

Welcome!

Please remember first and foremost that the Clinton County Fair Pageant is not just about beauty, it is to select a spokesperson, or ambassador for our Fair and the County Fairs around the state. With that being said, the selection process is based on many factors. The first and most important factor is authenticity. Yes, poise, beauty, fitness, mental alertness and presentation all come into play, but if these attributes are fake or quickly learned/accomplished, it will be transparent. Congratulations on being interested in the program and having the initiative to want a “head start” on preparations.

To begin, remember, there is no such thing as a perfect body or the perfect face. What one person may think is perfect, another may not. This is more about the whole package and the integrity, authenticity and credibility of a person.

Always present yourself with class and manners. Stand up straight and remember good posture is always in fashion. Don't do drugs, smoke or drink. Present yourself in person and on social media as if you are already the queen, being a positive role model. Delete any posts or photos that would make you less than a Queen. Being a part of this pageant program puts you in the limelight. You are a local celebrity. Keep in mind that you will have people who will talk you up and some that will talk you down. Keep an open mind. Jealousy is an ugly trait. If someone annoys you, and it will happen, turn the other cheek and don't let yourself get wrapped up in ridiculous drama.

Find a fitness or exercise program that works for you and eat healthy. This does not mean that you need to be on a weight loss program. This just means that when you take care of your body and you are proud of your body, it is very evident. Your skin looks healthier and your attitude changes naturally.

Learn to walk in high heels. Do not wait until the last few weeks to start wearing high heels.

Research what you are doing. Don't go into this blindly. You can do this in a couple ways. A great way to research is to watch video tapes of past pageants, both local and state. Also, find someone in the same pageant system who will share their experience with you. Past Queens and crew members are available to give you advice.

You will have a 4 minute timed interview with the panel of judges. This is similar to a job interview. Stay calm and relaxed. The judges just want to get to know you. Be enthusiastic and upbeat. Pretend you are talking to family or friends, but at the same time be especially polite and appropriate. Make eye contact with each of the judges.

You will need to start thinking about a speech topic. You will do a one minute on stage speech on a topic of your choice. Your speech should reflect who you are as a person. Do not make the speech too emotional. Keep it fun and lively. You will be speaking with a microphone, but you will still need to project your voice.

You will be judged on stage in 3 costume changes, your interview suit, evening gown and swimwear. Each costume should reflect your personality and fit you well. For example, it is not the best or most expensive evening gown, it is who wears the evening gown the best. Special thought should be put into the color and style of each costumes.

Application deadline is May 26, 2017.

You will need to have at least one sponsor or multiple sponsors to cover the entry fee of \$150. You may have up to four sponsors. The money received from sponsors may not exceed \$500. Any funds received in excess of \$150 may be used for pageant expenses.

You will be expected to attend rehearsals beginning the first week of June through the pageant which is July 22nd. In addition, you will be expected to attend events leading up to and during the week of the fair. We do our best to work around your schedules, but we expect the same in return. If you will not be able to take some time

off for the fair festivities and rehearsals, this may not be the year for you to participate. We have a limited amount of time to prepare and it is important that everyone is in attendance.

By beginning your journey early, you have time as a great asset. You have time to research, practice and prepare.

In this packet, you will find the rules, application, helpful resources, and list of necessary items needed to compete in the 2017 Miss Clinton County Fair Pageant. Please know that the Pageant committee is dedicated to help you with any questions or concerns.

Clinton County Fair Pageant Committee

MAKE-UP AND HAIRSTYLES

We will have professionals to assist you in both make-up and hair, but there will not be enough time for them to do a complete job. Therefore, it is important for you to experiment with make-up colors and hairstyles prior to the pageant. You should find a foundation with good coverage (but not too heavy) that matches your skin tone to wear both off and on stage. Lipstick is also a must and nails should be nicely manicured in a neutral color.

Different portions of competition require different approaches to make-up and hair. During your interview you should look professional and polished, with classic make-up to enhance your features. Hair should be kept out of your eyes but this does not necessitate an evening updo. You will need more color during the stage portion of your competition as the lights will wash you out. You will appear first in your suit or dress for your speech. This is followed by appearances in your swimsuit and finally, your evening gown and you should style your hair in the way that works with your dress and makes you feel like a queen. You may wish to adjust your hairstyles or make-up to match each outfit but remember, there is not much time in-between, so plan accordingly.

