

## **2022 GENERAL INFORMATION AND SCHEDULE**

Please check our website, [www.missillinoiscountyfair.com](http://www.missillinoiscountyfair.com) for updates.

### **REGISTRATION**

The 62nd Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant will be held **Thursday, January 13th** through **Sunday, January 17, 2022**. All Queens must sign-in at the Queens' Registration Desk on the Plaza Level (first floor) of the Crowne Plaza **between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**, thus notifying us you are present for the Pageant. You will meet House Mother Linda Fisher, and our State Queen Kelsi Kessler for further instructions and information. Try to arrive prior to 11:00 a.m. so that you have plenty of time to check in, move in, rest, change clothes and eat before the Orientation and First Rehearsal. The Crowne Plaza staff will do their best to have your room ready when you arrive, however, if it is delayed the Concierge will store your luggage and you may change for rehearsal in the Sapphire room.

### **ROOMS AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

Rooms have been reserved for the Queens in the **Crowne Plaza**, 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield. Telephone: 217/529-7777. Reservations have been made for Thursday-Sunday nights. If you wish to move in on Wednesday the 12th or check out early on Sunday, please contact the Crowne Plaza directly. Each contestant will have a room with her chaperone which will be reserved in the Queen's name. Rooms are \$115/night plus tax. If your Fair is paying a portion or all of your hotel bill, a letter of responsibility indicating what type of charges they will be responsible for must be presented in order to check in. If no letter is presented, it will be assumed that you are responsible for all charges. A valid credit card number must be presented at check-in to secure the charges for which you are responsible. All charges must be paid when you check out; direct billing is not available.

Generally, the Crowne Plaza is full with our contestants and crew, Fair Board members, State Board and Associate Members; and reservations will not be accepted if you call. Some rooms may be available after December 25<sup>th</sup>. After that, family and friends can call the Crowne to find out and make a reservation. Be sure to inform the Crowne reservations are for the IAAF Convention to get the best rate. Please check the Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau's website for a listing of other quality hotels in the southeast area for family and friends. For their convenience, shuttle buses run between most of the nearby hotels. Those attending just for a day may wish to utilize the shuttle and park across Dirksen Parkway in the Secretary of State's parking lot.

### **PRELIMINARY COMPETITION GROUP**

Preliminary Competition is divided in two segments. Half the contestants will compete Saturday afternoon between 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. while the other half will compete in the evening between 7:00 and 10:30 p.m. All contestants will participate in an opening "Grand March" in the afternoon and again at the close of the evening competition. You will be notified of your competition group early in December. Groups will also be posted on our website. Convention badges are required for admission to the Preliminary Competition.

### **TICKETS AND CONVENTION BADGES**

Queens do not need to purchase badges or tickets to any of the events. They are included as part of their registration fee.

Beginning on Friday the 14th, everyone who attends any pageant or IAAF Convention event will have to wear a convention badge. We highly suggest you use the form that was included in the pageant application packet to pre-purchase your Convention badge. They will be ready for you to pick up on-site.

Badges are \$20 each. Additional badges will be available on the second floor of the Crowne Plaza beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Friday. Children under 10 are free but if they can be mistaken for age 10, they should wear a badge to avoid questions at the door. Although badges can be obtained on the first floor as well, we encourage you to purchase them outside the ballroom on the second floor as they will be credited towards the pageant. Once purchased, badges will admit you to all rehearsals, pageant preliminaries, showcase activities and the State Talent Show.

Sunday's Queen's Appreciation Brunch also requires a \$35 meal ticket. There will be no admittance "just to watch". Tickets may be ordered in advance on the form included in the application packet and picked up outside the ballroom beginning on Friday. Additional tickets will not be available at the convention.

A registration badge is not necessary for admittance to the Banquet and Pageant Finals on Sunday evening. However, tickets must be purchased in advance. Most Fair Boards order a block of tickets; please check to see if your family and friends are included. If you need to purchase tickets, please utilize the form included in the application packet. For questions, contact: **Tom Schahrer**, Banquet Chairman, 25794 East 1000 North Road, Forrest, IL, 61741, telephone (815)657-8826.

## ATTIRE

For specific details on clothing, see the day or competition section, but here are a few general guidelines:

- Always choose clothing that fits correctly and makes you feel great.
- Check hems on skirts to see that the skirt isn't too short when you sit down and that it is straight all the way around.
- Make sure blouses and jackets can button without gaps.
- Avoid trendy clothes during competition.
- No clunky or chunky shoes during competition. No mules/slides.
- In general, heels on shoes should be at least 2" tall.
- Make certain to bring extra pairs of panty hose for last minute emergencies. Keep accessories in proportion to keep the focus on you!

Remember, the Pageant in essence is a job interview, and you need to "dress the part". Your clothing choices for the pageant weekend may be something you would never consider wearing at home. As you make your clothing selections they should fit the description of "classic", "elegant", "stylish". Your pageant director can be very helpful in this area. Most have visited the state pageant before and are well-versed on the types of clothing necessary. Be certain they approve your wardrobe to insure you have everything necessary. Finally, **MAKE CERTAIN TO TRY EVERYTHING ON THE WEEK BEFORE THE PAGEANT**. Just because it fit when you bought it or after alterations, doesn't mean the Christmas fudge hasn't affected the fit. Better to try it on one last time than be surprised in Springfield.

To avoid confusion in the dressing room, **please mark all clothes and shoes with the name of your Fair**.

