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 1\textsuperscript{st} 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
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, reting 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
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