

AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR QUEEN / TICKET QUEEN PAGEANT RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Overview

The Austin County Fair Queen / Ticket Queen Pageant provides High School girls the opportunity to vie for the title of Austin County Fair Queen / Ticket Queen, receive scholarships and awards, and present candidates with an opportunity for training and development in the areas of etiquette, public speaking, and teamwork. The Fair Queen and Ticket Queen are official Austin County Fair ambassadors and represent the Fair Association at many events and functions regionally.

1. The purpose of this pageant shall be to select the Austin County Fair Queen and Ticket Queen, to provide the Austin County Fair Association (ACF) with a means of raising revenue, selling Fair entrance tickets prior to the opening date of the Fair, and to provide a scholarship to the winning candidates. It is open to all supporting organizations. The candidate must be female and must be at least 15 years of age by the beginning of the current school year, a resident of or attending school in Austin County (for a minimum of six months prior to the pageant), who is not pregnant, and who has never been married nor had a child. She must be of good conduct, not on probation with the State of Texas. Previous Austin County Fair Queens are not eligible to enter the contest, but Ticket Queens are as it is based on ticket sales.
2. A **MANDATORY** Orientation meeting for all Fair Queen candidates will be held on **Wednesday, July 17th at 6:00 P.M. at the Austin County Fair Expo Center**. A Parent(s) or guardian(s) must accompany each candidate. Rules and dates will be discussed as well as the passing out of tickets to be sold. If you have any questions, please call or text Shannon Hanath, Chairman at 832-715-1639.
3. We are required to check candidates' grades before the pageant. You may not compete if you are failing a class or have an incomplete. We follow the same rules as UIL. Due to the different start dates of area schools, we will look at the grades of the 1st grading period. The candidate **MUST** be academically eligible to participate and be passing all classes with a 70 or higher. The Fair Board is very strict about this rule and there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS**.
4. Each candidate can represent either their 4-H Club, FFA Chapter, Non-Profit Organization, Businesses, or Individuals of their choice. It is the candidate's responsibility for obtaining her own Supporter(s). Supporter(s) will be assessed a non-refundable \$300 fee for its candidate. The candidate may also have several Supporter(s) but **MUST** collect a total of \$300 to compete. Supporter(s) forms are due at the **Mandatory Orientation Meeting on July 17, 2024**. This must be submitted with the consent form and signed copy of rules and code of conduct form.

The Supporter(s) must be honored on the candidates' ticket posters.

5. Candidates must have their parent's or guardian's written consent to enter the pageant. The consent form and copy of rules and code of conduct must be signed by both the candidate and their parent or legal guardian. Forms not signed by both will result in automatic disqualification. All candidates must meet **ALL** requirements to be eligible. Should a candidate decide to remove themselves from the pageant, they **MUST** contact the Fair office as soon as practicable.
6. As being Fair Queen or Ticket Queen part of your duties are that you will be required to attend and assist with the 2024 Austin County Fair Livestock Shows, Auctions and etc. following Saturday nights crowning, as long as it does not interfere with school. You will be expected to be at the Fair all days and to wear the Queen's sash and crown at all times during the Fair. If you are unable to attend, please let the Fair Office or Shannon Hanath know, so that your runner up can attend. The Queen will also be expected to attend other pageants and parades. Ticket Queen, runners-up and high sales will be asked to ride in the grand entry each night of the rodeo and may also be asked to help during major events. A schedule of events will be provided to the Queen detailing her duties outside of the pageant.

If you are selected Fair Queen, you are not permitted to consume alcohol or smoke during any part of the Fair. Breaking this rule will permit the runner-up to assume the role of Austin County Fair Queen. The Queen and Runner-ups, or anyone wearing a sash representing their time participating in the pageant, must behave in a manner that reflects good morals and appropriate behavior. During the Fair, you will be expected to dress in a manner that reflects the atmosphere of the Fair, this includes no short skirts, short shorts, midriff baring shirts, etc. Should the Fair Queen be unable to complete her duties, the runner-up would be asked to accept the position of Fair Queen. Additionally, the winner of the Fair Queen pageant will forfeit her right to future entries in the Fair Queen pageant and would not be eligible to receive the Queen Scholarship.

