



Stephenson County Fair Queen Pageant

Queen Registration Form

Entry Fee: \$75 - Must be received to the Fair Office/Pageant Committee **No Later than June 7th, 2026** – May turn in at the first practice on June 7th, 2026. Please complete this registration packet and mail to the fair office by the deadline below and keep a copy for your records.

Mail to: Stephenson County Fair Association Queen Registration
2250 S Walnut Rd.
Freeport, IL 61032

Or contact Cindi Mielke at 815-238-7492
or missstephensoncountyfair@gmail.com

Full Name: _____ Preferred or Nickname: _____

Birthdate: _____ Age (by July 1st 2025): _____

High School: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

College (if applicable): _____ Major: _____ Circle One: Fr So Jr Sr

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

The information supplied on this form will used during the pageant and contestant’s interview.

My favorite color: _____ My favorite song: _____

My favorite game: _____ My favorite hobbies: _____

My favorite movie: _____ My favorite animal: _____

My favorite book: _____ My favorite snack: _____

Siblings: _____

Pets: _____



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What are your career goals?

What employment experience do you have?

My role model or the person who has influenced me the most is:

_____ because _____



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Where do you see yourself five years from now:

What have been your primary Scholastic achievements?

What Awards/Honors have you received?



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My favorite part of the Stephenson County Fair:

My earliest memory of the Stephenson County Fair is:

What would you like to gain from this experience:



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\$2,000 Cash Prize Awarded to the newly crowned 2026 Stephenson County Fair Queen

July 21st, 2026 Entertainment Tent at the Stephenson County Fair Pageant Director:

Cindi Mielke 815-238-7492

(Entry fees payable by check to Stephenson County Fair Association)

Applications available at www.stephensoncountyfair.org or missstephensoncountyfair@gmail.com

RULES/REQUIREMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

1. Personal Characteristics: In order to be eligible to participate, contestants (and parent/legal guardian if under 18) must certify to the Personal Characteristics in this section along with all of the other rules by signing this form.
 - a. Contestants must be a minimum of 16 years old and not have reached her 22nd birthday by January 1, 2026.
 - b. Must be a U.S. Citizen. Contestant, Parent or Legal Guardian must currently be a resident of Stephenson County IL or the contestant is attending a Stephenson County school. Contestants from another county may compete if their county does not have a pageant for their age division or if approved by the Stephenson County Fair Board. We will request a copy of your or your parent's/legal guardian's Illinois driver's license, Illinois ID card, or voter registration card for proof of residency.
 - c. Contestants competing in the Stephenson County Fair pageant are ineligible to compete in any other county fair pageant.
 - d. Can never have been convicted of a felony offense.
 - e. Born female and have always been female.
 - f. Must be single and never have been married, divorced or had a marriage annulled.
 - g. Can never have been pregnant and/or is not the adoptive parent of a child.
 - h. Does not use or consume any illegal controlled substances or abuse the use of alcohol or other dangerous substances.
 - i. Is of good moral character. Has never performed any act or engaged in any activity or employment that is or could be characterized as immoral or indecent. Attests that any and all Online depictions associated with the contestant's name or likeness including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, and Twitter pages are consistent with the standards and dignity of the Stephenson County and Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant.
2. Anyone holding a current title (having a crown and/or sash) or any former Illinois County Fair Queen will not be eligible to participate.
3. Contestants who are under the age of 18 must have parent's/legal guardian's written consent agreeing to the rules and exceptions. (See rehearsal schedule for additional details)
4. All visible tattoos must be covered with cosmetics or a band-aide and piercings are limited to a maximum of two in each ear lobe only. All other piercings must be removed for competition including piercings in the tongue, nose and belly-button (if seen through the clothing).
5. Each contestant will be personally interviewed on Tuesday, July 22, 2026 by the judges. Attire for the interviews may be a business dress, Jumpsuit or a business suit is acceptable.
6. Each contestant will appear on stage in an evening gown with shoes of her choice, a one-piece, solid-color swimsuit with taupe shoes (at least 2 inches) and a business suit or dress.
7. Each contestant will be expected to present a one-minute speech (topic of her choice) and answer three Crown Bowl questions. No talent performance is required for the county or state levels.