## MAKE-UP AND HAIRSTYLES

We will have professionals to assist you in both make-up and hair, but there will not be enough time for them to do a complete job. Therefore, it is important for you to experiment with make-up colors and hairstyles prior to the pageant. You should find a foundation with good coverage (but not too heavy) that matches your skin tone to wear both off and on stage. Lipstick is also a must and nails should be nicely manicured in a neutral color.

Different portions of competition require different approaches to make-up and hair. During your Interview (Friday) you should look professional and polished, with classic make-up to enhance your features. Hair should be kept out of your eyes but this does not necessitate an evening updo. You will need more color during the stage portion of your competition (Saturday) as the lights will wash you out. You will appear first in your evening gown and should style your hair in the way that works with your dress and makes you feel like a queen. This is followed by appearances in your swimsuit and finally, suit or dress for your speech. You may wish to change your hairstyles or make-up to match each outfit but remember, there is not much time in-between, so plan accordingly.

## TANNING

There's no doubt that we feel better in a swimsuit if we're tan, but in January it's nearly impossible to achieve in any way but artificial means. If you are not careful, you can pay a high price for short term "beauty". Please consider this as you choose to tan or not to tan and how you may accomplish it. Self tanning products are your safest health-wise but be sure to test them at home for color and possible allergic reactions.

## TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS

Tattoos and body piercings may be increasingly popular but, we, as do most of the pageant systems, feel they do not represent the image we wish to portray. All visible tattoos must be covered with cosmetics or a band-aid at all times. Cover stick make-up for this use is available at larger department stores. Piercings are limited to a maximum of two in each ear lobe only. All other body piercings/jewelry must be removed for competition. This includes tongue and nose piercings.

## DIETING

If you are dieting, use good judgment. The Convention weekend is very long and draining. Visit with your physician about a healthy eating regimen to sustain you during the Pageant. You will only be at your best if you have the energy to do so!

## MODELING

Contestants should practice modeling in clothes they will wear during the Pageant, especially shoes. Practice until you are totally at ease in each outfit. A simple "step on the forward foot" pivot will be utilized in your swimsuit while a "walk-around" will be used in evening gown. Hands should be at the side and not lifted to sit at the waist at any time. Practice short flights of stairs two or three steps up and down. **GOOD POSTURE** and **EYE CONTACT** are very important.

## REHEARSALS AND ACTIVITIES

A schedule including times and locations will be given upon arrival and will also be available on our website, [www.missillinoiscountyfair.com](http://www.missillinoiscountyfair.com). It is extremely important that you be on time to all rehearsals and activities - we fit a lot into a very tight schedule. Plan to be at the location at least 10 minutes prior to the starting time. There will be short bathroom breaks during rehearsals, but as a general rule, once you're on location, YOU'RE THERE TO STAY. Therefore, plan for your chaperone

to bring in lunch and snacks. You should also bring a bag with items to freshen up with and a pair of house slippers to give your feet a break.

**Cell phones** are not allowed in the dressing room and cannot be used by contestants during rehearsals.

In general, activities & appropriate attire are as follows:

### **Thursday First Roll Call at 1:00 p.m.**

**Attire:** The dress and shoes that you will wear for Sunday Night's Production number. No hose are necessary.

Bring: Competition swimsuit and taupe heels, Evening Gown and all accessories; jeans, the Queen's official t-shirt that you purchased, comfortable shoes and socks, and your County crown and sash if you wish to have the Pageant Photographer take a picture to be used in the Spring for your County Fair Book or other local advertising, all to the Sapphire Room prior to rehearsal. **All items must fit within a formal-length garment bag and the tote bag given to you at check in.**

During this Orientation/First Rehearsal you will be briefed on the complete weekend of activities, meet the crew and practice. It is important that you come to the rehearsal in full make-up and with your hair done as **Official Group and Individual Pictures will be taken following the rehearsal.** The swimsuit photo will be taken privately at the pool. This will also be the time when your swimsuits are checked to see that they are appropriate. You will have a few minutes to change for the Official Pictures. There will not be time enough to change your hair or make-up so plan ahead. Gowns and swimsuit worn for the official pictures must be the same one you will wear for competition. This gives the crew the opportunity to look for any contestants that may need extra help in the dressing room and check for proper fit.

After official pictures, Pageant Director's will attend a meeting while contestants eat and have a chance to socialize. You'll change into your jeans and comfortable shoes for the evening. What's a party without dancing? You will rehearse the Production number after a light supper. The dance is just a way to introduce the Pageant to the audience - it's not judged - so don't worry if you have two left feet. The rehearsal will end about 9:30 so you'll have plenty of time to get your beauty sleep.

### **Friday**

**Attire:** Arrive in your daytime business suit with skirt; high heeled dress shoes and hose for your interview. NO SLACKS. Remember, you are applying for a professional position. Choose your very best style and color. Keep accessories to a minimum. Make-up should be applied and hair styled for the daytime, not stage.

This is a very busy day. In the morning, contestants who are included in the "afternoon preliminary" will be interviewed while "evening preliminary" contestants rehearse on stage. In the afternoon, the two groups will reverse. Rehearsals will include group and individual entrances and exits; and practice with the microphone for your speech. Heels are expected for the rehearsal but you may wish to bring slippers to give your feet a break during downtime. Plan to have your chaperone pick up lunch and bring it to the rehearsal location to eat when you can. After all Interviews are finished, you will introduce yourself to the judges one more time by contestant number and fair only. We will go to the Trade Show for a short time before you are dismissed to have dinner with your Fair Board and/or Family.

