

2025 MISS WINNEBAGO COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PAGEANT

REGISTRATION FORM

ENTRY FEE: \$100.00 DUE NO LATER THAN JUNE 4, 2025

(Each contestant can have up to 4 sponsors to cover the \$100.00 entry fee)

(Any checks returned for insufficient funds may disqualify the contestant)

Name _____ Age _____ Height (no shoes): _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ School _____

Mother's Name _____

Father's Name _____

Sponsors 1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

_____, Contestant Signature _____ Date _____

_____, Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

(If contestant is under the age of 18 years old)

PLEASE COMPLETE and SIGN THE **REGISTRATION FORM, RULE/REQUIREMENTS, REHEARSAL SCHEDULE AND DETAILED COMPETISION FORMS** found on the website and MAIL WITH A **\$100 ENTRY FEE** TO THE FAIR OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE BELOW AND KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Mail to:

WCFA, Miss Registration, PO Box 810, Pecatonica, IL 61063

The **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS June 4, 2025** (first rehearsal). Please contact Kim Mathieu at 815-275-7364 or bkbk4117@gmail.com once you have mailed your forms OR if there is a conflict. If you prefer, you can bring this paperwork and fee to the first rehearsal (Registration Deadline) on June 4, 2025.

(If any check is returned for insufficient funds it could lead to disqualification of the contestant.)

An information meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 7:00pm in Moss Hall located at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds in Pecatonica, IL or contact Kim Mathieu at 815-275-7364 or bkbk4117@gmail.com for more information.

Any questions? Contact Kim Mathieu at 815-275-7364 or email at bkbk4117@gmail.com

MISS WINNEBAGO COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PAGEANT

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 6:00pm at Moss Hall
\$1,000 Scholarship and other prizes to the Winner!

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. Candidates must be a minimum of 16 years of age by pageant day and not have achieved 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 Winnebago County IL or the contestant is attending a Winnebago County school. Contestants from another county may compete if their country does not have a pageant for their given age division or if approved by the Winnebago County Fair Board. We will request a copy of your or your parent/legal guardian's driver's license for proof of residency. If outside of Winnebago County, we will need proof of enrollment in a Winnebago County school for the 25-26 school year.
 - c. Can never have been convicted of a felony offense.
 - d. Was born female and have always been a female.
 - e. Must be single and never have been married, divorced or had a marriage annulled.
 - f. Can never have been pregnant and/or is not the adoptive parent of a child.
 - g. Does not use or consume any illegal controlled substances or abuse the use of alcohol or other dangerous substances.
 - h. 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 and any other social media pages are consistent with standards and dignity of the Winnebago County and Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageants.
2. Anyone holding a current annual title (having a crown and/or sash) or any former Illinois County Fair queens will not be eligible to participate.
3. Candidates who are under the age of 18 must have parent's/legal guardian's written consent agreeing to the rules and expectations. (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 bellybutton (if seen through the clothing).
5. Each candidate will be personally interviewed on either Sat, 8/9/25 by the judges in a professional interview suit (with skirt, slacks or dress and jacket).
6. Each candidate will appear on stage in an evening gown with shoes of her choice, an event outfit and a business suit (skirt, slacks or dress and jacket). A one-piece solid color swimsuit will still be required for the Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant in January 2026 in Springfield. (This is up for discussion by the State Pageant Committee and could change).
7. Each candidate will be expected to present a one-minute speech (topic of her choice) and answer a crown bowl question.
8. No talent performance is required for the county or state levels.
9. All clothing must be tried on and approved by the Pageant Director by a specific date. A picture will be taken for documentation.
10. All speeches must be given to the Pageant Director on paper by a specific date for approval. Speeches will be practiced on stage according to the rehearsal schedule.
11. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm to about 8:30pm and you can find the rehearsal schedule on the fair website. 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 this pageant. All absences will be looked at by the judges and if unexcused or excessive there may be a deduction in your score. See the rehearsal schedule for details on what is excused and what is unexcused.
12. Candidates will be judged as follows: Personal Interview (30%), Speech & Communication Skills (20%), Beauty & Physique/Poise & Posture (Event wear) (15%), Crown Bowl Question (20%) and Stage Presence in Evening Gown (15%) – this is in accordance to the Finals at the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant. The Top 3 will all be asked the same 2 questions individually and each judge will award points for a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ranking.

