board:** As your family/fair board is attending the convention, please know there is very little time to socialize. They can attend Meet the Contestants, the Auction, Preliminaries and the Banquet Finals. Cell phones are prohibited during the contest, so the only time you will be allowed to use them will be once you have returned to your room for the evening. We have a lot to accomplish in a very short time, so our restrictions exist to keep us on schedule.

11. **What to Expect at WI FOTF Contest Video Link:** The link is a preview highlighting the activities you will participate in as a contestant.

<https://animoto.com/play/AeeOmkqfY1uhvxYpBR9XGg>

12. **Apparel:** When competing for the WI FOTF position clothing should be appropriate for a job interview or business atmosphere. Apparel chosen is at the discretion of the individual but is taken into consideration with the judging process. Here are the definitions we reference.

- ◆ **Business Casual:** nice pants (not jeans), nice shirt and comfortable shoes.
- ◆ **Business Professional:** A suit jacket with a skirt or dress for female contestants or a suit jacket with pants for male contestants. We ask that the individuals keep the length of the skirts professional. Remember, when you are on stage you are elevated above the crowd. You will be walking, sitting and standing on multiple stages.

◆ What To Wear Each Day:

1. Sunday: **Business Casual**. Black pants and a white top. Arrive at the hotel already dressed, if possible, as you will only have a bathroom available to change prior to orientation.
2. Sunday Evening: Bring along your swimsuit as you will have time to use the hot springs/water park as a group. Judges and committee members will not be participating in this activity.
3. Monday: **Business Professional**.
4. Monday Dinner Q&A Session: Casual. You are welcome to change into casual clothing such as jeans and a sweatshirt for Q & A with WI FOTF Committee Chair, WAF Executive Director, WSF PR Director and the current WI FOTF. Please remember you will still be in the public eye. No sashes will be worn to dinner.
5. Tuesday: **Business Professional**.
6. Wednesday: **Business Casual**. Black dress pants, commemorative WAF long-sleeved shirt (provided by WAF) and comfortable shoes. The temperature at the Chula Vista Resort fluctuates throughout the day. We suggest you pack extra layers to wear over or under your polo.
7. Wednesday Banquet: **Business Professional**.
8. Thursday: Business Casual.

◆ Clothing Tips: Please reference the clothing appearance check list link found under section #1.

1. All contestants are expected to dress professionally and maintain a clean and polished appearance throughout the convention.
2. Be economical when planning your outfits – pairing skirts with a new blouse, blazer and accessories can help contestants avoid purchasing several new items. It is ok to re-wear pieces of your wardrobe.
3. It is also a good idea to look over what you intend to wear and pack extra options, just in case.
4. Be sure to bring enough panty hose/stockings.
5. Wear your shoe of choice throughout convention, heels or flats. If you wear heels, you are encouraged to bring along flat dress shoes for the auction, as we are on our feet for a longer period of time.
6. You are encouraged to wear a watch throughout convention as we adhere to a very precise schedule. Watches that connect to your cell phone or digital communications (smart watches/fitbit watches/apple watch, etc.) will NOT be permitted.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2024 WI FOTF Contest. Please contact us if you have any questions.

WI FOTF COMMITTEE:

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