**PERSONAL INTERVIEWS** are a timed event - 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 you 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. 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.

## **Saturday**

**PRELIMINARY COMPETITION** - We suggest borrowing a video tape from a previous year to familiarize yourself with the generalities of the competition.

It is the policy to have only Official Crew Members in the dressing room. This is one time your chaperone, Pageant Director and mother get to sit back and enjoy, and let someone else attend to you. Convention badges are required for admission to the Pageant Preliminaries. See page 4 for details. Limited seating near the stage has been reserved during your competition time; and tickets for these seats will be emailed to your pageant director. It is up to you and your Pageant Director to determine who uses these seats. No one will be allowed to use the reserved seats without having the ticket. There is plenty of additional seating available (with badge only – no need for additional ticket) throughout the Ballroom.

Noisemakers and posters are common at competitive events; we ask your family and friend's cooperation in limiting the size to no larger than a sheet of 8½" x 11" copy paper. Please limit their display to the time you are actually on stage. Only still photography can be used during the Pageant Preliminaries and Finals, and must be taken from the seat, with the exception of group shot opportunities. A professional video is available for purchase. Please be courteous to your neighbors in the audience; remember, everyone has a Queen on the stage.

Stage portions of the competition are as follows:

## **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 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.
- "High-Low" hem gowns are fine as long as the "high" portion is below the knee.
- Splits in skirts should be no further than 4 inches above the middle of the knee.
- No hoop skirts (the stage is crowded).
- Gowns with a train must be bustled. No more than 5 bustles. 6 or more bustles will not be allowed on stage.
- 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.
- 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 don't 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 shoes available, however, you don't want to draw attention to your feet rather than your face. The best bet are shoes the same color as your hemline. Clear plastic shoes 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 appropriately.

To avoid surprises in Springfield, it is wise to try your gown on the week of the Pageant for a final fitting and to get the total look.

## **BEAUTY AND PHYSIQUE**

In this phase of competition, the 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 swimsuits. Many contestants choose a "pageant swimsuit". These are often more flattering than "off the rack" suits but still have to pass the inspection. Different pageants have different requirements. Make sure your suit meets the following guidelines:.

- Solid colored suits in a single color 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 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. The swimsuit back must not be lower than your natural waistline.
- Suits should have built in support 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 "hanging out".
- The lower portion of the swimsuit must cover the hipbones in front (at a minimum) and completely cover the buttocks. Further, the crease where the legs join the pelvis should be covered and the suit should not pull in the center.
- A great product to use to keep everything in place is the roll on sure grip used by basketball players to make their hands sticky. This is usually available at sporting goods stores and would be a wise investment. Don't worry, our crew will put it on.
- If your suit is altered, be sure to try it on after alterations. An adjustment in one area often changes things in other areas.
- High heeled (at least 2") taupe colored shoes are required to be worn with your swimsuit and should be broken in. Shoes can be any style but must have an enclosed heel or a strap around the heel. Please make sure they are TAUPE, not ivory or bronze. If you have trouble finding them in your local shoe store, they are available at most pageant-wear stores. Baby powder sprinkled inside your shoes will help make them comfortable.
- No undergarments or hose may be worn with the swimsuit. Rubbing oil on your legs makes them look greasy under the spotlights, so use lotion (not glitter lotion) instead.
- All jewelry should be removed and any tattoos must be covered up.

These rules are not meant to be difficult but are necessary to keep you from being embarrassed and to keep the Pageant in good taste.

## SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

**Attire:** Wear a **daytime** dress or suit, hose and high heeled dress shoes. NO SLACKS OR COCKTAIL DRESSES.

The Illinois County Fair Queen is called upon to speak to groups, as well as individuals throughout her reign. The Queen must be comfortable speaking and be able to express herself naturally. In this phase of competition you will give a speech that takes **one minute** or less - YOU WILL BE TIMED. Going over the one minute time limit will result in a reduction of points. You will be using a hand-held microphone, no podium. Practice, if you can, until you become familiar with the sound of your own voice.

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 60 second 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.
- If you are uncertain of your subject matter, please call.

### Sunday Morning

**Attire:** Casual/Fun outfit - Nice slacks and top. NO JEANS OR SWEATS. Flat or low heeled shoes.

We'll start with a Final Rehearsal for CONTESTANTS AND CREW ONLY. Then we'll proceed to the Queen's Appreciation Brunch where we'll be honoring our retiring queen, Kelsi Kessler. The Brunch will begin with a short Inspirational Service, followed by special recognition and presentations. Anyone is welcome to attend but must purchase tickets in advance (see pg. 4). They are \$35. You will be excused early in the afternoon to rest and prepare for the Finals and County Fair Banquet. Each Queen must have a chaperone attending the Brunch with her.

### Sunday Evening

**Attire:** The dress you will wear for the production number during our Finals has been specially ordered based on the measurements taken at County Fair Day (if you attended) or the information provided when you sent in your application. You should realize though, that clothing sizes do fluctuate and therefore, this dress may not fit "perfectly" and may require alterations. Alterations that may be needed are not part of the purchase price. .

As with any dance production, cheerleading group, flag corp. or other choreographed group, our goal is uniformity with a touch of individuality. This year's dress is navy blue. Accessories needed are taupe heels and silver or rhinestone earrings. Heels can be the taupe heels you wear for swimsuit competition and must have an enclosed heel or a strap around the heel.. No watch, necklace, or anklet.

