

**Welcome!**

**Please remember first and foremost that the Clinton County Fair Pageant is not just about beauty, it is to select a spokesperson and 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.**

**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 that good posture is always in fashion. Don't do drugs, smoke, or drink alcohol. 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 the closest thing we have to a local celebrity. While on this journey, keep in mind that you will have people who will talk you up and some who 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 of ways. A great way to research is to watch videos 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 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 deliver 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. Make it memorable and be able to drive the point home in that one minute. 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 or business dress, 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 the costumes. There is no need to spend a fortune on costumes. It is perfectly fine to borrow or rent. There are inexpensive online options and we have "pageant closet" with items available to rent.**

**You will need to have at least one sponsor or multiple sponsors to cover the entry fee of \$150. You may have no more than three sponsors. The money received from these 3 sponsors may not exceed \$500 total.**

**Any funds received in excess of \$150 may be used for pageant expenses. The \$150 entry fee will need to be paid by May 27, 2026.**

**You will be expected to attend a weekly rehearsals or activity beginning the week of May 27th through the pageant which is July 18th. These rehearsals are generally on Wednesday evenings. In addition, you will be expected to attend our Pageant Boot Camp on June 20, 2026. There will be the opportunity for you to attend a couple optional events leading up to the week of the fair. It is mandatory that you are in attendance Saturday morning July 11th and every evening of the Fair which is July 13-18. 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.**

**Please know that the Pageant committee is dedicated to help you with any questions or concerns.**

**Clinton County Fair Pageant Committee**

**Final application deadline is May 27, 2026 or when our contestant limit is reached.**

## 2026 Miss Clinton County Fair Pageant General Rules

### 1. Personal Characteristics:

In order to be eligible, contestants must certify to all items in this section:

- a. Must be a minimum of 16 years of age by July 18, 2026 and not have reached her 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday by January 1, 2026.
  - b. Must be a U.S. Citizen. Contestant, Parent or Legal Guardian must be a resident of Clinton County, Illinois.
  - 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 alcohol, any illegal controlled substance, tobacco, or other dangerous substances. Must not be convicted, ticketed or cited for an alcohol or controlled substance related infraction.
  - h. To stay consistent with the standards and dignity of the Clinton County Fair Pageant, consumption of alcohol, smoking or vaping in public is prohibited, even if the age of 21 has been reached.
  - i. 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. The contestant attests that any and all online depictions associated with the contestant's name or likeness including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok, or any social media are consistent with the standards and dignity of the Clinton County Fair Pageant. Social media will be reviewed by selected fair board members prior to entry being approved.
  - j. Must not currently hold another pageant/fair/festival/club/association queen title.
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.
  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 27, 2026 or when contestant limit is met.
  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 three (3) sponsors (preferably from Clinton County) donating a maximum of \$500 total during the pageant period defined as the entry date through July 1, 2026.
  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. Contestant agrees 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. Alcohol of any kind is prohibited in the parade vehicles. No more than 2 people are allowed in the vehicle including the driver. For consistency, signs will be provided.
  9. Contestant agrees to abide by the clothing rules while representing the Clinton County Fair Pageant at any fair event or any visiting pageant, fair or parade.
  10. Contestant agrees to participate in the competition that 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 or dress presenting a one-minute speech on a topic of her choice as long as it is not controversial or immoral. Any visible tattoos must be covered during competition.
  11. A Queen will be chosen and crowned the day of the Pageant and the contestant agrees that the decision of the judges is final.
  12. Entrant agrees to abide by the rules of the county and state contests now in effect or as hereafter announced. If rules are not followed the contestant will be disqualified with no refund of entry fees. Furthermore, any contestant, family member or guest showing less than sportsman like behavior at the pageant or any fair event will lead to disqualification of the contestant with no refund under these circumstances. The pageant committee will retain final decision on rules and regulations.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

If chosen Miss Clinton County Fair 2026, I understand and agree to the following:

1. My reign begins July 18, 2026 and ends upon the coronation of the 2027 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 2026 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 or approved chaperone at any time that I am representing the Clinton County Fair. Priority is given to events within the county.
5. Clothing for all official appearances must be approved by a director.
6. All photographic sessions and photographs released as the role of Miss Clinton County Fair will be approved by the director. Traditions Portrait Design is the official photographer for the Miss Clinton County Fair Pageant.
7. Will represent Clinton County at County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair held August 6, 2026 and at the Southern Zone Meeting held in November, 2026.
8. Will represent the Clinton County Fair at the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant in January of 2027.
9. Will not enter any other judged pageant during reign with the exception of the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant.
10. Will not reside outside of the Country for any more than 30 days consecutively during her reign.
11. Will not drastically change hair color or style without consulting with director(s).
12. Will not get any additional tattoos or piercings during reign.
13. All additional spending cash desired by me as queen during my reign is my sole responsibility.
14. The Pageant Director will approve state wardrobe and speech prior to the 2027 Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant.
15. If, as the newly selected Queen, I cannot fulfill all of the expressed duties or violate 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.
16. The pageant committee will retain final decisions on rules and regulations.

Entry form can be found at: <https://form.jotform.com/220676708846063>



I hereby acknowledge that I have read the official rules and regulations and I will comply with them in every way. I also acknowledge that the personal data provided in the entry form is true and correct.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent or guardian if less than 18 years of age)