7. Candidate **MUST** represent herself in an appropriate and positive manner through **ALL** forms of social media. All Candidates social media will be monitored, if there is any inappropriate activity this will be an automatic disqualification. There will be no negative comments about other candidates, organizations or Fair affiliates. **This behavior will not be tolerated. Additionally, the winner of the Fair Queen pageant will forfeit her right, and the right to future entries in the Fair Queen pageant and would not be eligible to receive the Queen Scholarship.**
8. Selling of tickets is mandatory. In order for the candidate to be judged, she is required to sell at least \$2,500 worth of advance gate season tickets. **Absolutely no pre-sales of advance tickets are allowed! Tickets may only be sold after they are received at orientation! If unused tickets or ticket money is not turned in by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 4, 2024, the candidate will not be allowed to participate in the pageant.**

Please also have any pictures used for ticket posters pre-approved by the fair office or Shannon, and bring a completed poster to the fair office for approval before posting. No pictures or posters deemed inappropriate or unbefitting a queen candidate will be approved.

9. All candidates are required to ride on the Queen's and candidates float in the parade on **Thursday, October 10, 2024**, unless you are in the band, cheerleader, etc. Your Supporter(s) cannot provide a vehicle for you to ride on during the parade.

Please wear appropriate clothing, you may wear a dress, jeans or an appropriate shirt. **No formal dresses!!!** No midriff shirts will be allowed. You will wear your Supporter(s) banner. Flowers are optional-bouquets are not provided by the Austin County Fair Association, but may be provided by a Supporter(s), family or friend and carried on the float.

The theme for this year's parade is "Rock Around the Stock".

10. Candidates will be furnished with a full schedule of meetings/events/due dates as well as any additional requirements for each meeting/event/due date. If these events cannot be attended, Shannon Hanath, Chairman **MUST BE NOTIFIED**, and the Fair office emailed. The Chairman, will review the cause for absence and determine if it is an excused/allowable absence. Candidates can have no more than two (2) excused absences to remain eligible. **All deadlines will be strictly enforced.** If a deadline is missed, or an unexcused absence occurs, the candidate will be disqualified from pageant.
11. A pre-pageant commitment that cannot be missed is the Austin County Fair Shrimp Boil and Kick-off. Candidates will wear their Supporter(s) sashes, help with the event and be introduced. Please wear Western Attire (jeans, appropriate top, western dress, boots, hat). Press will be there for pictures.

There will also be a rehearsal closer to the pageant and this practice is **MANDATORY!!** If you miss the rehearsal, you may not participate in the pageant. Wear casual clothes and bring the shoes you will be wearing for the pageant to practice in. We will work on where you will stand, what you will say to the audience, how to walk, etc.

12. Handwritten thank you notes will be written from each candidate on a predetermined day during the week of the fair, either Thursday or Friday and returned to Shannon Hanath with a pre-stamped envelope. The Chairman will handle the mailing of the notes.

This will be a fun event. We will have food and drinks.

13. The candidates will be allowed to set up a table (card size table; round or square) and decorate it to fit what they like. It needs to have pictures of the candidate displayed. These tables will be used also has gift tables. We will discuss this in greater detail at the Orientation meeting and toss around some ideas as to what the girls would like to do.

Pageant.

The first portion of the pageant is interview. Interview sessions will be held beginning at **2:00 PM** the day of the pageant. Candidates will wear dressy casual clothing.

The interview is with a panel of three judges for approximately 10 minutes. They will ask you questions that you will need to have a SOLUTION TO OR AN IDEA ABOUT.

For example, "What do you think about?", or "What would you do if?". You may be asked about current events, so watch the news and read the paper. Again, you will be asked your opinion on subjects. The interview portion counts for 40% of your score.

Judges will all be selected from outside of Austin County.

Judges will not give candidate feedback.