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8. All clothing must be approved by the Pageant Director by June 22nd, 2026. A picture will be taken for documentation. Once the clothing is approved NO changes will be allowed.
9. All speeches must be given to the Pageant Director on paper by a June 22nd, 2026 for approval. Speeches will be practiced according to rehearsal schedule.
10. Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 pm to about 5:00 pm and you will be sent a schedule via email once your registration form is received. Rehearsals are subject to change so please be sure to attend each practice. We understand that summer vacations may happen but it is also very important to be committed to the pageant. If you have over 2 absences you will be eliminated from the competition. If you are going to be absent you are to contact the director by noon the day of rehearsal.
11. Contestants will be judged as follows: Personal Interviews, Speech and Communication Skills, Poise & Posture, Crown Bowl Questions and stage presence in Evening Gown - this in accordance to the finals at the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant. Each contestant will be asked the same three questions individually. No preliminary contest will be held unless deemed necessary by the Pageant Committee. In case of a preliminary competition, all contestants will be notified and it will consist of the Personal Interview and Speech & Communication Skills portion only.
12. The newly crowned Queen will abstain from public displays of affection toward her boyfriend(s) during fair week and at all appearances throughout the year.
13. It is prohibited for the 2026 Miss Stephenson County Fair Queen to participate in any other scholarship or beauty pageants during her reign. If she chooses to do so she will be required to give up her title and all that goes with it (tiara, sash, pin, all gifts and scholarship) to the next eligible Runner-up. This will disqualify her from competing in the Stephenson County Fair Queen Pageant in the future.
14. The newly crowned Queen will use extreme caution and is encouraged to make certain there are no unnecessary photos and written comments on her Facebook or other media sites. She should always portray herself as a positive role model throughout the year.
15. The newly crowned Queen will not partake of alcoholic beverages and will refrain from smoking while representing the Stephenson County Fair at any function.
16. The newly crowned Queen agrees to compete in Springfield, Illinois in January 2026 in the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant as well as participating in functions becoming of a queen. This includes attending the Northern Zone Meeting in November, the August Fair Board Meeting, all parades, and other events which may arise during the year. Activities connected with the Stephenson County Fair should take precedence over and above all other personal appearances. All personal appearances as Miss Stephenson County Fair Queen shall be approved in advance by the Pageant Director, as well as any photographic sessions and pictures released as the role of Miss Stephenson County Fair Queen.
17. The newly crowned Queen will be chaperoned either by the Pageant Director, Pageant Coordinator, or a chaperone approved by the Director at any time she is representing the Stephenson County Fair.
18. The newly crowned Queen is required to be at the fair all week unless approved prior to competition by the Pageant Director and the Stephenson County Board.



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19. Decisions of the judges are final. Any grievances or objections relative to the contest will be referred to the Pageant Committee or the Stephenson County Fair Board. Each judge will sign an affidavit stating that they do not know, are not related to nor do they or have they ever coached any of the Miss contestants competing this year.

20. Scores will not be given out to contestants after the pageant. If you would like feedback or have any questions, please contact the Pageant Director for details.

21. If there are not more than two (2) contestants in this category, a first runner up will not be announced.

22. A \$2,000 cash prize will be awarded to the 2026 Miss Stephenson County Fair Queen.



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Judging Categories

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS are timed events – four (4) minutes for each contestant to present yourself and your personality. There are no wrong answers. The judges will be especially interested in your mental alertness, sincerity and general knowledge. They may ask personal opinion questions, but there will be no current event questions that you need to “study” for unless you “open the door” by inclusion on your application or in your response to a question. You will be seated across from the panel. Sit up and do not cross your feet. Dresses with Jackets or business suit are appropriate. See Pageant Director for details. Check to be certain your clothing fits correctly when seated and your skirt is not too tight or short. Be aware of your appearance, vocabulary and manners. Those who are confident and appear relaxed have always done well.

SPEECH & COMMUNICATION SKILLS: As Queen you may be called upon to speak to groups or individuals throughout your reign. You must be comfortable speaking and be able to express yourself naturally. You will give a speech that takes one minute or less. You will be using a handheld microphone, no podium. We will practice during a specified rehearsal to become comfortable on stage. Your subject may be any event, any person, or anything that is important to you, as long as it is not immoral, political or controversial. This is your brief opportunity to tell the judges about something that may not be covered in the regular interview process. Your topic should be one you know well and that you are comfortable speaking on, but a little research is a good way to gather material. Make your speech stand out by using specific facts that create pictures in the listener’s mind. When preparing for this part of the competition, remember that;

*Singing part of your presentation is not allowed, and poems should be avoided.

*Props of any kind are not allowed. Remember, this is an opportunity for the judges to see how you will speak before and respond to a crowd.