The evening will begin with the Production Number followed by introductions. The top fifteen finalists will be announced. Non-finalist awards will be given and remaining contestants will be seated as a group in reserved seats for the finalist's competition. Everyone must remain present for the entire competition, **NO EXCEPTIONS.** All contestants will change into their evening gown and participate in the grand finale.

The finalist's "slate is wiped clean" and they compete in all phases of competition again plus three on-stage interview questions (the same for all). These questions are usually more difficult than general interview questions and may refer to a current event or issue. After the Grand Finale with all contestants and the retiring queen's speech and last walk, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> runners up are announced and the new Miss Illinois County Fair Queen is named. A reception follows the coronation. Please make plans to attend to congratulate the new queen and say your farewells.

## **JUDGES/SCORING**

Judges will be a panel of five qualified men and women who are genuinely interested in you. They are serious, yet fun-loving people. They want to enjoy this experience as much as you. Be yourself!

Each category carries a percentage of the total score. Each category is judged and scored independently from all other categories. For the Preliminaries, percentages are: Personal Interview 35%, Stage Presence (in Evening Gown) 15%, Beauty and Physique (in Swimsuit) 20%, Speech and Communication Skills 30%. In the Finals, Stage Presence 15%, Beauty & Physique 20%, Speech 20% and On-Stage Questions 15% (5% for each) and Judges Choice 30%.

## **CHAPERONES**

Most Queens are chaperoned by their Pageant Director. If this is not possible, the chaperone should be at least 21 years of age, female, healthy, dependable, full of pep, and able to handle emergencies of all kinds. Some girls have their mothers as their chaperones and that is fine as long as both can be friends and the mother can remain calm and be a strong support for her daughter. Competition is important, but it is also important to have a great experience, meet new people, and have the best time of your life. The chaperone must make sure her Queen is on time and will safeguard the contestant's purse, money, jewelry, camera and anything else of value. **THE IAAF IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ARTICLES OR MONEY.**

A chaperone must be staying in your room with you or you will be disqualified. You should always be accompanied to and from your room and a female chaperone should be in the room with you and at rehearsals at all times. Exceptions are the pageant directors meetings and official photographs. We discourage men visiting for lengthy periods, so to avoid being misunderstood, please meet them in the lobby. Fathers, families and friends sometimes want to stop by and offer words of encouragement. This is fine, but remember that "lights out" is midnight each night, and no men will be allowed in the Queens' rooms from then on until 6:00 a.m.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS**

Professional group pictures will be taken of you dressed in both evening gown and swimsuit by our official photographer, Studio 131 of Springfield. These are the only entire group photos taken and are certain to be treasured always. Photographs are ordered at the Pageant and can be picked up to take home at our Sunday Brunch.

Additionally, Studio 131 will take many candid photographs during rehearsals and events. These unique photos will be a welcome addition to your scrapbook and individual portrait packages are also available.

Video packages for Individual Preliminaries and for the Finals will also be available through Dean Williams Photography. These videos feature photography that cannot be taken by an amateur. You may bring your own video camera if you wish to capture candid moments in your room or at rehearsals.

**Video cameras of any kind are not allowed during competition. Cameras to capture still photos must be used from your seat with the exception of group photo opportunities.**

Official pictures and videos can be pre-ordered or purchased onsite along with candid photos. Checks and credit cards are accepted. It is not mandatory that you purchase anything, but they will be a great memory of one of the most exciting experiences of your life.

## **CROWNS AND SASHES**

Official sashes will be provided, so you will not need to bring your own. (Unless you wish to have your photo taken by the Pageant Official Photographer for your County to use for advertising for their County Fair.) In respect for our State Queen, we ask that no other crowns or sashes be worn by any royalty (this includes junior and little misses and misters) from the Fair or any pageant system.

## **MEALS**

There are many good dining places in the vicinity and there will be several special buffet lines set up in the hotel for our convention. Quick snacks and drinks are available at the coffee counter outside the restaurant on the second floor of the Crowne Plaza. However, please remember that this is a large convention and the hotel staff will be serving many people. Patience and planning ahead will prevent potential headaches.

## **WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT ON JANUARY 16th...**

One of you will be the 62nd Illinois County Fair Queen, and your coach won't even turn back into a pumpkin. It will seem like a fairy tale ending but your year is just beginning. Cinderella certainly didn't know what to expect when she left with the prince for the castle; we want you to be better prepared for the days ahead if you should wear the state crown.

As Miss Illinois County Fair Queen, you will be required to sign a contract the next morning. Being the State Queen is a once in a lifetime opportunity but it is also a job - one that pays quite well! The contract reiterates the general rules and will have statements attesting that you are of good moral character and act in a manner befitting a queen. It also outlines your role and relationships with the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs, the State Pageant Director and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. In general, this will include:

Upon being crowned "Miss Illinois County Fair Queen", I have in essence relinquished my title as Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Fair Queen, and that from this point forward I will be referred to as the 2022 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen.

That I must arrange my schedule to serve as the Official Hostess of the 2022 Illinois State Fair staying on the grounds with a designated chaperone. I will also attend the DuQuoin State Fair a minimum of two days.

That I will be employed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture this summer and will travel throughout the State to attend fairs, pageants, and various other promotional events scheduled by the State Director.

That any appearances as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will be scheduled by or approved in advance by State Director, Cathy Redshaw. The State Director will choose and designate my chaperone at all appearances.

As a representative of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs and the Illinois Department of Agriculture, I will conduct myself with utmost decorum at all appearances as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen; including refraining from smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages.