Candidates may choose to either 1) have their hair or makeup done at a place other than the fairgrounds, or 2) have someone come to do their hair at the fairgrounds. I will try and have someone help with hair and makeup if needed. If the candidate chooses to have their hair done offsite, they must be back at the fairgrounds no later than 2:30 p.m. If the candidate chooses to have their hair done at the fairgrounds, the hair stylist must be finished by 3:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., the door to the preparation room will be locked, and no one will be allowed in or out, except for candidate interviews. Be sure to have everything you need upstairs by that time. **DO NOT BE LATE!!! NO PARENTS, FRIENDS, ETC. WILL BE ALLOWED UPSTAIRS THE DAY OF THE PAGEANT AFTER 3:00 P.M.**

****** I'd like to have some snacks or light food and drinks (water, tea or lemonade) for the candidates to be able to eat and drink before the pageant. I'll have a sign-up sheet at Orientation Meeting.**

The second portion of the pageant is evening wear. For the pageant you will wear an evening dress and accessories. All dresses worn in the pageant must be pre-approved by Shannon Hanath or Kerri Spykes, with **no exceptions**. A dress must be approved to be worn onstage (no substitutions). Dresses may be long or short in length, but no short, short dresses. No low-cut dresses (front or back) or high cut slits are acceptable, and crop tops, "wrap around" mesh or such will be allowed. No accessories other than those attached to you (jewelry or hair pieces) will be allowed, such as scarves. You will be judged on poise, personality, and appearance. The M.C. will then ask you a question from the 10 questions that you previously submitted. There will be 5-10 finalists selected, depending on the number of girls in the pageant. At that point, the MC will ask each of the finalists a question that she randomly selects out of a bowl. These questions will be written by the judges and will not be known before pageant time by the candidates. The score from the interview is then added to the score from the on-stage portion of the pageant, and the queen and runners-up are announced. There will also be a Ticket Queen and Ticket Queen Runner Up selected based on ticket sales, as well as a Miss Congeniality chosen during a vote by the candidates of the pageant. In case of a tie for Miss Congeniality, the judges will break the tie.

At the conclusion of the pageant, an outside auditor with no affiliation with the ACF or it's Queen's pageant will triple check the tabulations. If there is a discrepancy, the Chairman will be notified and will be handled accordingly. If no tabulation mistakes have been made, the independent auditor will sign and seal the envelopes, which will remain sealed until announced.

FOLLOWING THE PAGEANT, ALL PAPERWORK WILL BE DESTROYED. THIS INCLUDES THE JUDGES' SCORESHEETS, COMMENTS, TABULATION SHEETS AND RANKING SHEETS. NO CANDIDATE OR PARENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO REVIEW THESE, IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS AND JUDGE/CANDIDATE CONFIDENTIALITY.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GIFTS – The Fair Queen and Ticket Queen will receive a scholarship of \$2,000 each upon entering college or trade school. The Fair Queen Runner Up and Ticket Queen Runner Up will receive a \$1,500 scholarship upon entering college or trade school. Each girl who sells over \$3,000 worth of admission tickets will receive a \$100 gift (it is the responsibility of the contestant to contact the fair office to get their \$100 gift). The Queen will receive a crown, leather sash, flowers, and a custom Queen's ring, along with a belt buckle. The Ticket Queen will receive a crown, leather sash, flowers, a custom Queen's ring, and a belt buckle as well. First runner up will receive a banner and flowers. Other runners-up will receive flowers.

Scholarship recipients must adhere to the following:

1. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled as full-time students and maintain a minimum course load of 12 semester hours (fall or spring semester) at an approved and accredited college, university or trade school and must maintain a minimum grade point average/ratio each semester of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent. Failure to complete 12 semester hours per regular semester may be grounds for termination.
2. Scholarship recipients must notify the Austin County Fair Association immediately upon deciding which college, university, or accredited trade school they will attend, or changes in school, major, address and other pertinent information needed to keep the student's file up to date. Scholarships will be paid directly to the recipient's institution of education; hardcopy forms must be provided by the institution with the recipient's name, grades, and schedule on them in order for the money to be distributed. All correspondence and information should be sent to: Austin County Fair Association, P.O. Box 141, Bellville, Texas 77418 979- 865-5995
3. Scholarship recipients must submit a copy of their grade report to the Austin County Fair Association no later than six weeks after the conclusion of their first college semester.
4. Failure to enroll in the selected college, university or accredited trade school for a fall or spring semester will be considered grounds for termination. Inactive status (staying out of school for a designated time) may be requested by the recipient. In such cases, the Austin County Fair Association Scholarship Committee will handle the matter on an individual basis and subsequently will approve or disapprove the request based on the unique circumstances involved.
5. Failure to comply or conform to the policies stated herein will be considered grounds for termination. Scholarship funds accepted by the recipient while in violation of stated policy must be repaid in full immediately upon receiving notification. Hardship cases, which result in a deviation from stated policy, will be considered and dealt with on an individual basis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