TANNING

There's no doubt that we feel better in a swimsuit if we're tan, but artificial tanning is always a risk. If you are not careful, you can pay a high price for short term "beauty". Please consider this as you choose to tan or not to tan and how you may accomplish it. Self tanning products are your safest health-wise but be sure to test them at home for color and possible allergic reactions.

TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS

Tattoos and body piercings may be increasingly popular but, we, as do most of the pageant systems, feel they do not represent the image we wish to portray. All visible tattoos must be covered with cosmetics or a band-aid. Cover stick make-up for this use is available at larger department stores. Piercings are limited to a maximum of two in each ear lobe only. All other body piercings/jewelry must be removed for competition. This includes tongue, nose, tragus, and belly piercings.

DIETING

If you are dieting, use good judgment. You may want to visit with your physician about a healthy eating regimen to sustain you during Fair week and the Pageant. You will only be at your best if you have the energy to do so!

MODELING

Contestants should practice modeling in clothes they will wear during the Pageant, especially shoes. Practice until you are totally at ease in each outfit. A simple "step on the forward foot" pivot will be utilized in your swimsuit while a "walk-around" will be used in evening gown. Hands should be at the side and not lifted to sit at the waist at any time. Practice short flights of stairs two or three steps up and down. **GOOD POSTURE** and **EYE CONTACT** are very important.

YOU WILL NEED:

An interview suit

Evening Gown

Solid colored swim suit

Specifics are listed below. Please do not feel that you must go buy a new evening gown, interview suit or swim suit. Explore all options. You may have an evening gown, swim suit or interview suit that is perfectly acceptable. Consider borrowing or renting. Please keep in mind that if you borrow clothing, be clear on the arrangement. It is customary to pay a little something for the use of the item or at the very least have the item cleaned before returning it. Check with the pageant committee to see what is available.

THE DAY OF THE PAGEANT

Arrive in your daytime business suit with skirt; high heeled dress shoes (preferable taupe) and hose for your interview. NO SLACKS. Remember, you are applying for a professional position. Choose your very best style and color. Keep accessories to a minimum. Make-up should be applied and hair styled for the daytime, not stage, but keep in mind that you will have a limited time to adjust your hair for stage. Plan accordingly.

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Attire: Interview suit.

Interviews are a timed event - four (4) minutes for each contestant to present yourself and your personality. There are no wrong answers. The judges will be especially interested in your mental alertness, sincerity, and general knowledge. They may ask you personal opinion questions, but there will be no current event questions that you need to "study" for unless you "open the door" by inclusion on your application or in your response to a question. You will be seated across from the panel. Sit up and do not cross your feet. Check to be certain your clothing fits correctly when seated and your skirt is not too tight or short. Be aware of your appearance, vocabulary and manners. Those who are confident and appear relaxed have always done well.

Stage portions of the competition are as follows:

SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Attire: Interview suit.

The Clinton County Fair Queen is called upon to speak to groups, as well as individuals throughout her reign. The Queen must be comfortable speaking and be able to express herself naturally. In this phase of competition you will give a speech that takes **one minute** or less – You will not be timed but please limit yourself to one minute. You will be using a hand-held microphone, no podium. Practice, if you can, until you become familiar with the sound of your own voice.

Your subject may be any event, any person, or anything that is important to you, as long as it is not immoral, political or controversial. This is your 60 second opportunity to tell the judges about something that may not be covered in the regular interview process. Your topic should be one you know well and that you are comfortable speaking on, but a little research is a good way to gather material. Make your speech stand out by using specific facts that create pictures in the listener's mind. When preparing for this part of the competition, remember that:

- **SINGING** part of your presentation is **not allowed, and poems should be avoided.**

- **PROPS** of any kind are **not allowed**. Remember, this is an opportunity for the judges to see how you will speak before and respond to a crowd. It is not to be a memorized one woman show.
- If you are uncertain of your subject matter, please ask.