That any photographic sessions and pictures released in the role of Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will be approved by the State Director.

That if any of the representations made by me are false or in the event of my marriage or any other reason that would keep me from fulfilling my obligations as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen; I will upon the request of the State Director immediately relinquish my title, crown, privileges and all gifts, cash or otherwise; and be succeeded by a runner-up.

We don't want you to think you've been deserted by your Fairy Godmother but we do want you to understand the responsibilities of the Queen. Your year as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will be like no other job you'll ever have. You will be treated royally and we want you to treasure every moment. This fairy tale may not end with Prince Charming bringing your glass slipper but there's no doubt many young women would like to be in your shoes!

## **PLEASE NOTE**

If for any reason the weather is bad and the roads are dangerous, check with your local and state police. Load your car the night before and start out early to give yourself ample time to arrive safely. If you do have any problems in making the **11:00 a.m. Registration deadline**, please call for House Mother, Linda Fisher at the registration desk, or me at the Crowne Plaza **(217) 529-7777** to let us know what is going on.

I hope that you found the previous sheets of information helpful. If you have any questions or problems concerning the Pageant, please e-mail or call me. Remember, be sure to make the most of this once in a lifetime weekend. Come prepared and you will have a wonderful four days. You will be arriving as a Queen, be treated as a Queen, and no matter what happens, return home as a Queen.

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## **PRELIMINARY COMPETITION GROUP**

Preliminary Competition is divided in two segments. Half the contestants will compete Saturday afternoon between 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. while the other half will compete in the evening between 7:00 and 10:30 p.m. All contestants will participate in an opening "Grand March" in the afternoon and again at the close of the evening competition. You will be notified of your competition group early in December. Groups will also be posted on our website. Convention badges are required for admission to the Preliminary Competition.

## **TICKETS AND CONVENTION BADGES**

Queens do not need to purchase badges or tickets to any of the events. They are included as part of their registration fee.

Beginning on Friday the 14th, everyone who attends any pageant or IAAF Convention event will have to wear a convention badge. We highly suggest you use the form that was included in the pageant application packet to pre-purchase your Convention badge. They will be ready for you to pick up on-site.

Badges are \$20 each. Additional badges will be available on the second floor of the Crowne Plaza beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Friday. Children under 10 are free but if they can be mistaken for age 10, they should wear a badge to avoid questions at the door. Although badges can be obtained on the first floor as well, we encourage you to purchase them outside the ballroom on the second floor as they will be credited towards the pageant. Once purchased, badges will admit you to all rehearsals, pageant preliminaries, showcase activities and the State Talent Show.

Sunday's Queen's Appreciation Brunch also requires a \$35 meal ticket. There will be no admittance "just to watch". Tickets may be ordered in advance on the form included in the application packet and picked up outside the ballroom beginning on Friday. Additional tickets will not be available at the convention.

A registration badge is not necessary for admittance to the Banquet and Pageant Finals on Sunday evening. However, tickets must be purchased in advance. Most Fair Boards order a block of

tickets; please check to see if your family and friends are included. If you need to purchase tickets, please utilize the form included in the application packet. For questions, contact: **Tom Schahrer**, Banquet Chairman, 25794 East 1000 North Road, Forrest, IL, 61741, telephone (815)657-8826.

## ATTIRE

For specific details on clothing, see the day or competition section, but here are a few general guidelines:

- Always choose clothing that fits correctly and makes you feel great.
- Check hems on skirts to see that the skirt isn't too short when you sit down and that it is straight all the way around.
- Make sure blouses and jackets can button without gaps.
- Avoid trendy clothes during competition.
- No clunky or chunky shoes during competition. No mules/slides.
- In general, heels on shoes should be at least 2" tall.
- Make certain to bring extra pairs of panty hose for last minute emergencies. Keep accessories in proportion to keep the focus on you!

Remember, the Pageant in essence is a job interview, and you need to "dress the part". Your clothing choices for the pageant weekend may be something you would never consider wearing at home. As you make your clothing selections they should fit the description of "classic", "elegant", "stylish". Your pageant director can be very helpful in this area. Most have visited the state pageant before and are well-versed on the types of clothing necessary. Be certain they approve your wardrobe to insure you have everything necessary. Finally, **MAKE CERTAIN TO TRY EVERYTHING ON THE WEEK BEFORE THE PAGEANT**. Just because it fit when you bought it or after alterations, doesn't mean the Christmas fudge hasn't affected the fit. Better to try it on one last time than be surprised in Springfield.

To avoid confusion in the dressing room, **please mark all clothes and shoes with the name of your Fair**.

## MAKE-UP AND HAIRSTYLES

We will have professionals to assist you in both make-up and hair, but there will not be enough time for them to do a complete job. Therefore, it is important for you to experiment with make-up colors and hairstyles prior to the pageant. You should find a foundation with good coverage (but not too heavy) that matches your skin tone to wear both off and on stage. Lipstick is also a must and nails should be nicely manicured in a neutral color.

Different portions of competition require different approaches to make-up and hair. During your Interview (Friday) you should look professional and polished, with classic make-up to enhance your features. Hair should be kept out of your eyes but this does not necessitate an evening updo. You will need more color during the stage portion of your competition (Saturday) as the lights will wash you out. You will appear first in your evening gown and should style your hair in the way that works with your dress and makes you feel like a queen. This is followed by appearances in your swimsuit and finally, suit or dress for your speech. You may wish to change your hairstyles or make-up to match each outfit but remember, there is not much time in-between, so plan accordingly.