BEAUTY & PHYSIQUE/POISE & POSTURE: Judges are not looking for the elusive “perfect ten”, but they are watching for toning, posture, carriage, energy and overall appearance. To compliment this and make you feel comfortable on stage, we require one-piece solid color swimsuits. All swimsuits will be approved and should follow these guidelines:

- *Solid colored suits are a must. No metallic materials, minimal enhancements such as complimentary colored piping are acceptable.
- Metallic or other accents are OK. Example: metal ring at the waist that material wraps to and from the other side.
- Make certain your suit is the right size and long enough for your body. All areas should be covered comfortably. Purchase a long torso suit if you need more room.
- Suits should have built in support (cups can be added) but pads to increase bust size are not permitted. (This includes pads attached to the body.)
- Suits with plunging necklines are not allowed but minimal cleavage is allowed. In general, the neckline must end at least 1” above the bottom of the bust line. Bust should be completely covered on the outside; no “handing out”.
- The lower portion of the swimsuit must cover the hipbones in front (at a minimum) and completely cover the buttocks. The suit should not pull to the center.



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- If your suit needs to be altered, be sure to try it on after alterations. An adjustment in one area often changes things in another area.
Taupe colored heels (at least 2") are required to be worn with your swimsuit and should be broken in. Must have an enclosed heel and toe and not ivory or bronze. Let the Pageant Director know if you are having problems finding them. Baby powder sprinkled inside your shoes will help make them more comfortable.
- No undergarments or hose may be worn with the swimsuit.
- All visible tattoos and body piercing with the exception of pierced ears (max 2 per ear) must be covered or removed.

CROWN BOWL QUESTIONS: These questions are usually more difficult than general interview questions and may refer to current events or issues.

STAGE PRESENCE: This competition is designed for the contestant to make an on-stage statement of her personality, gracefully moving with poise and confidence. Choose a dress that reflects your own individual style. You will see a wide variety – partially beaded, chiffon with fuller skirts, halter style with straight skirt, fully sequined and beaded, with trains and without. Choose one in your best color that compliments you and makes you feel like a queen; but follow these guidelines:

- It may be floor length, but doesn't have to be.
- Splits in skirts must be no further than 4 inches above the middle of the knee and will be checked by pageant director.
- No hoop skirts (the stage is crowded).
- If you choose a dress with a train **it must be bustled for group entrances & exits** (like a wedding dress). You do not want to have your gown ruined due to an accidental misstep by the contestant next to you. Make sure to practice in your gown, including short flights of steps and simple pivots.
- Pads to increase bust size are not permitted.
- "Cut outs" in the front or sides must be filled with a sheer fabric that matches the color of the dress.
- Open backed dresses must stop at your natural waistline. Anything open or with nude sheer fabric below the natural waistline must be filled in with solid color fabric to match the color of the dress.
 - All visible tattoos and body piercings with the exception of pierced ears (max 2 per ear) must be covered or removed.
- There are many pretty evening gown shoes available; however, you do not want to draw attention to your feet rather than your face. The best bet are shoes the same color as your hemline or taupe. Remember if you choose "clear plastic shoes" they have a tendency to either stretch or force your foot forward making it difficult to either keep the shoe on or walk on stage. If clear shoes absolutely make your outfit, make sure they fit properly.



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To avoid surprises, it is wise to try your interview outfit and dress on the week before the Pageant for a final fitting and to get the total look.

****Approval of Speech, and dress is required and photo taken by the Pageant Director no later than June 20,2026 unless authorized by the Pageant Director. If anyone is having problems finding the appropriate attire, please notify the Pageant Director for assistance. If purchasing clothing for this pageant, please keep all tags on for return until approved.**

**** **A \$75 entry fee is required from each contestant and due on the registration deadline (or at the latest the first rehearsal on June 7, 2026**

**** **A Bio/Questionnaire is due by the second rehearsal on June 20th, 2026**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the pageant or rehearsals. I can be flexible but need to be fair to all and I need commitment from all of our contestants. Our most important goal is to have fun, so come join us!

Please Sign and Complete that you have read and acknowledge all rules and judging categories for the Stephenson County Fair Queen Pageant

I, _____ (Contestant), and _____ (Parent/Guardian) have read all of the above rules and agree to abide by them during all rehearsals and reign if crowned Miss Stephenson County Fair. I agree to abide as a contestant of the Miss Stephenson County Fair Pageant. _____ (Contestant Name) will abide by them during all rehearsals and reign if crowned Little Miss.

Contestant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Photography / Video Release Form

I understand that while attending functions associated with the Miss. Stephenson County Fair Pageant that photographs and videos may be taken. I hereby give consent to have photos and videos containing my likeness to be used on the web site, in electronic publications, social networking sites, distribution materials, newsletters and publicity materials such as local newspapers.

- I understand and agree that this consent will remain valid for an indefinite period of time.
- I **DO NOT** consent to the use of my child's/my photo or video being used by the Stephenson County Fair Pageant.

I am the parent or legal guardian for _____.

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I am over the age of 18 _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____