13. 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.
14. The newly crowned Queen will abstain from public displays of affection toward her boyfriends during fair week and at all appearances throughout the year.
15. 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.
16. The newly crowned Queen is **required to be at the fair all week** unless approved prior to competition by the Pageant Director and Winnebago County Board.
17. The newly crowned queen agrees to compete in Springfield, Illinois in January 2026 (5-day event) for the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant as well as participate in functions becoming of a queen. This included attending the Northern Zone Meeting in November 2025, the WCFA Board Meeting in January 2026, all parades on the Required Events Schedule, and other events which may arise during the year. Activities connected with the Winnebago County Fair should take precedence over and above all other personal appearances. A list of all required events will be handed out at one of the first rehearsals.
18. It is prohibited for the 2025 Miss Winnebago 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, ring, all gifts, cash awards and scholarship) to the next eligible Runner-up (eligibility will be determined by the Pageant Director and Winnebago County Fair Board). This will disqualify her from competing in the Miss WC Fair Queen Pageant in the future.
19. **If chosen as the 1st or 2nd Runners Up, it will be REQUIRED for you to be the official escorts for the new Miss and Jr. Miss on Thursday, August 14, 2025 (start time to be determined) and staying for the Little Miss pageant that evening where you will then receive your cash prize. You will be given the opportunity to freshen up before the Little Miss Pageant starts at 6:00 pm.**
20. Scholarship money will not be awarded until the completion of her reign and must be redeemed within two years of the end of her reign.
21. If for reasons determined by the Pageant Director or Fair Board the Queen cannot fulfill her duties the title and all that goes with it (tiara, sash, pin, ring, all gifts and scholarship) will go to the next eligible Runner-up. If the current queen is chosen as the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen, the next eligible Runner-up will be crowned with a new tiara, sash and receive a scholarship and fulfill the duties required for the remaining part of the reign.
22. Decisions of the judges are final. Any grievances or objections related to the contest will be referred to the Pageant Committee of the WCFA. 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 and Jr. Miss contestants competing this year.
23. Scores will not be given out to the contestants after the pageant. If you would like feedback or have any questions, please contact the Pageant Director for details.
24. Expectations of a WCFQ contestant: We understand that you may be upset if you are not chosen as queen. How you handle this may be a factor if you choose to compete in the future, so we expect you to remain kind and courteous to the winner and runner ups.
25. As Queen, for any event attended as queen, your complete appearance will be approved by the Pageant Director prior to attending an event. This includes clothing, hair, makeup, jewelry, nails and coverage of tattoos. If any of these things are not according to how they were approved, it could lead to being reprimanded via verbal warning, written warning and possible removal from the duties of the Winnebago County Fair Queen. This decision will be made by the Pageant Director and the Fair Board President with Board approval.
26. Any Required event not attended can result in a deduction in the \$1000 scholarship presented to the queen at the end of her reign. This decision will be made by the Pageant Director and the Fair Board President with Board approval.

I, _____ (Printed Contestant Name), have **read** all of the above rules and agree to abide by them during all rehearsals and reign if crowned queen.

I, _____ (Printed Parent/Legal Guardian Name if under 18 years of age) have read all of the above rules and agree that _____ (Printed Contestant Name) will **abide** by them during all rehearsals and reign if crowned queen. (If contestant is under the age of 18 years old)

_____, Contestant Signature _____ Date

_____, Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date

(If contestant is under the age of 18 years old)

MISS WINNEBAGO COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PAGEANT

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 6:00pm at Moss Hall

\$1,000 Scholarship and other prizes to the Winner! Miss Detailed Competition information regarding Personal Interview, Speech & Communication Skills, Beauty & Physique/Poise & Posture, Crown Bowl Questions and Stage Presence:

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS (30%) are timed events – four (4) to five (5) 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 and pant suits are OK for the county level if approved by the Pageant Director but not allowed at State. See the 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 (20%): 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 – we do not time, but they will at the State Competition and will deduct points. You will be using a hand-held 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 and must be uplifting and positive. 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. It is not to be a memorized one woman show.

BEAUTY & PHYSIQUE/POISE & POSTURE – Event Wear (15%): 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 an Event Wear outfit appropriate for their event of choice. All outfits will be approved, and each contestant will be asked about their outfit and the event it can be worn at. The contestants will get more information on this portion of the competition at the Information Meeting and rehearsals.

CROWN BOWL QUESTIONS (20%): These questions are usually more difficult than general interview questions and may refer to current events or issues.