## TANNING

There's no doubt that we feel better in a swimsuit if we're tan, but in January it's nearly impossible to achieve in any way but artificial means. If you are not careful, you can pay a high price for short term "beauty". Please consider this as you choose to tan or not to tan and how you may accomplish it. Self tanning products are your safest health-wise but be sure to test them at home for color and possible allergic reactions.

## **TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS**

Tattoos and body piercings may be increasingly popular but, we, as do most of the pageant systems, feel they do not represent the image we wish to portray. All visible tattoos must be covered with cosmetics or a band-aid at all times. Cover stick make-up for this use is available at larger department stores. Piercings are limited to a maximum of two in each ear lobe only. All other body piercings/jewelry must be removed for competition. This includes tongue and nose piercings.

## **DIETING**

If you are dieting, use good judgment. The Convention weekend is very long and draining. Visit with your physician about a healthy eating regimen to sustain you during the Pageant. You will only be at your best if you have the energy to do so!

## **MODELING**

Contestants should practice modeling in clothes they will wear during the Pageant, especially shoes. Practice until you are totally at ease in each outfit. A simple "step on the forward foot" pivot will be utilized in your swimsuit while a "walk-around" will be used in evening gown. Hands should be at the side and not lifted to sit at the waist at any time. Practice short flights of stairs two or three steps up and down. **GOOD POSTURE** and **EYE CONTACT** are very important.

## **REHEARSALS AND ACTIVITIES**

A schedule including times and locations will be given upon arrival and will also be available on our website, [www.missillinoiscountyfair.com](http://www.missillinoiscountyfair.com). It is extremely important that you be on time to all rehearsals and activities - we fit a lot into a very tight schedule. Plan to be at the location at least 10 minutes prior to the starting time. There will be short bathroom breaks during rehearsals, but as a general rule, once you're on location, YOU'RE THERE TO STAY. Therefore, plan for your chaperone to bring in lunch and snacks. You should also bring a bag with items to freshen up with and a pair of house slippers to give your feet a break.

***Cell phones** are not allowed in the dressing room and cannot be used by contestants during rehearsals.*

In general, activities & appropriate attire are as follows:

### **Thursday First Roll Call at 1:00 p.m.**

**Attire:** The dress and shoes that you will wear for Sunday Night's Production number. No hose are necessary.

Bring: Competition swimsuit and taupe heels, Evening Gown and all accessories; jeans, the Queen's official t-shirt that you purchased, comfortable shoes and socks, and your County crown and sash if you wish to have the Pageant Photographer take a picture to be used in the Spring for your County Fair Book or other local advertising, all to the Sapphire Room prior to rehearsal. **All items must fit within a formal-length garment bag and the tote bag given to you at check in.**

During this Orientation/First Rehearsal you will be briefed on the complete weekend of activities, meet the crew and practice. It is important that you come to the rehearsal in full make-up and with your hair done as **Official Group and Individual Pictures will be taken following the rehearsal.** The swimsuit photo will be taken privately at the pool. This will also be the time when your swimsuits are checked to see that they are appropriate. You will have a few minutes to change for the Official Pictures. There will not be time enough to change your hair or make-up so plan ahead. Gowns and swimsuit worn for the official pictures must be the same one you will wear for competition. This gives the crew the opportunity to look for any contestants that may need extra help in the dressing room and check for proper fit.

After official pictures, Pageant Director's will attend a meeting while contestants eat and have a chance to socialize. You'll change into your jeans and comfortable shoes for the evening. What's a party without dancing? You will rehearse the Production number after a light supper. The dance is just a way to introduce the Pageant to the audience - it's not judged - so don't worry if you have two left feet. The rehearsal will end about 9:30 so you'll have plenty of time to get your beauty sleep.

## **Friday**

**Attire:** Arrive in your daytime business suit with skirt; high heeled dress shoes and hose for your interview. NO SLACKS. Remember, you are applying for a professional position. Choose your very best style and color. Keep accessories to a minimum. Make-up should be applied and hair styled for the daytime, not stage.

This is a very busy day. In the morning, contestants who are included in the "afternoon preliminary" will be interviewed while "evening preliminary" contestants rehearse on stage. In the afternoon, the two groups will reverse. Rehearsals will include group and individual entrances and exits; and practice with the microphone for your speech. Heels are expected for the rehearsal but you may wish to bring slippers to give your feet a break during downtime. Plan to have your chaperone pick up lunch and bring it to the rehearsal location to eat when you can. After all Interviews are finished, you will introduce yourself to the judges one more time by contestant number and fair only. We will go to the Trade Show for a short time before you are dismissed to have dinner with your Fair Board and/or Family.

**PERSONAL INTERVIEWS** are a timed event - 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 you 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. 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.

## **Saturday**

**PRELIMINARY COMPETITION** - We suggest borrowing a video tape from a previous year to familiarize yourself with the generalities of the competition.

It is the policy to have only Official Crew Members in the dressing room. This is one time your chaperone, Pageant Director and mother get to sit back and enjoy, and let someone else attend to you. Convention badges are required for admission to the Pageant Preliminaries. See page 4 for details. Limited seating near the stage has been reserved during your competition time; and tickets for these seats will be emailed to your pageant director. It is up to you and your Pageant Director to determine who uses these seats. No one will be allowed to use the reserved seats without having

the ticket. There is plenty of additional seating available (with badge only – no need for additional ticket) throughout the Ballroom.

