



2026 Marion County Fair

Pageant Rules

1. Queen contestants must be at least 17 years of age on or before June 1, 2026 and each Queen contestant cannot have reached their 21st birthday on or before June 1, 2026.
2. Princess contestants must be at least 14 years of age on or before June 1, 2026 and each Princess contestant cannot have reached their 17th birthday on or before June 1, 2026.
3. All contestants must be female, and have never been married, have never been pregnant or be knowingly pregnant at the start of the pageant. If the selected court member marries or becomes pregnant during her reign of one year, she must relinquish her title and any prizes awarded immediately.
4. Each contestant must be of good standing in her community and not have any type of arrest record. Each contestant or selected court member will continue to be a person of good moral character who has not committed and will not commit any act inconsistent with the highest standards of public morals and conventions or that will reflect unfavorably on the Marion County Fair, its representatives, and/or sponsors. Contestants will not smoke, consume alcohol, or use illegal substances while representing Marion County or on fairgrounds property.
5. Any visible tattoos must be covered with clothing or makeup and any visible piercings must be without jewelry, except earlobes, during the pageant, any fair appearance or board approved event.
6. Each contestant must be a resident of Marion County and a legal U.S.citizen. One parent or legal guardian must be a Marion County resident.
7. No professional model will be considered eligible for the pageant. A professional model is one who earns her livelihood by modeling.

8. Each contestant must be an active member of at least one school or community organization; i.e., church group, Girl Scouts, 4-H, community service organizations. Eligibility is NOT limited to 4-H.

9. Former County Fair Queens are not eligible to enter.

10. All contestants or selected court members should give thoughtful consideration to their use of social media and be advised that the Marion County Fair Directors review all contestants' internet presence for appropriate online behavior. Any derogatory statements, pictures or videos will be passed on to the judges and points could be deducted or result in immediate disqualification, forfeiture of any and all prizes and awards.

11. Contestants will be judged on beauty, poise, personality, communication skills, overall impression and stage presence when applicable in the following divisions.

i. Interview:

Attire: Solid black pants or skirt; Solid white top (blouse, jacket, etc.)

Each contestant will have one (1), three-minute interview with each of the three judges. Therefore, each contestant will give three separate interviews (9-minute total), answering impromptu questions asked by each judge. Judging will be on poise, personality, ability to converse & application. Interviews are private and not open to the public

ii. Introduction (not judged):

Attire: Floor length jeans, with no distressing or holes, paired with T-shirt provided by fair.

III. Prepared Speech:

Attire: Suit, Pant Suit or Dress (same as worn for the Professional Wear judging). Does not have to be what was worn during interview.

Each contestant will prepare a speech no longer than one (1) minute, on the topic of their choice. Speeches will be scored on natural speaking ability, delivery, poise and originality.

Each speech will be timed, with one (1) point deducted for speeches going over one minute. Props, music and audio-visuals will not be allowed. Speeches will be delivered with a microphone, either on a stand or hand-held during pageant, open to the public.

IV. Professional Wear:

Attire: Suit, Pant Suit or Dress (same as worn for the Prepared Speech). A suit does not have to be of the same fabric – separates are allowed.

This part of judging will take place during.

V. Formal Wear:

Attire: Formal Gown or Tuxedo Any style tuxedo is acceptable and must include pants, shirt, jacket and tie. When choosing a formal gown, at least one portion of the hemline must be floor length (touching the floor or contestant's foot). A gown with the skirt split above the knee (more than 2" above the knee cap), a low-cut bodice and/or cut/design inappropriate for the pageant may be discounted by the judges.

This part of judging will take place during pageant, open to the public.

VI. On-stage Question:

Attire: Same as formal wear

For the top contestants from each age division. The contestant will draw a word from a bowl, and they will have to describe what it means to them. This part of judging will take place during pageant, open to the public.

12. Each contestant is encouraged to seek a sponsor for her participation in the pageant, but it is not required this year. Each sponsor will be listed in the program book along with each contestant's photograph. A sponsor can either be a local business or a family member.

13. Parents, relatives, friends, hairdressers, makeup artists etc. shall not be allowed backstage or in the contestant areas on the evening of the pageant. Any contestant violating this rule will immediately be disqualified.

14. The Marion County Fair Court will consist of:

- Queen: Selected from Queen contestants
- Queen 1st Runner-Up: Selected from Queen contestants
- Queen 2nd Runner-Up: Selected from Queen contestants
- Queen Miss Congeniality*
- Princess: Selected from Princess contestants
- Princess 1st Runner-Up: Selected from Princess contestants
- Princess Miss Congeniality*

*Miss. Congeniality will be chosen from all the contestants. She **can** be a court

member or Queen/Princess. This young woman **can** hold 2 titles. Whoever has the most votes among her peers will be crowned Miss Congeniality.

Queen, Princess and Court Additional Information

1. The newly crowned Queen must be prepared to spend her weekend days and evenings as well as her weekday evenings, for the duration of the ten-day Marion County Fair and make scheduled appearances at various fair activities and functions. The remaining court, including the Princess, must also be prepared to spend many of their days and evenings appearing at a variety of fair activities and functions during the fair with the Queen.
2. Any contestant crowned “Marion County Fair Queen” shall not compete for any other title while holding the title of “Marion County Fair Queen” with the exception of running for the title of “Miss Indiana State Fair Queen.” The Marion County Fair Queen will also be required to relinquish any title that she currently holds. Any violation of this policy will result in the loss of said title and all prizes.
3. The Queen will also be asked to attend other community events throughout Marion County and the State as the official ambassador representing the Marion County Fair for the duration of her reign of one year. Public appearances must be approved by the Superintendent and the official Marion County Fair tiara & sash will be worn and not altered. Any violation of this policy will result in the loss of said title and all prizes.
4. If the current Marion County Fair Princess becomes a Queen Pageant Contestant in the next year, she will no longer have any princess duties during the next year’s pageant. The current Queen will crown not only her own successor but also the new Princess. A MCF Princess is not eligible to compete again at Princess level.
5. Queen & court member dress code: there must be no visible cleavage or midriffs, skirts/dresses must be at appropriate length. Shorts must be worn under dresses. Queen Committee may request court member change into more appropriate clothing.
6. The Queen must compete at the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant as the Marion County representative held each January at the Indiana State Fair Grounds at the date determined by the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant Committee. The Indiana State Fair requires each county representative to be at

least 18 years of age and cannot have reached her 22nd birthday on or before June 1st of the following year. If the selected Marion County Fair Queen does not meet the State Fair criteria, she cannot compete, and the position will be given to the next highest scoring contestant that is eligible.

7. Decisions affecting this contest will be made only by the judges. All decisions are final, and scores will not be available at the conclusion of the pageant. The only exception is that the queen will be allowed to see her score sheet in preparation for the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant. If any one of the previous rules and conditions listed is not followed by the Queen, court member or family representative, the Marion County Fair Directors have the right to disqualify that individual from the competition or fair. The disqualified individual must relinquish all gifts & titles that have been awarded to her.
8. The Marion County Fair Board or Committee has the right to use any photographs or video made during any activity connected with the pageant, and to use contestant name with any promotional efforts on behalf of the pageant or the Marion County Fair.
9. Marion County Fair Queen Pageant Committee reserves the right to change foregoing rules & responsibilities at any time as may be deemed expedient.

All Pageant Contestants are required to be at the following events:

- **Orientation**
- **Rehearsals**
- **Interviews**
- **Pageant**