By signing below, we acknowledge to that we have received a copy of the rules and code of conduct associated with this pageant, and we have read and understand the rules and code of conduct provided and agree to abide by them.

Candidate Signature _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____



Dear Queen Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in the 2024 Austin County Fair Queen's Pageant! We look forward to your participation and would like to inform you of some key dates.

There will be a **Mandatory** orientation meeting for Queen Candidates on **Wednesday, July 17th at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Austin County Fair Expo Center**. If there is some reason you will be unable to attend due to a school function, please notify me immediately so other arrangements can be made.

Other pre-pageant commitments include attending the Austin County Fair Shrimp Boil & Lineup Launch on **Friday, July 19th at 5:30 p.m.** Candidates will wear their Supporter(s) sashes, help with the event, and will be introduced. Additionally, the Candidates are expected to help at the Sr. Citizen Luncheon on **Wednesday, October 9th at 9:00 a.m.** and ride on the Fair Queen's float in the parade on **Thursday, October 10th** and to help with the Livestock Auction on **Friday, October 11th at 10:00 a.m.** and Country Store Auction on **Saturday, October 12th at 1:00 p.m.**

Once you have the proper paperwork completed, you will receive a packet with the fair tickets for you to sell. **No candidate will be allowed to check out more than 100 Season Passes per day.** Money for previous season passes sold must be turned in before receiving additional season passes. If you do need more tickets, please come by the fair office and pick up more. Absolutely no pre-sales of Advance Season tickets will be permitted; candidates may not begin selling the tickets until they are received at Orientation.

Any unsold tickets and money **MUST** be turned into the Fair Office by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4th** in order to compete in the Queen's Pageant. Deadline day is much easier if you turn ticket money in periodically. **Please note that the fair office will be available to take tickets and/or ticket money on Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** If possible, please have your unsold tickets and money turned in before **Friday, October 4th** to avoid congestion near the deadline.

Finally, pictures that you want to use on your posters and your final poster **MUST** be approved at the fair office before being printed.

REMEMBER, the following MUST be turned in on or before :

Application - September 6th

Recommendation Letter - September 6th

Questions - September 6th

Supporter's Fee - July 17th

Signed Consent Form / Acknowledgement of Rules and Code of Conduct - July 17th

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions:

Kerri Spykes
Austin County Fair Association
979-865-5995
kerri.spykes@austincountyfair.com

Shannon Hanath
Queen's Contest Chairman
832-715-1639 Cell
s_hanath@yahoo.com

2024 AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PAGEANT CONSENT FORM

I hereby consent and agree to compete in the 2024 Austin County Fair Queen pageant, and will not hold the Austin County Fair Association responsible for any liability for bodily injury or any other damage or loss sustained or suffered while a participant in any of the events in conjunction with the Austin County Fair Association or as a representative of the Austin County Fair Association.

It is agreed that by signing this release, permission is granted to use any pictures for video presentation, catalog, newspaper or web page without compensation or prior permission of candidate.

It is also agreed that by signing this release, financial responsibility is assumed for any Austin County Fair Tickets that have been checked out to sell and it is understood that either the tickets or the money must be turned into the Austin County Fair no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4th.

Signature of Candidate

Date

Name (please print)

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Name (please print)

Telephone Number

Address



2024 AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR QUEEN'S PAGEANT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, July 17th
6 p.m. / Austin County Expo Building

Mandatory Orientation Meeting
Candidates, Parent(s) / and / or Guardian(s)

Friday, July 19th
5:30 p.m. / Austin County Expo Building

Shrimp Boil/Kick Off

Friday, September 6th
5 p.m. / Fair Office

Deadline for Application Submission

Sunday, September 29th
6 p.m. / Austin County Expo Building

Mandatory Rehearsal
Candidates only. Dinner will be provided.

