

Washington County Fair Association Fair Queen Contest

Rules and Regulations

Purpose of the Contest

The contest is conducted to select the queen for the Washington County Fair, the oldest county fair in Texas. The position of Fair Queen is especially important, as the winning candidate represents the Washington County Fair Association (WCFA) in numerous events throughout the course of her reign.

A. Candidate Eligibility

- a. The WCFA does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed or religion.
- b. All candidates must be citizens of the United States, a current resident of Washington County, and enrolled in high school courses in public, private or home school for the current year. The candidate must be at least sixteen (16) years old and entering either her junior or senior year of high school.
- c. All candidates must be a single female; must not have been married, or have had a marriage annulled or been divorced; be with child, have a child or children; and must remain single throughout her reign that concludes with the naming of the next Washington County Fair Queen. Failure to abide by these regulations will constitute in forfeiture of the title, awards and scholarship funds.
- d. All candidates must be an active member of, and have the sponsorship of an approved sponsoring organization. This can be 4-H, FFA, or other school student organizations.
- e. These organizations will be allowed to sponsor either single or multiple candidates, but shall not be allowed to combine or form an association for the purposes of backing a single candidate. Each organization with three hundred (300) total members or more may sponsor two (2) candidates and will receive funds from each. The determination of membership shall be based upon the total number of students as officially recorded by the organization in the prior school year. Each organization must designate an adult advisor, leader or director of the group as their representative to the WCFA. Such individual shall be responsible for official correspondence with the sponsoring organization and ensure that the candidate adheres to all contest rules and regulations.
- f. All contestants must be of good moral character and shall never have been convicted of any crime. Further, all candidates agree to not violate the Controlled Substance Penal Code Act and any such charge or violation will constitute immediate forfeiture of title, awards and scholarship funds.
- g. It is the sole responsibility of the sponsor to ensure that the candidate is a member in good standing and eligible to represent their organization.
- h. Each candidate must complete all required applications and forms as required by the Fair Queen Committee. The completion of the entrance form will be

considered to be complete upon receipt of the questionnaire and requested photographs.

- i. In order to be eligible to win the contest, all candidates are required to sell advance gate tickets to the Washington County Fair. The candidate and her sponsoring organization will both benefit from their sales as follows:
 - i. The candidate will receive \$5 of each ticket sold.
 - ii. In addition, the candidate's organization will receive \$1 for each ticket sold.
 - iii. In addition, the WCFA will fund \$1 for each ticket sold to one (1) or more non-profit organizations, collectively selected by the candidates and the WCFA Board of Directors.
 - j. The candidates shall not hold the WCFA, or any individual or organization associated with the WCFA, liable for accident or injury that may result of the contest or future obligations in performance of her duties. The candidate must complete the Release of Indemnity Agreement prior to participating in the contest and such release will remain in effect throughout the term of the queen's reign for the successful candidate.
 - k. The candidate and/or her family must be in good financial standing with the WCFA, in that the candidate and/or her family does not have outstanding indebtedness to the WCFA. If an outstanding debt is present, it must be settled for the candidate to compete in the contest.
 - l. The candidate will not receive any financial reimbursement for transportation, expenses or other such costs from the WCFA.
 - m. Candidates may receive financial support or underwriting from their sponsoring organization.
 - n. Once a candidate runs for Washington County Fair Queen, she may not run again.
 - o. No donations buckets or promotional items will be allowed other than fair posters.
 - p. The WCFA does not endorse or condone the use of social media to promote a candidate. Any individuals using these methods for promotion will do so at their own responsibility and liability.
- B. Selection of the Queen
- a. Point System: The selection of the winning candidate shall be based upon total ticket sales, a written essay and an interview. The weighted percentages of each element are as follows:
 - i. Total Ticket Sales – 60 points
 - ii. Written Essay – 20 points
 - iii. Oral Interview – 20 points
 - iv. Total – 100 points
 - b. Ticket Sales
 - i. Candidates are required to attend a mandatory meeting with the Fair Queen Committee that will be held in July (see schedule). At least a parent/guardian AND the sponsor MUST accompany the candidate to this

meeting. Failure by the sponsor to attend or send a representative in their place will result in loss of the organization's ticket percentage.