Noisemakers and posters are common at competitive events; we ask your family and friend's cooperation in limiting the size to no larger than a sheet of 8½" x 11" copy paper. Please limit their display to the time you are actually on stage. Only still photography can be used during the Pageant Preliminaries and Finals, and must be taken from the seat, with the exception of group shot opportunities. A professional video is available for purchase. Please be courteous to your neighbors in the audience; remember, everyone has a Queen on the stage.

Stage portions of the competition are as follows:

## **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 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.
- "High-Low" hem gowns are fine as long as the "high" portion is below the knee.
- Splits in skirts should be no further than 4 inches above the middle of the knee.
- No hoop skirts (the stage is crowded).
- Gowns with a train must be bustled. No more than 5 bustles allowed. If your gown has 6 or more bustles, your gown will not be allowed on stage.
- 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.
- 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 don't 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 shoes available, however, you don't want to draw attention to your feet rather than your face. The best bet are shoes the same color as your hemline. Clear plastic shoes 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 appropriately.

To avoid surprises in Springfield, it is wise to try your gown on the week of the Pageant for a final fitting and to get the total look.

## **BEAUTY AND PHYSIQUE**

In this phase of competition, the 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 swimsuits. Many contestants choose a "pageant swimsuit". These are often more flattering than "off the rack" suits but still have to pass the inspection. Different pageants have different requirements. Make sure your suit meets the following guidelines:

- Solid colored suits in a single color 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 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. The swimsuit back must not be lower than your natural waistline.
- Suits should have built in support 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 "hanging out".
- The lower portion of the swimsuit must cover the hipbones in front (at a minimum) and completely cover the buttocks. Further, the crease where the legs join the pelvis should be covered and the suit should not pull in the center.
- A great product to use to keep everything in place is the roll on sure grip used by basketball players to make their hands sticky. This is usually available at sporting goods stores and would be a wise investment. Don't worry, our crew will put it on.
- If your suit is altered, be sure to try it on after alterations. An adjustment in one area often changes things in other areas.
- High heeled (at least 2") taupe colored shoes are required to be worn with your swimsuit and should be broken in. Shoes can be any style but must have an enclosed heel or a strap around the heel. Please make sure they are TAUPE, not ivory or bronze. If you have trouble finding them in your local shoe store, they are available at most pageant-wear stores. Baby powder sprinkled inside your shoes will help make them comfortable.
- No undergarments or hose may be worn with the swimsuit. Rubbing oil on your legs makes them look greasy under the spotlights, so use lotion (not glitter lotion) instead.
- All jewelry should be removed and any tattoos must be covered up.

These rules are not meant to be difficult but are necessary to keep you from being embarrassed and to keep the Pageant in good taste.

## **SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**Attire:** Wear a **daytime** dress or suit, hose and high heeled dress shoes. NO SLACKS OR COCKTAIL DRESSES.

The Illinois County Fair Queen is called upon to speak to groups, as well as individuals throughout her reign. The Queen must be comfortable speaking and be able to express herself naturally. In this phase of competition you will give a speech that takes **one minute** or less - YOU WILL BE TIMED. Going over the one minute time limit will result in a reduction of points. You will be using a hand-held microphone, no podium. Practice, if you can, until you become familiar with the sound of your own voice.

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 60 second 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.
- If you are uncertain of your subject matter, please call.

## Sunday Morning

**Attire:** Casual/Fun outfit - Nice slacks and top. NO JEANS OR SWEATS. Flat or low heeled shoes.

We'll start with a Final Rehearsal for CONTESTANTS AND CREW ONLY. Then we'll proceed to the Queen's Appreciation Brunch where we'll be honoring our retiring queen, Kelsi Kessler. The Brunch will begin with a short Inspirational Service, followed by special recognition and presentations. Anyone is welcome to attend but must purchase tickets in advance (see pg. 4). They are \$35. You will be excused early in the afternoon to rest and prepare for the Finals and County Fair Banquet. Each Queen must have a chaperone attending the Brunch with her.

## Sunday Evening

**Attire:** The dress you will wear for the production number during our Finals has been specially ordered based on the measurements taken at County Fair Day (if you attended) or the information provided when you sent in your application. You should realize though, that clothing sizes do fluctuate and therefore, this dress may not fit "perfectly" and may require alterations. Alterations that may be needed are not part of the purchase price. .

As with any dance production, cheerleading group, flag corp. or other choreographed group, our goal is uniformity with a touch of individuality. This year's dress is navy blue. Accessories needed are taupe heels and silver or rhinestone earrings. Heels can be the taupe heels you wear for swimsuit competition and must have an enclosed heel or a strap around the heel.. No watch, necklace, or anklet.

The evening will begin with the Production Number followed by introductions. The top fifteen finalists will be announced. Non-finalist awards will be given and remaining contestants will be seated as a group in reserved seats for the finalist's competition. Everyone must remain present for the entire competition, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. All contestants will change into their evening gown and participate in the grand finale.

The finalist's "slate is wiped clean" and they compete in all phases of competition again plus three on-stage interview questions (the same for all). These questions are usually more difficult than general interview questions and may refer to a current event or issue. After the Grand Finale with all contestants and the retiring queen's speech and last walk, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> runners up are announced and the new Miss Illinois County Fair Queen is named. A reception follows the coronation. Please make plans to attend to congratulate the new queen and say your farewells.