BEAUTY AND PHYSIQUE

Attire: Swimwear

In this phase of competition, the judges are not looking for the elusive "perfect ten", but they are watching for toning, posture, carriage, energy and overall appearance. To compliment this and make you feel comfortable on stage, we require one-piece swimsuits. Many contestants choose a "pageant swimsuit". These are often more flattering than "off the rack" suits but still have to pass the inspection. Different pageants have different requirements. Make sure your suit meets the following guidelines:

- Solid colored suits in a single color are a must. No metallic materials, minimal enhancements such as complimentary colored piping are acceptable.
- Metallic or other accents are OK. Example: metal ring at the waist that material wraps to from the other side.
- Make certain your suit is the right size and long enough for your body. All areas should be covered comfortably. Purchase a long torso suit if you need more room.
- Suits should have built in support but pads to increase bust size are not permitted. (This includes pads attached to the body.)
- Suits with plunging necklines are not allowed but minimal cleavage is allowed. In general, the neckline must end at least 1" above the bottom of the bust line. Bust should be completely covered on the outside; no "hanging out".
- The lower portion of the swimsuit must cover the hipbones in front (at a minimum) and completely cover the buttocks. Further, the crease where the legs join the pelvis should be covered and the suit should not pull in the center.
- A great product to use to keep everything in place is the roll on sure grip used by basketball players to make their hands sticky. This is usually available at sporting goods stores and would be a wise investment. Don't worry, our crew will help you put it on.
- If your suit is altered, be sure to try it on after alterations. An adjustment in one area often changes things in other areas.
- High heeled (at least 2") taupe colored shoes are required to be worn with your swimsuit and should be broken in. Shoes can be any style but must have an enclosed heel or a strap around the heel. Please make sure they are TAUPE, not ivory or bronze. If you have trouble finding them in your local shoe store, they are available at most pageant-wear stores. Baby powder sprinkled inside your shoes will help make them comfortable.
- No undergarments or hose may be worn with the swimsuit. Rubbing oil on your legs makes them look greasy under the spotlights, so use lotion (not glitter lotion) instead.
- All jewelry should be removed and any tattoos must be covered up.

These rules are not meant to be difficult but are necessary to keep you from being embarrassed and to keep the Pageant in good taste.

STAGE PRESENCE

Attire: Evening gown

This competition is designed for the contestant to make an on-stage statement of her personality, gracefully moving with poise and confidence. Choose an Evening Gown that reflects your own individual style. There are a wide variety to choose from - partially beaded - chiffon with fuller skirts - halter style with straight skirt - fully sequined and beaded, with trains and without. Choose one in your best color that compliments you and makes you feel like a queen; but follow these guidelines:

- It must be floor length.
- "High-Low" hem gowns are fine as long as the "high" portion is below the knee.
- Splits in skirts should be no further than 4 inches above the middle of the knee.
- No hoop skirts (the stage is crowded).
- If you choose a dress with a train it must be have a loop so that you can hold the train up for group entrances & exits (like a wedding dress). You do not want to have your gown ruined due to an accidental misstep by the contestant next to you. Make sure to practice in your gown, including short flights of steps and simple pivots.
- Pads to increase bust size are not permitted.
- "Cut outs" in the front or sides must be filled in with a sheer fabric that matches the dress.
- Open backed dresses must stop at your natural waistline.
- Choose accessories to enhance your look, not overwhelm you. Larger earrings draw attention to your face. Unless they definitely make the dress, we suggest that you don't wear gloves.
- DO NOT wear powder or lotion that has glitter in it. The intense lighting will make you look like a Christmas tree on stage.
- There are many pretty evening shoes available, however, you don't want to draw attention to your feet rather than your face. The best bet are shoes the same color as your hemline. Clear plastic shoes have a tendency to either stretch or force your foot forward, making it difficult to either keep the shoe on or walk on stage. If clear shoes absolutely make your outfit, make sure they fit appropriately.

To avoid surprises, it is wise to try your gown on the week of the Pageant for a final fitting and to get the total look.

Application instructions

Use only current information – from high school years forward. The judges do not need to hear your life story. Do not include what happened to you in the second grade unless it relates to your career plans or was an extremely important event.

Be brief – The judges have a limited time to read your application. Short phrases are easier to see than sentences or paragraphs.

Eliminate “I was in the high school chorus for four years, was selected to IMEA District Choir my junior and senior year and was Choreographer for our show choir”.

Instead, Do this:

“Choir, Show Choir Choreographer” under ACTIVITIES

“IMEA District Choir” under SPECIAL HONORS

How long you have participated is not important. Listing in this manner enables the judges to spot what they are looking for when they interview you.

When completing the application, list most recent activities first; college, then high school, then extracurricular, keeping like things together.

Check your spelling. The judges will see this application as you have completed it.