Monday, September 30th
12 p.m

Grade Check for Eligibility

Friday, October 4th
5 p.m. / Fair Office

Deadline to turn in Tickets/Money
NO EXCEPTIONS!

**** Saturday, October 5th Pageant Day ****

2:00 p.m. **Candidate Interviews Begin**

3:00 p.m. **Preparation Room is Locked**

5:30 p.m. **Queen's Pageant Begins!**

Wednesday, October 9th
9:00 a.m. / Austin County Expo Building

Sr. Citizen Luncheon

Thursday, October 10th
9:00 a.m. / TBD

Report to Parade Location

Friday, October 11th
10:00 a.m. / Austin County Expo Building

Livestock Auction

Saturday, October 12th
1:00 p.m. / Austin County Expo Building

Country Store Auction

Please call Shannon Hanath at 832-715-1639 if you have any conflicts!



2024 FAIR QUEEN CANDIDATE SUPPORTER

Business Name or Individual Name

will donate _____ to the 2024 Austin County Fair Association. **Donation is payable with acceptance of support of the candidate.**

Forms are due at the Mandatory Meeting on July 17th by 6:00 p.m.

Supporters will be recognized on the candidate’s ticket poster. Supporters are encouraged to attend the Austin County Shrimp Boil / Kick Off on July 19, 2024 at the Austin County Expo Building. The cost of tickets will be posted on Austin County Fair website and Facebook. The candidates will be in attendance helping and will be introduced at that time.

Business Name or Individual Name

Address

Phone Number

Supporter Signature

Date

Candidate Signature

Date

Accepted Austin County Fair Office Staff

Date

*****Checks Payable to Austin County Fair Association



2024 AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR QUEEN PAGEANT

The Austin County Fair Queen / Ticket Queen Pageant provides High School girls the opportunity to vie for the title of Austin County Fair Queen / Ticket Queen, receive scholarships and awards, and present candidates with an opportunity for training and development in the areas of etiquette, public speaking, and teamwork.

WHAT DO I GET?

The Fair Queen and Ticket Queen will receive a scholarship of \$2,000 each upon entering college or trade school. The Fair Queen Runner Up and Ticket Queen Runner Up will receive a \$1,500 scholarship upon entering college or trade school. Each girl who sells over \$3,000 worth of admission tickets will receive a \$100 gift (it is the responsibility of the contestant to contact the fair office to get their \$100 gift). The Queen will receive a hat with crown, leather sash, flowers, and a custom Queen's ring, along with a belt buckle. The Ticket Queen will receive a hat with crown, leather sash, flowers, a custom Queen's ring, and a belt buckle as well. First runner up will receive a banner and flowers. Other runners-up will receive flowers.

WHY SHOULD I?

When you become Fair Queen or Ticket Queen, you just don't get a sash and crown. It comes with responsibilities. It is your duty and the other candidates to work at the auctions, luncheon, pass out awards, congratulate exhibitors and help the community. Through this work you will see more of the Austin County Fair than ever before and see the hard work that goes into it.

You are a role model, you will have many eyes watching you, young and older. As Fair Queen or Ticket Queen you can expect little kids wanting to talk to you or take pictures with you. Who knows you may even inspire them to want to be a Queen one year.

You will also have life long memories. You will cherish the connections and your new friends because of the experience and the new appreciation of the Fair you will have.

INTERESTED?

Go to the Austin County Fair website and print off a packet or reach out to one of us below and we will get you one:

Kerri Spykes
Austin County Fair Association
979-865-5995
kerri.spykes@austincountyfair.com

Shannon Hanath
Queen's Contest Chairman
832-715-1639 Cell
s_hanath@yahoo.com

**WE WILL HAVE A MANDATORY ORIENTATION MEETING ON
JULY 17TH AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR EXPO
CENTER FOR THE CANDIDATES AND PARENTS!!
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**