## JUDGES/SCORING

Judges will be a panel of five qualified men and women who are genuinely interested in you. They are serious, yet fun-loving people. They want to enjoy this experience as much as you. Be yourself!

Each category carries a percentage of the total score. Each category is judged and scored independently from all other categories. For the Preliminaries, percentages are: Personal Interview 35%, Stage Presence (in Evening Gown) 15%, Beauty and Physique (in Swimsuit) 20%, Speech and Communication Skills 30%. In the Finals, Stage Presence 15%, Beauty & Physique 20%, Speech 20% and On-Stage Questions 15% (5% for each) and Judges Choice 30%.

## CHAPERONES

Most Queens are chaperoned by their Pageant Director. If this is not possible, the chaperone should be at least 21 years of age, female, healthy, dependable, full of pep, and able to handle emergencies

of all kinds. Some girls have their mothers as their chaperones and that is fine as long as both can be friends and the mother can remain calm and be a strong support for her daughter. Competition is important, but it is also important to have a great experience, meet new people, and have the best time of your life. The chaperone must make sure her Queen is on time and will safeguard the contestant's purse, money, jewelry, camera and anything else of value. **THE IAAF IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ARTICLES OR MONEY.**

A chaperone must be staying in your room with you or you will be disqualified. You should always be accompanied to and from your room and a female chaperone should be in the room with you and at rehearsals at all times. Exceptions are the pageant directors meetings and official photographs. We discourage men visiting for lengthy periods, so to avoid being misunderstood, please meet them in the lobby. Fathers, families and friends sometimes want to stop by and offer words of encouragement. This is fine, but remember that "lights out" is midnight each night, and no men will be allowed in the Queens' rooms from then on until 6:00 a.m.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS**

Professional group pictures will be taken of you dressed in both evening gown and swimsuit by our official photographer, Studio 131 of Springfield. These are the only entire group photos taken and are certain to be treasured always. Photographs are ordered at the Pageant and can be picked up to take home at our Sunday Brunch.

Additionally, Studio 131 will take many candid photographs during rehearsals and events. These unique photos will be a welcome addition to your scrapbook and individual portrait packages are also available.

Video packages for Individual Preliminaries and for the Finals will also be available through Dean Williams Photography. These videos feature photography that cannot be taken by an amateur. You may bring your own video camera if you wish to capture candid moments in your room or at rehearsals.

**Video cameras of any kind are not allowed during competition. Cameras to capture still photos must be used from your seat with the exception of group photo opportunities.**

Official pictures and videos can be pre-ordered or purchased onsite along with candid photos. Checks and credit cards are accepted. It is not mandatory that you purchase anything, but they will be a great memory of one of the most exciting experiences of your life.

## **CROWNS AND SASHES**

Official sashes will be provided, so you will not need to bring your own. (Unless you wish to have your photo taken by the Pageant Official Photographer for your County to use for advertising for their County Fair.) In respect for our State Queen, we ask that no other crowns or sashes be worn by any royalty (this includes junior and little misses and misters) from the Fair or any pageant system.

## **MEALS**

There are many good dining places in the vicinity and there will be several special buffet lines set up in the hotel for our convention. Quick snacks and drinks are available at the coffee counter outside

the restaurant on the second floor of the Crowne Plaza. However, please remember that this is a large convention and the hotel staff will be serving many people. Patience and planning ahead will prevent potential headaches.

## **WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT ON JANUARY 16th...**

One of you will be the 62nd Illinois County Fair Queen, and your coach won't even turn back into a pumpkin. It will seem like a fairy tale ending but your year is just beginning. Cinderella certainly didn't know what to expect when she left with the prince for the castle; we want you to be better prepared for the days ahead if you should wear the state crown.

As Miss Illinois County Fair Queen, you will be required to sign a contract the next morning. Being the State Queen is a once in a lifetime opportunity but it is also a job - one that pays quite well! The contract reiterates the general rules and will have statements attesting that you are of good moral character and act in a manner befitting a queen. It also outlines your role and relationships with the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs, the State Pageant Director and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. In general, this will include:

Upon being crowned "Miss Illinois County Fair Queen", I have in essence relinquished my title as Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Fair Queen, and that from this point forward I will be referred to as the 2022 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen.

That I must arrange my schedule to serve as the Official Hostess of the 2022 Illinois State Fair staying on the grounds with a designated chaperone. I will also attend the DuQuoin State Fair a minimum of two days.

That I will be employed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture this summer and will travel throughout the State to attend fairs, pageants, and various other promotional events scheduled by the State Director.

That any appearances as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will be scheduled by or approved in advance by State Director, Cathy Redshaw. The State Director will choose and designate my chaperone at all appearances.

As a representative of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs and the Illinois Department of Agriculture, I will conduct myself with utmost decorum at all appearances as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen; including refraining from smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages.

That any photographic sessions and pictures released in the role of Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will be approved by the State Director.

That if any of the representations made by me are false or in the event of my marriage or any other reason that would keep me from fulfilling my obligations as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen; I will upon the request of the State Director immediately relinquish my title, crown, privileges and all gifts, cash or otherwise; and be succeeded by a runner-up.

We don't want you to think you've been deserted by your Fairy Godmother but we do want you to understand the responsibilities of the Queen. Your year as Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will be like no other job you'll ever have. You will be treated royally and we want you to treasure every moment. This fairy tale may not end with Prince Charming bringing your glass slipper but there's no doubt many young women would like to be in your shoes!

Only one will wear the State Crown, but there is much more to gain from this experience. You are all winners!