- ii. Candidates are not allowed to sell any tickets online or in person, take orders for tickets, or accept money to hold tickets until the official kick-off date.
 - iii. Each candidate is required to attend the Washington County Fair Queen's Candidate Kick-Off Event in early August annually. The candidates will be introduced to the local media and our community.
 - iv. Each candidate will be issued one thousand (1,500) tickets at the Washington County Fair Kick-Off. Deposits must be made in order to request additional tickets. A designated committee member shall make subsequent distribution, with proof of deposit. The candidate is responsible for all tickets provided to them for sale by the WCFA. Failure to properly account for the tickets through sale or return to the WCFA, shall constitute the candidate's agreement to pay for the full-face value of the tickets not accounted for.
 - v. Each candidate will sell tickets online on the WCFA website. Each candidate will have a personal bio with photo on the website for individual sale. All online sales will be confidential.
 - vi. All sales of fair tickets by candidates should be for face value of the ticket, with no combination or incentives attached. Each candidate is required to advertise and promote the sale of tickets by using posters designed and provided by WCFA that can be distributed to local businesses. Candidates will receive the posters at the Fair Kick-Off.
 - a Removal: Each candidate must remove all posters from their designated areas by Saturday, September 26, 2026.
 - vii. For safety reasons, candidates are strongly encouraged to deposit funds from their ticket sales to the designated committee member on a weekly basis. For all deposits, the candidate will be provided a signed proof of deposit receipt that will be used for account reconciliation.
 - viii. Sponsorships acquired by WCFA cannot be credited to a candidate.
 - ix. The designated committee member will provide final tabulations and reconciliation of each candidate's accounts, including online sales. This information is subject to review and confirmation by the Fair Queen Committee prior to the announcement of the winning candidate. Candidates, their parents or legal guardians, and sponsoring organizations will not be provided any partial or progress tabulations of ticket sales. All tickets and money will be turned in on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.
- c. Essay: All candidates will write a 500-word essay on a topic announced at the beginning of the Essay Contest. The date of the essay will be coordinated with all candidates.

- c. No candidate, their family members, or any member of their sponsoring organization shall threaten any business, business owners, or person with boycott or other retaliatory acts in connection with the contest. Any such communication or threat, if verified by the recipient of the threat, shall be grounds for disqualification of the queen candidate, loss of contest points, and/or forfeiture of the commission earned through ticket sales.
- d. No candidate, their family members, or any member of their sponsoring organization shall participate in the removal, defacing or damaging the fair poster or advertisements, nor will they speak in a disparaging manner about any other candidate. Violation of this rule shall be the grounds for immediate disqualification of the queen candidate, loss of contest points, and/or forfeiture of the commission earned through ticket sales.
- e. No candidate, their family members, or any member of their sponsoring organization shall sell advance tickets at any location that has not given the candidate permission. Violation of this rule shall be the grounds for disqualification of the queen candidate, loss of contest points, and/or forfeiture of the commission earned through ticket sales.
- f. No candidate, their family members, or any member of their sponsoring organization shall use any form of social media to announce their candidacy until after the Washington County Fair Queen's Candidate Kick-Off Event in early August annually. Any use of social media before that date shall be grounds for disqualification of the queen candidate, loss of contest points, and/or forfeiture of the commission earned through ticket sales.
- g. (a - e) Loss of points would be determined by the committee.
- h. The candidates shall abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Washington County Fair Association, which can be found in the General Rules in the JLA Catalog on the fair website. All protests concerning the Rules and Regulations of the Fair Queen Contest must be submitted by a sponsoring organization prior to the start of the contest and accompanied by a deposit of \$150.00. The deposit shall be returned only if the protest is upheld after a hearing before a joint meeting of the Fair Queen Committee and WCFA Board of Directors. The protest shall be reviewed by at least five (5) members of the Board of Directors. Both sides of the protest must be present at the time of the hearing on the protest. No anonymous protests will be accepted or considered. Once the contest has officially begun, NO protests will be accepted. Every exhibitor, organization and/or candidate, in consideration of their entry being accepted by the Washington County Fair Association agrees that the conclusion of the Board of Directors shall be final, without recourse against the Washington County Fair Association, the WCFA Board of Directors, Division Vice Presidents, Superintendents or Committee persons. The decision of the WCFA Board of Directors is final and not subject to further protest or appeal.

D. Announcement of the Fair Queen

- i. The Washington County Fair Queen will be announced on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at the Opening Ceremonies of the Washington County Fair. (See Schedule) The announcement will be part of the Opening Ceremonies and all candidates are required to attend.
 - j. Immediately following the announcement and crowning of the Washington County Fair Queen, she will be required to pose for media pictures and participate in an interview.
- E. Responsibilities of the Fair Queen and the Candidates
- a. The winning candidate will serve as the official ambassador of the WCFA and must attend all functions that are required as designated by the Fair Queen Committee
 - b. The Fair Queen and candidates will serve as hostesses at the Junior Livestock Auction. The Queen and the candidates should be prepared to have their photographs taken with buyers and sellers during the auction and should dress appropriate to the occasion. Additional appearances and duties may be assigned to the Queen and candidates by the Fair Queen Committee.
 - c. The candidate selected as Fair Queen will also be required to be present and to crown the next year's WCFA Fair Queen.
 - d. During the year of her reign, the Fair Queen must conduct herself in a professional manner. Should the Queen fall below standards as set by the Fair Queen Committee, she shall be subject to report to the Fair Queen Committee that may take action or relinquish her crown.
 - e. If for any reason should the Fair Queen not be able to fulfill her duties in accordance to these rules and regulations, the First Runner Up shall be named Fair Queen and duly authorized to perform in this capacity.
 - f. Additional appearances may be requested, such as Maifest, Christmas Stroll parade and other festivals.
- F. Scholarship and Fund Distribution
- a. The WCFA shall distribute all queen's scholarship funds by September 10th in the calendar year of the candidate's high school graduation. The earned scholarship funds can be paid either to the candidate directly or to the institution they are enrolled in for post-secondary education. The WCFA will contact each candidate to verify their method of payment on or near September 1st of that year.