



Welcome!

The committee is excited to meet you and wish to be the first to welcome you to the Riley Festival Pageant. You are joining a group of strong, intelligent, and brave young ladies who have vied for this title since the 70's. You likely have a lot of questions, most of which will be answered on the following pages and on the application. First and foremost - this will be fun.

The most common feedback we receive after the pageant is how surprised contestants are that they made life-long friends, and how much fun they had despite the fact that it is a competition. Additionally - the pageant helps you build your network! Committee members and chairpersons often stay in touch and make connections when needed. Next - the pageant. Don't panic just yet, we'll guide you every step of the way and provide resources to prepare you for the whole process.

If you use the resources provided, practice, and prepare you'll be confident when it's time to shine. Last, remember what this is about - your chance to represent the home you love, and the town that celebrates its most famous resident each year in October. You'll get the chance to talk about that hometown pride (and show your knowledge of Mr. Riley) during the interview.

So get a head start and read up on the notorious JWR, you'll be glad you did. We suggest starting with this year's theme poem "Nine Little Goblins". To get things moving - start by reviewing the next few pages of information. It is critical that you can comply with the eligibility requirements and expectation of attendance during the Festival.

Prizes

Queen - \$1,000

Princess - \$500

Court Members (3) - \$250

Miss Congeniality (voted on by the contestants) - \$150

All Court Members receive a sash & flowers.

The Queen and Princess receive a tiara in a size commensurate with the title.

Hitachi Astemo Greenfield, LLC (Formerly Keihin IPT) is a long-time sponsor and supporter of this pageant. Without their generosity this pageant wouldn't be possible. A representative from the sponsor will attend the pageant and choose a Personal Choice Winner to be awarded a small monetary prize during the pageant.

Eligibility

- Must be at least 17 years of age by the date of the pageant and can not have had her 20th birthday as of September 1st.
- Must be unmarried, never have been married, cannot have a child, be pregnant, or be suspended or expelled from school at the time of the Riley Festival Queen Pageant and during the Festival.
- Must be a resident of Hancock County, Indiana or attend a Hancock County High School for at least one full school year.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: Friday, September 5th

Workshop+ Rehearsal: Sunday, September 14th - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Preliminaries & Pageant: Sunday, September 28th - 1:00pm to 8:00pm

All events will be held at H.J. Ricks Centre for the Arts, 122 W. Main, Greenfield IN 46140.

Specific times may be altered depending on the number of contestants and potential restrictions of group sizes. We will do our best to adhere to the schedule above.

Family & Friends may attend the pageant; which is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm.

The Festival is October 2 – 5, 2025.

Expectations

- Contestants are required to be present at 2 events; Workshop/Rehearsal, Preliminary Judging and the Pageant.
The workshop is on Sunday, September 14th and the pageant will be Sunday, September 28th.
- Contestants will be responsible for their own clothing, which includes interview attire, a formal gown, personal choice outfit, and items for an opening number (typically jeans + sneakers).
- Guidance regarding appropriate dress, make-up, interview format, stage presence, and more will all be provided at the workshop or before using digital media such as email, video, and calls.
- Preliminary judging is closed to the public. Parents/guardians will not be permitted on site until the actual pageant in the evening. Committee members will be available to assist contestants.
- The contestants will be judged on interview, poise, personality and application forms. Forms need to be typed or printed completely and neatly and submitted via email or through the website.

After the Pageant:

- The Queen and her court must be available to participate in key events of the Riley Festival including: Opening Night Ceremony, Children's Parade of Flowers, James Whitcomb Riley Breakfast, Riley Festival Parade, and the Christmas Parade (when applicable).
- The Queen and her court will be requested to attend activities during the Riley Festival and events associated with their reign. The Queen and Court are typically at the Festival 80% of the time it is open.
- The Queen must be willing to compete in the Indiana State Festivals Association Contest. If the Queen does not qualify for the State Pageant, the next qualified court member (Princess first) will compete.
- To compete in the IN State Festival Association Scholarship Pageant, the Riley Festival Queen must meet all requirements as set by the Indiana State Festival Association pageant rules and regulations.
- The Riley Festival Queen must be accompanied by a Riley Festival Board Member and a female chaperone (typically a mother, grandmother, or the chairperson) to the Indiana State Festival Association Conference.

Questions are welcome and encouraged – we want this to be a great experience! Below are a few contacts if needed; we are all here to help. Co-Chairs for the Pageant:

Christa Pike – christapike@gmail.com, 317- 416-3837 & Katrina Greene – kgreeneww@gmail.com, 317-443-8135 If preferred, you can complete this application online by clicking the link below, use the QR code below to complete the application on your phone. **Online Application Link: [CLICK HERE](#)**





Pageant Application:

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name / Nickname: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

School/University Currently Attending: _____

Year / Grade: _____ Age as of September 28st, 2025 _____

Parent / Guardian's Names: _____

*List names as you would want them to appear in the newspaper

T-Shirt Size: _____

Contestant Information:

List any clubs or organizations in which you have recently participated in (high school/college) and include # of years in each:

List any honors or achievements earned recently (High School / College)

List any non-school or community service projects you have been involved in in the past 4 years:

List any hobbies, talents or special interests:

What are you plans for the future?

Why have you chosen to participate in the Riley Festival Pageant?

If someone gave you \$500 to use for a community project or special charity of your choice, how would you use the funds and why?
