



PREPARING FOR THE OHIO FAIRS' QUEEN CONTEST

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

- Must be at least 16 years old, and no older than 19, as of January 1st of the previous year (i.e., January 1, 2018)
- Must be in high school or have graduated from high school or completed GED
- Not now or ever have been married
- Not now or ever have been pregnant or be an adoptive parent of a child
- Not use or consume illegal controlled substances or alcohol
- Never have been convicted of criminal offense or have criminal charges pending

WHAT SHOULD THE QUEEN DO DURING HER TIME OF REPRESENTING HER FAIR?

- Promote your fair - talk with Senior Fair Board about what image they want presented and how you can help
- Serve as an ambassador for Junior Fair organizations
- Find something unique about your fair to share/highlight
- Make / purchase a little pin / button to pass out to visiting royalty and dignitaries
- Be knowledgeable about fair activities / schedule / fairgrounds / history
- Visit other fairs - promote your fair and find out about their fair
- Make sure that you are receiving invitations to attend other fairs' royalty get-togethers
- If you host a luncheon / royalty get-together:
 - Extend an invitation to as many royalty as possible - knowing that not all will attend
 - Provide tours of fairground
 - Schedule in conjunction with royalty contest or other exciting fair activity
 - Introduce visiting royalty to Senior Fair Board Members and Junior Fair Board Members

EXPECTATIONS OF COUNTY / INDEPENDENT FAIR QUEENS

- Appropriate wardrobe: look professional, be sure that clothes are not too tight / revealing / too short
- Appropriate shoes: be mindful of where you are and what you are doing at the fair(flats and nice boots are great!)
- Use appropriate language (Remember: you are someone's role model and are representing your fair)
- Never be afraid to ask questions
- Be sure that the queen is not left unescorted
- Include your royalty court members
- Be aware of social media: anyone can see what you are posting (statuses, pictures, etc.)
 - Be careful what is posted and what is said
 - Fair social media is a great way to update people on your adventures, just be professional in how you do it

OHIO FAIRS' QUEEN CONTEST APPLICATION

- Be thorough: don't assume that the judges know everything about you
- Be honest
- Specify the level of your awards (county, state, etc.)
- Put information in the appropriate place on the application
- Don't be afraid to add the extra pages
- Limit what you say in reply to the questions asked on the application (i.e., don't attach extra pages that don't correlate to questions)
- Make sure it is legible: Typed is preferred
- Check spelling / grammar
- Ask a parent/teacher/fair rep. to look over the application before sending it
- Make a copy of your application so you can review it before the contest
- Send application in ahead of deadline to avoid complications; feel free to make contact to confirm that it arrived

OHIO FAIRS' QUEEN CONTEST INTERVIEW

- Business professional wardrobe: appropriate length, natural/minimal makeup, shoes that are comfortable to walk in
- Shake the judges' hands at the beginning and end of the interview
- Thank the judges
- Please do not bring scrapbooks, resumes, etc. to the interview - just yourself
- Show your true personality - be yourself and you'll do great!
- Be familiar with what you put on your application
- Avoid lengthy responses, but provide enough that you are answering the question
- Be sincere
- Avoid answering the way you think the judges want you to answer - answer honestly
- Provide enough substance in your answers so that the judges are not dominating the conversation
- Show what you know and what you love - FAIR

REMINDERS!!!

- You are being “judged” throughout the duration of the contest. You never know when the judges could be watching.
- This contest should not be a financial burden on the contestant and their family. There is no obligation to go out and buy a whole new wardrobe just for this event.

OHIO FAIRS' QUEEN CONTEST EVENING CONTEST

- Practice walking in the shoes you are going to wear that evening
- Be sure to sit ladylike - especially if selected for Top 15 and are sitting on stage in front of the crowd
- Speak clearly and enunciate
- Be yourself
- Avoid adding extras to your introduction on stage – stick with the basics that you are asked to give
 - (name, age, grade, county, fair)
- If chosen for the Top 15, remember that you are on stage and are being watched
- SMILE, RELAX, HAVE FUN – this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

IF SELECTED FOR TOP 15...

- Walk onto stage and be seated when name is announced
- Answer fish bowl question / word
 - Read question to self
 - Emcee will read your question out loud
 - Answer question – be sure to stay on topic and answer honestly
- Judges will leave to select Top 5
- Top 15 will remain seated on stage after the completion of the fish bowl question and entertainment

IF SELECTED FOR TOP 5

- Additional interview with all of the judges will take place immediately following the conclusion of the evening contest and group photo
- OFMA will take care of lodging for you to stay through Saturday morning
- Friday – visit Tradeshow, attend sessions, meet OFMA Members, enjoy Showcase
- Saturday morning: General Session of Junior Fair Conference
 - Will be introduced at the start of the session as you walk across stage to seating (on stage)
 - After the keynote speaker, retiring Queen will speak
 - Presentation of Top 5 will be announced
 - Introduction of 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Runner Up
 - Crowning of new Ohio Fairs' Queen



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

**CONGRATS! YOU HAVE BEEN NAMED
THE NEW OHIO FAIRS' QUEEN**

OFMA CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Speak briefly following crowning during General Session on Saturday Morning
- You will be officially sworn in as the Ohio Fairs' Queen Sunday at noon, until then you will shadow the retiring Queen who will show you the ropes
- Attend Ladies Luncheon with Retiring Queen
- Attend various events throughout the remainder of the conference
- Visit Tradeshow
- Network with Fair representatives from across the state
- Be sure to have someone with you as you walk around (usually retiring queen)
- After conference has concluded, OFMA will contact you with other opportunities to represent them (meetings, events)
- If you are contacted to attend an event and it is not through OFMA, communicate with OFMA to receive approval to attend
- Be sure to send thank you cards to sponsors, and others who have helped during your time at convention

VISITING COUNTY & INDEPENDENT FAIRS

- Attend as many fairs as possible during your year of service
- County and independent fairs will reach out to you to attend specific events as well
- Call / research ahead of time to find out what is going on at the fair during your visit and be prepared to attend these events
- Call and let the fair know that you will be visiting
- Dress appropriately – remember that you are representing OFMA – wear shoes that you can walk in
- Wear your crown & sash
- If asked to speak at the fairs, use appropriate and positive language – be sure to thank them for their hospitality
- Be sure to have someone go with you to visit fairs – this is for safety (an escort is required)
- Take pictures – plan to create a scrapbook or slideshow to show off at next years OFMA contest
- Have a business card with your queen email on it so that you can hand out to queens

PASSING ON THE CROWN

- Serve as a host for the contestants of next year's contest
- Be helpful to the contestants, you've been there - help them feel at ease!
- Interact with candidates, answer questions, make them feel comfortable
- Have scrapbook or slideshow available to show pictures from your year of service
- Serve as host for evening contest
- Speak briefly about your year of service during both the evening contest on Thursday and the General Session on Saturday
- Crown next Ohio Fairs' Queen