

2026 MISS Cumberland County Fair Queen Pageant General Rules and Regulations

1. Young ladies that have held the “Miss” title in another Illinois county fair are not eligible.
2. Age Requirements
 - a. Miss Cumberland County Fair Queen Pageant contestants must be a minimum of 16 years of age by August 12, 2026 and have not reached her 22nd birthday by January 1, 2027.
3. Contestants’ and/or parent/legal guardian must be a resident of Cumberland County for at least six months prior to pageant date. Miss Cumberland must reside with her parents/guardians, in a dorm, or an apartment with friends (living with a romantic partner is not allowed). The Queen and/or parent/legal guardian will remain a Cumberland County resident until retiring her title the following year.
4. Contestants must be a natural born female, must be single, never have been married or have had a marriage annulled; contestants can never have been pregnant. The Queen will not become engaged, married, and/or pregnant until after retiring her title the following year.
5. Contestants must be a U.S. citizen and must be of good moral character; never been convicted of a crime or have had any legal charges pending against them. Contestants should not have engaged in any activities that are characterized as dishonest, immoral or indecent.
6. Contestants will be judged in a four minute personal interview (35%), Speech and Communication (25%), On-Stage Pop Question (15%), and Stage Presence in evening gown (25%).
7. Contestants and/or Queen will not partake of illegal drugs. She will not partake of alcoholic beverages and will not smoke or vape at any time while representing the Cumberland County Fair.
8. All contestants and Queen will limit themselves to one hole/piercing on each ear lobe. All other piercings must be removed unless approved by the Pageant Director. Any and all tattoos must be covered up at all times during all events.
9. Contestants must obtain a “Sponsor” who will pay a \$75 entry fee (business or family). All fees are non-refundable.
10. REQUIRED Fundraising
 - a. Contestants are REQUIRED to complete a minimum of one “Fill My Crown”. The winners will be drawn pageant night (does not need to be present to win).
 - b. Contestants are REQUIRED to fill a table for the Music Bingo on Friday, July 17, 2026. Minimum of 6 people per table, \$20 a person.
 - c. Contestants are encouraged to support all fundraising including but not limited to Happy Ads, Fan Club t-shirts, and People’s Choice.

11. Contestants are REQUIRED to submit a minimum of one entry into the Art, Floral or Agriculture Halls.
12. Practices will be CLOSED practices. All cell phones will be turned off. Anything lost, stolen or damaged during pageant practices or the pageant are not the responsibility of the Cumberland County Fair Pageants, Pageant Director, Pageant Crew, or the Cumberland County Fair.
13. ALL Contestants are required to participate in clean up day at the fairgrounds on Saturday, July 25, 2026 from 8-11am unless other arrangements are made with the Pageant Director.
14. ALL contestants are required to attend and assist with various Cumberland County Fair events on August 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2026. A schedule will be established prior to fair week.
15. Parents/legal guardians of contestants will pay fairground entry fees when attending any and all fair events. The reigning Queen and 1 chaperone will be admitted at no charge.
16. Only the director and the assistants that have been appointed will be allowed in the dressing rooms or backstage pageant night. **No cell phones, smart watches or cameras backstage!!**
17. Contestants agree that the time, manner and method of conducting and judging the contest shall be the sole discretion of the pageant officials and that the decision of the judges is final.
18. Contestants and/or Queen will NOT defame the pageant, the Cumberland County Fair, the Pageant Director and/or committee, ANY of the pageant contestants, and/or ANY Cumberland County Fair Queen, past or present, through any action of their own, whether it is oral, written or physical, during or after the pageant.
19. Good sportsmanship and good manners are the hallmark of any potential Queen and as such will be expected from all contestants as well as their parents at all times. Demonstrations of poor sportsmanship or conduct will result in point deductions and/or disqualification from the pageant.

20. CLOTHING:

All clothing and shoes MUST be approved by the director by the set date! Changes in wardrobe without the Director's approval will result in point deductions.

Introduction: Pageant T-shirt (provided), denim blue jeans, shoe of your choice.

Interview & Speech: Business type dress, dress with jacket, skirt suit, or pantsuit. Shoulders must be covered. The hem line should be no more than 2 inches above the knee. Panty hose are required. There should be NO sparkle on this outfit! Keep accessories to a minimum.

Interview Shoes: Closed toe, at least 2 inches, taupe or black

Interview Makeup: Natural look. Stick with neutral colors.

Formal: floor length, no plunging necklines, slits no more than 5 inches above the knee, no cutouts, no two piece, back must be at natural waistline or above. If there is nude mesh on front or sides, it needs to be backed by colored fabric so that it no longer looks nude. Maximum of 5 bustles!!

