



Matagorda County Civic Organizations and Interested Individuals

RE: 2026 Rice Festival Queen's Pageant

The Bay City Lions Club is excited to announce the Rice Festival Queen's Pageant will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 7 pm. We hope the Pageant will be great once again! Scholarships totaling over \$5,750.00 will be awarded.

We ask your help in sponsoring local young ladies who meet the qualifications enclosed.

**The deadline for submitting entries for the contest is Wednesday, September 23rd. All pictures must be taken by God's Creations Photography BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23RD! Please do NOT wait until the last minute to make your appointment to get your picture taken.** Appointment times are only guaranteed on September 3rd - 1PM-5PM and September 13th - 1PM-5PM. The applications may be hand delivered to Shelly Grimes at Bay City High School, Tamara Davant at Tidehaven High School, Veronica Kacer at Palacios High School, Lauren Krasucky at Van Vleck High School, or to the office of Ryan Ricks at 2139 Avenue G, Suite 8 Bay City, Texas 77414.

It is possible that we may not reach every interested organization or individual with this mailing. If you know of others interested in being a sponsor, please pass this information to them or have them call me at the number listed below. The schools' counselors have received the same information and have been asked to pass them out to all qualified girls interested. Hopefully we will not miss any girl that would like to participate in the pageant.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 979-245-4261 or 801-800-7214.

Thank you for supporting the young ladies of our county.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ricks  
Chairman, Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queen's  
Pageant 801-800-7214



Dear School Counselor,

It is nearly time for the Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queen's Pageant. We will be giving scholarships totaling over \$5,750.00 to the girls selected queen, first, second, third and fourth runners-up. Your help is needed in getting the information out to all the **2026-2027 Senior** girls in your school. Please distribute the information packets, including Entry Forms, Qualification and Policy Statement to all the girls. Please note we are again asking that the 100 word contestant bios be submitted by email, rather than hard copy.

This year's contest events are as follows: The Contestant Seminar will be Thursday, September 24th. We will have a rehearsal for the Pageant on the evening of October 8th. The Queen's Tea will be held the Saturday morning of the 10th, and the Queen's Pageant will be that evening.

**The deadline for entry is Wednesday, September 23, 2026.** Please accept the applications at your school. I can pick them up from you personally on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning.

Once again the Bay City Lions Club thanks you for your help in getting the information to the girls and making our Queen's Pageant a success.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ricks  
Chairman, Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queen's Pageant  
801-800-7214



Dear Senior 2026/2027:

I'm glad you have chosen to join us at the 2026 Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queen's Pageant. Your participation ensures a successful Rice Festival. I look forward to meeting you and working with you during the contest.

Your application to the Queen's Contest has 4 parts, which are all due on or before September 23, 2026.

**1) Professional Headshot** - These photos are used in the program and for the Photogenic Event of the Pageant. They are generously donated by God's Creations Photography (979-479-1838), 2815 7th St, Bay City, TX 77414). Appointment times are set aside on September 3rd - 1PM-5PM and September 13th - 1PM-5PM. Please don't wait to schedule because appointments after those dates may be available but are not guaranteed.

**2) Contestant Introduction** - Your 100-word introduction should be emailed to the Pageant Director at rrix90@gmail.com on or before September 24, 2025. Information must include name, parents or guardians, sponsor, and school. Introduction may include hobbies, clubs & organizations, special awards, and future plans. This should be written in third person and must not exceed 100 words.

**3) Entry Fee-** You should find a sponsor to pay the \$250 entry fee. Your sponsor will be listed in the program and announced during the Pageant. This can be an individual person, like a family member, or a business. Please include the entry fee with your entry form. We might be able to help find a sponsor if necessary.

**4) Entry Form** - This should be filled out and submitted on or before September 23, 2026

The entry form and entry fee may be hand delivered to Shelly Grimes at Bay City High School, Tamara Davant at Tidehaven High School, Veronica Kacer at Palacios High School, Lauren Krasucky at Van Vleck High School, or to the office of Ryan Ricks at 2139 Avenue G, Suite 8, Bay City 77414.

Please be sure you mark your calendar with all the dates we will be meeting. If you have any questions or need further explanation about any part of the pageant process you may contact Ryan Ricks at 979-245-4261 or 801-800-7214 or the Pageant Director, Rachel Ricks, at 503-460-7983.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ricks  
Chairman, Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queen's  
Pageant 801-800-7214

# BAY CITY LIONS CLUB

## RICE FESTIVAL

### 2026 Queen's Pageant Schedule

#### **Thursday, September 24, 2026 – Seminar - Hardeman Park Building**

**5:00 pm** Informational seminar for contestants

Casual clothing Please bring your heels practice in.

**Contestants only** are to attend this function.

During the seminar, you will draw your contestant number for the pageant and review important contestant information.

The seminar will make you more comfortable about the interviews and pageant. We strongly encourage all contestants to attend.

#### **Thursday, October 8, 2026 - Rehearsal- Keye Ingram Auditorium - BCJHS**

**5:00 pm- 7:00 pm** Rehearsal in the theater.

Casual clothing- Consider bringing your heels for practice.

