



The North Carolina Rhododendron Festival, Inc.
Celebrating the world's largest rhododendron gardens atop
beautiful Roan Mountain

NORTH CAROLINA RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL PAGEANT APPLICATION

Applications are being accepted for the North Carolina Rhododendron Festival Pageant. The pageant will be held June 19-20, 2026, at Bowman Middle School in Bakersville, North Carolina. This will be our 79th North Carolina Rhododendron Festival.

Application Deadline: May 15, 2026

Divisions

Senior Queen Division

- Ages 17-22
- Entry Fee: \$175
- Queen Scholarship: \$5000

Junior Queen Division

- Ages 8-12
- Entry Fee \$125
- Jr. Queen Scholarship: \$1500

Competitions

Interview 40%

Talent 30%

Evening Gown 10%

On-stage Promotional
Speech 10%

Swimsuit 10%

Interview 40%

Talent 30%

Evening Gown 20%

On-stage Promotional
Speech 10%

Interview: Senior division-10 minutes. Junior division-7 minutes. More information will be provided in the contestant packet.

Talent: Length of talent routine not to exceed 2.5 minutes (150 seconds). Music must be emailed to Beth Brewer at bethbrewer91@yahoo.com in an MP3 file. The file should only contain the music being used for talent. Please bring a backup copy of your music.

Evening Gown: Full-length.

On-stage Promotion Speech: Contestant will present a 90-second promotional speech about the NC Rhododendron Festival. More information will be provided in the contestant packet.

Swimsuit: One-piece or two-piece. Swimsuit bottom must be full-coverage. Please bring your swimsuit to registration.

-Age divisions are determined by the age as of the date of the pageant. Senior Queen contestants must be a high school graduate and not turn 23 prior to July 1, 2026. Junior Queen contestants shall not turn 13 prior to July 1, 2026. Proof of age may be required.

-If a late application is approved, a \$25 late fee will be added.

-Entry fees are non-refundable, unless otherwise approved.

-Contestant numbers will be limited to 20 in each age division and will be considered for acceptance in the order in which they are received.

Contestant Information

The North Carolina Rhododendron Festival Queens serve as representatives of the NC Rhododendron Festival, Bakersville, and Roan Mountain. The title of North Carolina Rhododendron Queen carries the responsibility of promoting the Festival, Roan Mountain, and Bakersville. Queens are required to travel across the state of North Carolina while attending festivals, parades, and making appearances throughout the calendar year. Queens, parents, and the pageant business manager will meet after the pageant (date TBA) for a contract signing. A schedule of events and appearances will be provided at contract signing. Failure to participate in required appearances can result in loss of scholarship monies and/or revocation of the title.

The North Carolina Rhododendron Festival title is a closed title. If a contestant currently holds a title, this title must be relinquished upon being crowned as a North Carolina Rhododendron Festival Queen. The North Carolina Rhododendron Festival queens cannot participate in or compete for another title during their reign.

All contestants must be legal, full-time residents of the State of North Carolina and citizens of the United States of America.

If, for any reason, the winner cannot fulfill her obligation as a North Carolina Rhododendron Festival Queen, she must relinquish her crown, all prizes, and awards to the first runner-up.

Contestant Requirements During Festival

All contestants must be accompanied by an adult chaperone throughout the weekend. Any chaperone who is not a parent/legal guardian of the contestant must be approved by the pageant director prior to the Festival.

All contestants must be present for mandatory registration and rehearsal activities on **Thursday, June 18**. Upon receipt of the application, a schedule with specific times will be provided.

All contestants must attend the Rhododendron Street Dance on **Friday, June 19**, after the pageant competition.

All contestants are encouraged to participate in the Rhododendron Craft Fair during the weekend.

Further details regarding these activities will be provided in the contestant packet once application and fees are received.

Contact Information

Pageant Director: Beth Brewer 828-766-5773 rhodobeth@gmail.com

Business Manager: Sharon Webb 828-385-0133 peroan02@gmail.com

Festival Website: ncrhododendronfestival.org

Application Submission

The submitted application will be included in judges' packets, as is. Please ensure the application is typed or written legibly.

Please make checks payable to: North Carolina Rhododendron Festival

Include a headshot suitable for the pageant program and newspaper. Digital photos (jpeg format) can be emailed to Beth Brewer at rhodobeth@gmail.com

Contestant photos must be received by May 15 for inclusion in pageant programs and other promotional media.

Please mail the application to:

North Carolina Rhododendron Festival

PO Box 407

Bakersville, NC 28705

**The North Carolina Rhododendron Festival Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any application. The festival committee also reserves the right to cancel the pageant due to COVID-19.

**NORTH CAROLINA RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL PAGEANT
CONTESTANT INFORMATION – PART 1**

NAME: _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **Zip:** _____

BIRTH DATE: ____/____/____

PHONE: _____

E-mail: _____

SPONSOR: _____

TEE SHIRT SIZE (Please circle)

Youth Medium - Youth Large - Adult Small - Adult Medium - Adult Large

PERSONAL STATISTICS:

Height: _____

Eye Color: _____ **Hair Color:** _____

CONTESTANT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

NORTH CAROLINA RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL PAGEANT

CONTESTANT INFORMATION – PART 2

CONTESTANT NAME: _____

PAGEANT EXPERIENCE:

BRIEF TALENT DESCRIPTION:

TITLE OF MUSIC:

TALENT TRAINING:

NORTH CAROLINA RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL PAGEANT

CONTESTANT INFORMATION – PART 3

FAMILY INFORMATION:

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:

HOBBIES:

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT YOU:

(PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NEEDED)