2017 Miss Clinton County Fair Pageant

General Rules

1. Personal Characteristics: In order to be eligible, contestants must certify to the Personal Characteristics in this section:
 - a. Must be a minimum of 16 years of age by July 22, 2017 and not have reached her 22nd birthday by January 1, 2018.
 - b. Must be a U.S. Citizen, Contestant, Parent or Legal Guardian must currently be a resident of Clinton County, Illinois, for a minimum of 6 months immediately prior to the application date.
 - c. Can never have been convicted of a felony offense.
 - d. Was born female and have always been female,
 - e. Must be single and never been married or had a marriage annulled.
 - f. Can never have been pregnant and is not the adoptive parent of a child.
 - g. Does not use or consume and illegal controlled substance, tobacco, or other dangerous substances. Must not be convicted, ticketed or cited for and alcohol or controlled substance related infraction.
 - h. Is in good moral character. Has never performed and act or engaged in any activity or employment that is or could be characterized as immoral or indecent. Attests that any and all online depictions associated with the contestant's name or likeness including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. are consistent with the standards and dignity of the Clinton County Fair Pageant.
2. It is understood that contestants may not have ever held a County Fair Queen title in Illinois or competed for the title of Miss Illinois County Fair at the state pageant. If chosen Queen, may not enter in any other judged pageant with the exception of Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant.
3. Application to the Clinton County Fair Queen Pageant authorizes the use of the contestant's name, likeness, photographs, physical depiction, endorsement rights and titles by the Clinton County Fair Association or by such persons, firms or groups approved or selected by the Clinton County Fair Association.
4. Final date of entry is May 26, 2017.
5. Entry Fee of \$150 must accompany the application. The application fee can be paid by the contestant or by enlisting a sponsor or sponsors. Each contestant may have up to four (4) sponsors (preferably from Clinton County) donating a maximum of \$500 during the pageant period defined as the entry date through the conclusion of the pageant.
6. Each contestant must arrange her personal schedule to attend all pageant rehearsals and fair activities unless excused in advance by director.
7. A parent or Guardian is invited to the initial informational meeting. The remainder of the rehearsals are strictly for the contestants, unless otherwise notified.
8. Contestants agree to participate in the Clinton County Fair Parade. Contestants are responsible for securing a convertible and be dressed in an approved gown. Sunglasses, hand-outs, costumes, animals, crowns, walking entourage and throwing of candy is prohibited. For consistency, signs will be provided.
9. Competition will include but is not limited to: Contestant's personal interview with judges, appearance in a one piece swimsuit, evening gown and a business suit presenting a one minute speech on a topic of her choice. A Queen will be chosen and crowned the day of the Pageant and the contestant agrees that the decision of the judges is final.
10. Entrant agrees to abide by the rules of the county and state contests now in effect or as hereafter announced. The pageant committee will retain final decision on rules and regulations.

Initial _____

If chosen Miss Clinton County Fair 2016, I understand and agree to the following:

1. My reign begins July 22, 2017 and ends upon the coronation of the 2018 Miss Clinton County Fair.
2. The rules and personal characteristics listed for contestants continue to be in force for the newly crowned queen.
3. As the newly selected Queen, I will serve as the official hostess for the Clinton County Fair for the remainder of the current fair and for the 2018 Clinton County Fair until a new Queen is crowned.
4. As the Queen, I will be an ambassador for the Clinton County Fair and promote the Fair at other County Fairs and community functions as scheduled by the director. I will be chaperoned by a member of the pageant committee at any time that I am representing the Clinton County Fair. Priority is given to events within the county.
5. All photographic sessions and photographs released as the role of Miss Clinton County Fair will be approved by the director.
6. Will represent Clinton County at County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair held in August of 2017 and at the Southern Zone Meeting held in November of 2017.
7. Will represent the Clinton County Fair at the Miss Illinois County Fair in January of 2018.
8. Will not enter any other judged pageant during my reign with the exception of the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant.
9. Will not reside outside of the Country for any more that 30 days consecutively during her reign.
10. Will not to get any additional tattoos or piercings during my reign.
11. All additional spending cash desired by me as queen during my reign is my sole responsibility.
12. The Pageant Director will approve state wardrobe and speech prior to the 2016 Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant.
13. If, as the newly selected Queen, I cannot fulfill all of the expressed duties or violates any rule set forth for a contestant, I will immediately relinquish my title, crown, scepter and all prizes. The first runner-up will be eligible for the title.
14. The pageant committee will retain final decisions on rules and regulations.

Initial _____