STAGE PRESENCE/EVENING GOWN (15%): This competition is designed for the contestant to make an on-stage statement of her personality, gracefully moving with poise and confidence. Choose an Evening Gown 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 must be floor length.
- 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 – Maximum of 5 hooks - 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 in 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.
- Choose accessories to enhance your look, not overwhelm you. Larger earrings draw attention to your face. Unless they definitely make the dress, we suggest that you do not wear gloves.
- DO NOT wear powder or lotion that has glitter in it. The intense lighting will make you look like a Christmas tree on stage.
- 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.

To avoid surprises, it is wise to try your interview suit, event wear and evening gown on the week before the Pageant for a final fitting and to get the total look.

****Approval** of Interview Suit, Speech, Event Wear and Evening Gown is required and photo taken by the Pageant Director and approved by a date to be determined. 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.**

****Attendance and responsibility** will be looked at by the Judges. Please see the rehearsal schedule for the attendance policy. Along with attendance, the judges will also see if contestants were responsible in getting their attire and speech approved on time or other arrangements were made.**

****A \$100 sponsorship fee** is required from each contestant and due on the registration deadline (unless authorized by the Pageant Director). Contestants may have up to 4 sponsors; each sponsor will receive a business card ad in the pageant program and receipts are available to give

your sponsors for tax deductions. If a business card is not provided there will not be an ad placed in the pageant program for them but their name will still be read.**

****A typed application** is due by the 4th rehearsal on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 unless authorized by the Pageant Director.**

****There is also a VIP Dinner** on Monday, 8/11/25 at which up to 2 of your sponsors plus one guest each are invited to attend, in gratitude for their support. Invitations will be provided to you **to give to the 2 sponsors of your choice during one of the rehearsals. Contestants will get up on stage** (with a Jr. Miss they are paired with) and introduce themselves with Contestant # and Name and then will thank all of their sponsors. This is a **REQUIRED** event unless authorized by the Pageant Director.**

Thank you for your interest and I hope to see you at the Information Meeting on Wednesday May 28, 2025, in Moss Hall at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds at 7:00pm. If you cannot attend this meeting, please contact me to get a rehearsal schedule and be sure to make the first rehearsal on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, also in Moss Hall at 6:00pm. 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!

I, _____ (Printed Contestant Name), have **read** all the above and agree to **abide** as a contestant of the WCFQ Pageant.

I, _____ (Printed Parent/Legal Guardian Name) have **read** all the above and agree that _____ (Printed Contestant Name) will abide as a contestant of the WCFQ Pageant. (If a contestant is under the age of 18 years old)

_____, Contestant Signature _____ Date

_____, Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date
(If under 18 years old)

Kim Mathieu, Pageant Director
815-275-7364 (call or txt) or bkbk4117@gmail.com

2025 Winnebago County Fair Queen Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

- Wednesday 6/4/25 - We will not line up as I want to work on walking, turns and possibly sitting. If you already know the shoes you will be wearing, bring them. If not, please **bring any pair of heals to practice in. First Draft Application and Sponsorship Money is due unless authorized by Pageant Director.**
- Wednesday 6/11/25 - Please plan on being here as we will be doing the line-up for the stage and begin working on Grand March, Evening Gown Modeling, Blending and Event Wear (Miss) and Fun Fashion (Jr. Miss) Modeling. **Please try to at least have your taupe heals and bring them to practice in.** If not bring any heal to practice in. **Typed Application is due if draft was approved and ALL SIGNED PAPERWORK** or you will not be allowed to practice.
- Wednesday 6/18/25 - Practicing sample interview and stage questions and how to answer them. Miss – know your Event for your Event Wear. Jr. Miss – know your Fun Fashion and have a rough draft of the 30 second speech to go along with it. Review Grand March and Blending if time allows.
- Wednesday 6/25/25 - Miss will be learning the entire Production Number and will continue to perfect it later. If you miss this practice for any reason, it is your responsibility to talk with the Director (or choreographer) to arrange a time to learn it. You will need to purchase a t-shirt designed by our current queens and wear jean shorts and tennis shoes for the Production Number. Jr. Miss will be practicing presenting your Fun Fashion and Speeches.
- Wednesday 7/2 - Jr. Miss will be learning the entire Production Number and will continue to perfect it later. If you miss the practice for any reason, it is your responsibility to talk with the Director (or choreographer) to arrange a time to learn it. You will need to purchase a t-shirt designed by our current queens and wear jean shorts and tennis shoes for the Production Number.
Miss will be practicing presenting your Event Wear and what you will say about it.
I will need **ALL required forms** from the girls (**NEWSPAPER FORM, TYPED APPLICATION and BUSINESS CARD**) and **APPROVAL of INTERVIEW SUIT, EVENING GOWN, EVENT WEAR and SPEECH**
- Wednesday 7/9 - We will be conducting Mock Interviews, practicing speeches on stage and Paula will also be taking your pictures for the program book so please be prepared (photos may change depending on photographer). You do not

need to have your hair done, just make sure it is nice for a picture.) The mock judges will have feedback for you and give you pointers on what to work on for the real interview. Please have your family and friends practice giving you questions to answer and treat this mock interview as if it was the real thing.