Formal Shoes: No platforms higher than 1 inch

Stage Makeup: Natural look. Stick with neutral colors.

21. The newly crowned Queen will spend the week as the official hostess for the Cumberland County Fair. The Queen and a parent/legal guardian will be REQUIRED to help wherever needed during fair week. The Queen must be accompanied by an adult chaperone approved by the Pageant Director at all times during fair week.
22. The newly crowned Queen and a parent/legal guardian will attend the Queen's Reception following the pageant to receive gifts and instructions for fair week.
23. All personal appearances as a Cumberland County Fair Queen or a contestant of the pageants shall be approved in advance by the Pageant Director; as well as any photographic sessions and pictures released as a contestant or Queen of the Cumberland County Fair.
24. When making public appearances, no jeans are permitted without prior approval of the Pageant Director. The Queen will be expected to wear age appropriate, interview style clothing, hairstyle, and makeup to all events unless otherwise stated by the Pageant Director.
25. The Queen agrees to participate in events which may arise throughout the year. The Queen will be accompanied by the Pageant Director to and from these events.
26. The Queen will attend all mandatory events. These events are at the discretion of the Cumberland County Fair Board. Mandatory events include but are not limited to: all events during fair week, fall and spring flat drags and demolition derbys, Easter Egg Hunt, the 2027 pageant informational meetings, 2027 pageant practices, and 2027 pageants.
27. The Queen will attend Illinois State Fair County Fair Day in Springfield, Illinois on August 13, 2026 with the Pageant Director.
28. The Queen will assist in recruiting contestants for the 2027 pageants. The Queen will also help collect donations and prizes from area businesses for the 2027 Cumberland County Fair and pageants. This will be supervised by the Pageant Director or an approved chaperone.
29. While representing the Cumberland County Fair at any event, the Queen shall refrain from texting or talking on the cell phone unless excused by the director.
30. The Queen will abstain from public displays of affection during the weekend of the Cumberland County Fair and at all times she is representing the Cumberland County Fair.
31. Any and all photos and/or comments that appear on any social media network such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SnapChat, TikTok, etc. must be tasteful and reflect a positive image for the Queen, the Pageant, and the Fair. If a contestant or Queen is found out to have inappropriate pictures or comments she can/will be disqualified from the contest and/or the title can/will be taken away. The Queen agrees to have all social media accounts monitored during her reign. Any post in crown and sash must be pre-approved by the Pageant Director.

32. The Queen will not compete in any other pageant with the exception of the 2027 Miss Illinois County Fair queen pageant.
- a. The 2026 Miss Cumberland County Fair Queen will be required to compete in the 2027 Miss Illinois County Fair pageant to be held January 14-17, 2027 in Springfield, Illinois.
 - i. All clothing must be approved by the Cumberland County Fair Pageant Director
 1. Weekend outfits include but not limited to:
 - a. Jeans & comfy shoes
 - b. Business Outfit (at least 4) & Heels
 2. Competition outfits include:
 - a. Production dress (provided) & Heels
 - b. Interview Outfit & Heels
 - c. Swimsuit & Heels
 - d. Speech Dress & Heels
 - e. Formal & Heels
 - ii. All entry forms and photographs will be reviewed by the Cumberland County Fair Pageant Director and Fair Board before being submitted
 - iii. Introduction and speech must be approved by the Cumberland County Fair Pageant Director
 - iv. Will attend area pageants with the Cumberland County Fair Pageant Director as training for the Illinois County Fair pageant.
 - v. Will be accompanied at all times by an appointed pageant chaperone at the state pageant. Parents, family, and friends will have restricted contact per state rules.
33. The Queen will write thank-you notes by September 1, 2026 to individuals and businesses that performed a service or donated to the 2026 fair and/or pageants. All other thank-you notes throughout the year will be sent out within ten days of the event, gift, donation, etc.
34. The Miss Cumberland County Fair Queen's educational Scholarship fund will be awarded in September of the year following completion of the Queen's reign once proof of furthering education, attendance to college, or trade school is provided to the Pageant Director. Additional details will be included in the Queen's contract.
35. If for any reason the Queen cannot fulfill her duties and obligations as the reigning Queen or for any reason which the Pageant Director and/or Fair Board deems unacceptable of a Queen, she must relinquish the crown and title of Miss Cumberland County Fair, all privileges connected with said title, and return ALL gifts and cash prizes awarded.
36. These rules can and will be changed at any time by the Pageant Director and/or Fair Board when and if deemed necessary.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact
Pageant Director, Kim Starwalt at 217-201-9660 or Heather McCullough at 217-264-5129