This rehearsal is important for all contestants to attend! We will walk through the entire order of the pageant, including introductions, stage positioning and back stage responsibilities. This is also your chance to practice the modeling walk on the stage.

#### **Saturday, October 10, 2026 - Queen's Tea - Bay City Country Club**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm** Queen's Tea and Contestant Interviews

Business Attire - The tea is an opportunity for the contestants and the club to get to know each other. 1-3 supportive guests are invited to join each contestant. During the tea, the judges will choose the Most Photogenic and complete interviews.

Each contestant will spend up to five minutes with the judges. Contestants must be present until after group photos have been taken and their Miss Congeniality vote is cast.

Lions Club will provide finger foods and refreshments.

#### **Saturday, October 10, 2026 - Pageant- Keye Ingram Auditorium - BCJHS**

**5:30 pm** PAGEANT PREPARATION (doors open to public at 6:30, pageant begins at 7:00)

Report to the auditorium **in your gown** for the opening ceremonies. No need to change during the pageant. Group photos will be taken on stage before the pageant starts and thus will begin the judging of the gowns. **DO NOT BE LATE.**

**BAY CITY LIONS CLUB**  
**RICE FESTIVAL QUEEN'S PAGEANT 2026**  
**QUALIFICATIONS AND POLICY STATEMENT**

1. The contestant must be a single female, not have been married or had a marriage annulled, had no children, and must remain single during her reign or forfeit her crown.
2. The contestant must be a full time high school senior, must be younger than 21 years old, as of December 1, of the pageant year (2026) and must be a resident of Matagorda County or attend high school in Matagorda County.
3. **The contestant must have a sponsor to pay their \$250 Entry Fee.** The sponsor may be a civic club, business, non-profit organization, or individual. Each contestant's sponsor will be listed on materials such as the Rice Festival program and during the Queen's Pageant. **We can assist you in finding a sponsor if needed.**
4. A completed **Entry Form with the entry fee** must be received on or before **Wednesday, September 23, 2026.** Entry fee: \$250 (payable to the Bay City Lions Club)
5. A **Contestant Introduction** should be emailed to the Pageant Director at [rrix90@gmail.com](mailto:rrix90@gmail.com) on or before September 24, 2025. Information must include name, parents, sponsor, and school. Introduction may include hobbies, clubs & organizations, special awards, and future plans. This should be written in third person and **must not** exceed 100 words. Introductions not meeting these criteria may be edited.
6. Any entry received without photos and entry fee will be considered incomplete and will be returned.
7. **Photos required** (Color, shoulders or bust only – no profiles). – All pictures must be taken by God's Creations Photography (Contact at 979-479-1838, 1820 6th St, Bay City, TX 77414), **BEFORE September 23!** Please do NOT wait until the last minute to make your appointment to get your picture taken. Time has been set aside on Sept. 3rd - 1PM-5PM and September 13th - 1PM-5PM. No other dates are guaranteed to be available, but you may be able to make other appointments.
8. The contestant must be of good moral character and never have been convicted of any crime, with the exception of Class C traffic offenses.
9. If the contestant violates the Controlled Substance Penal Code Act, she will be disqualified from this contest.
10. It must be understood that there will be no financial remuneration for transportation expenses to and from Bay City.
11. Former Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queens and Contestants are ineligible.
12. The contestant must attend all functions that are listed as required on an information sheet to be provided to all contestants.
13. It is required that the contestant ride in transportation provided for her in the Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Parade, on the following Saturday, October 24, 2026.
14. The contestant that is crowned Queen of the Bay City Lions Rice Festival must be available to attend any public event for festivities to represent the Bay City Lions Club during the year that the Club deems necessary.
15. **Entries may be delivered to your high school counselor or hand delivered to Ryan Ricks 2139 Avenue G, Suite 8, Bay City, Texas.**
16. Scholarship money will be awarded as follows:

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Queen:                    | \$2,250.00 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-Up | \$1,500.00 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up | \$1,000.00 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Runner-Up | \$750.00   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Runner-Up | \$500.00   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

*Participant's* Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (Contact person/organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

## Clubs & Organizations

Special Awards \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby agrees that if she is selected as Rice Festival Queen, 1) she will cooperate to the best of her ability in all publicity decided on by the Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queen's Committee, and 2) if she violates any part of the "Qualifications and Policy Statement", she will forfeit her crown. It is further agreed that the undersigned, if under age, has the full consent of her parents or legal guardian to enter the contest. If under age, an advertising release from the parents or guardian giving full consent to use photographs for advertising and publicity is given herewith.

Permission is hereby granted to the Bay City Lions Club Rice Festival Queen's Committee to use photographs and other important information in the contest in news stories in advance of the contest finals, and to crop or trim such photographs when necessary for reproduction.

|                         |      |                              |      |
|-------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
| Signature of Contestant | Date | Signature of Parent/Guardian | Date |
|-------------------------|------|------------------------------|------|

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Signature of Sponsor | Date |
|----------------------|------|

Hand deliver to: ☐ OR ☐ Hand deliver to your high school counselor.

Ryan Ricks  
2139 Ave G, Suite 8  
Bay City, Texas