- Wednesday 7/16/25 - Review of anything needed or a run through from top to bottom minus the Top 3 and crowning.
- Wednesday 7/23/25 - We will use this as a form of dress rehearsal. Please bring all clothing for one last fitting and bring both taupe heels and evening gown heels to practice in. If your dress has a train, I will want you to practice on stage with it as we may need to modify things slightly to accommodate for the train.
- Wednesday 7/30/25 – Miss will be going to the Ogle County Fair Queen Pageant if they want to. More details as it gets closer. Jr. Miss can join if they have a parent who can join them. Admission to the fair will be the responsibility of the contestant. This is optional.
- Tuesday 8/5/25 - We will be taking all of you (Miss Contestants) over to the Boone County Fair Queen pageant in Belvidere to watch and learn from what they do. I feel this is a great experience for all of you and will help you to know what to expect. We will meet for dinner (Allison will have more information when the time gets closer) and go to the pageant together as a group. **This is required unless pre-arranged!**
- Wednesday 8/6/25 – Review anything that we feel needs to be done and learn Top 3 and Crowning.
- Saturday 8/9/25 -Interviews will be conducted and will do a final dress rehearsal on stage with both pairs of shoes you will be wearing when interviews are finished. You will not need your suits, dresses or swimsuits as we will not be changing cloths. By the time we leave, I am confident that everyone will be comfortable and excited for Wednesday. **TIME: MISS Interviews from 9 – 11 and dress rehearsal from 11 – 1 (times may be modified depending on the number of contestants). JR. MISS dress rehearsal 9 – 11 and Interviews from 11 – 1. Be at Moss Hall between 8 and 8:30 to prepare. Bring a snack with you so you can grab a bite to eat between events. Lunch will be served after Jr. Miss Interviews (around 1) and will be required as the judges will join us. Little Miss rehearsal is from 3-4:30 and you are free to stay and help if you want or you are free to go after the luncheon.**
- Monday 8/11/25 - VIP Dinner in the Entertainment Tent at the Fairgrounds at 6:00pm. Each contestant will receive 2 invitations to give to 2 of her sponsors so they can attend if they want to. Jr. Miss will also receive 2 invitations but one will be for her parents and one will be for a sponsor. Each invitation will admit 2 people into the event. Contestants will meet in Moss Hall at

the stage no later than 5:30pm and we will all walk over to the event a little before 6:00pm

Wednesday 8/13/25 - Pageant Day! You will need to be at Moss Hall at the fairgrounds no later than 4:00 pm. Please have your hair done for stage. It is up to you if you want to have your makeup done or if you do once you get there. Once you are there, you will not be allowed to leave until after the pageant is completed that evening. There will be no hairdressers or makeup artists allowed in the dressing room because there isn't enough room for everyone to have one. We will make sure you look amazing before heading out onto the stage.

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 this pageant. All absences will be looked at by the judges and if unexcused or excessive there may be a deduction in your score.

Excess: More than 25% of the 10 practices (this equals 2-3 practices)

Excused: 1) You notify the Pageant Director via txt at least 2 hours before the start of rehearsal or have pre-arranged being gone, and
2) You are still within the 25% excess.

Unexcused: 1) No notification or not 2 hours before the start of rehearsal and have not pre-arranged being gone, and/or
2) You are over the 25% excess

(Excused and Unexcused applies to being late and absent completely. This is not designed to be difficult but to keep things fair for everyone. I worry when you are not where you should be so, please talk to me and we can possibly work something out.)

I, _____ (Printed Contestant Name), have read all of the above and agree to abide as a contestant of the WCFQ Pageant.

I, _____ (Printed Parent/Legal Guardian Name if under 18 years of age) have read all of the above and agree that _____ (Printed Contestant Name) will abide as a contestant of the WCFQ Pageant. (If contestant is under the age of 18 years old)

_____, Contestant Signature
_____ Date

_____, Parent/Legal Guardian Signature
_____ Date

(If contestant is under the age of 18 years old)

Miss Newspaper Form

NAME:

AGE:

PARENTS:

HOMETOWN:

SCHOOL:

FUTURE PLANS:

SPONSOR(S):

1.

2.

3.

4.
