



# Miss Independence County

*"Sharing and Building Dreams, Friendships and Memories"*

1. ALL Miss Independence County Contestants must be 17 through 21 years by October 1. All contestants **must be a permanent legal resident of Independence County. Attending school or working in Independence County does not constitute legal residency. All contestants must permanently reside in Independence County, and have been a resident since July of 2016. Contestants that participate in the Independence County Contest may not participate in any other county fairs.** Please adhere to Arkansas State Fair rules for this policy.
2. **NO PROFESSIONAL MODEL** (one who has been paid for modeling) is considered eligible. The contestant must have been born a female and be a legal resident of Independence County. **The contestant cannot be or at any time have been married, engaged or become engaged, pregnant, had/have children, miscarried or had an abortion.** This rule applies to all contestants with special attention pertaining to the new queen in addition to the first and second runners up during the course of their reign. The contestant must have never been convicted of a crime nor have criminal charges pending.
3. Contestants in the Arkansas State Fair Queen Pageant may no longer be Contestants in the Arkansas State Fair Youth Talent Contest in the same year alternatively.
4. Previous Miss Independence County Queens are ineligible to compete again. **The winner of the Miss Independence County pageant may not hold another title during the year of their reign.**
5. Contestants are **required** to be on time for all rehearsals and events. **Absent or tardy contestants may be disqualified at the discretion of the Contest Director.** If you are unable to attend or be on time due to an emergency, contact Ms. Pam at 612-4446. Traffic, hair appointments, nail appointments or caught in line at Sonic are invalid excuses!!!
6. Miss Independence County contestants will interview individually **July 18**. The purpose of the interview will help determine the personality qualifications in addition to, speech qualities. **A suit is required for this phase of the pageant. THE INTERVIEW IS MANDATORY OF EACH CONTESTANT.** No opening and closing statements will be required and are unnecessary. **This phase of the competition is private.** No visitors, parents, chaperones, coaches, etc. are allowed. **NO TOLERANCE.**
7. The Independence County Fair Association will not be responsible for anything **STOLEN, LOST, DAMAGED, OR TORN.**
8. **No scores will be returned.**

9. The new queen will represent the county at the State Fair Queen Pageant. The new first and second Runner-Up will participate at the district level. However, if any of the mentioned contestants are unable to attend, the Independence County Pageant Association will choose a delegate. Title winners who cannot fulfill this duty will forfeit their crown, title, returning all awards and repaying all monetary awards. The pageant director will determine if the excuse is valid in being unable to fulfill this duty. Adhere to Rule #4 concerning additional titles being held while holding a title of this pageant association. **Contestants are responsible for registering at both the District and State Competitions themselves. The pageant association will assume no responsibility for your registration. Registration must be complete by the end of fair week and signed by the pageant director.**
  
10. In the event a contest winner cannot, for any reason, fulfill her duties or becomes ineligible during the course of her reign, a chosen delegate will then take her place. **Any display of poor sportsmanship and/or unbecoming conduct, any interference and/or disturbance, or any other behavioral problem created by a contestant, chaperone, parent, relative, or even a supporter of a contestant could result in disqualification of the contestant not only from this year's contest but also from future contests.**
  
11. The reigning Miss Independence County as well as the First and Second Runners-Up and all participating contestants must conduct themselves properly at all times. Inappropriate behavior bringing unfavorable publicity to themselves and/or the Independence County Pageant Association may result in the winning contestant relinquishing their title and the forfeiture and return of all prizes and monetary awards.
  
12. **NO FORM OF SPONSORSHIP OR FUNDRAISING MAY BE CONDUCTED BY THE FAIR QUEEN OR ALTERNATES TO FUND STATE OR DISTRICT COMPETITIONS.** The fair queen is given award money to assist in State Competition travel expenses. District competition does not require an entry fee and the travel expenses are minimal.
  
13. THE DIRECTORS OF THE INDEPENDENCE COUNTY FAIR PAGEANT RESERVE THE FINAL AND ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO INTERPRET THESE RULES AND ARBITRARILY SETTLE AND DETERMINE ALL MATTERS, QUESTIONS AND DIFFERENCES IN REGARD THERETO, OR OTHERWISE ARISING OUT OF OR CONNECTED WITH, OR INCIDENT TO THE CONTEST, AND THE RIGHT TO AMMEND OR ADD TO THE RULES AS THEIR JUDGEMENT MAY DETERMINE. THE CONTEST DIRECTORS WILL DISQUALIFY ANY CONTESTANT WHO FAILS TO ABIDE BY ANY RULE THAT IS STATED OR ORALLY GIVEN, FROM THIS CONTEST, ANY FUTURE CONTEST AND THE DISTRICT AND STATE FAIR FINALS.

## Entry Forms:

Contestants may obtain entry forms at the fairgrounds or access the website, [www.icfair.com](http://www.icfair.com). All registration forms may be downloaded on-line. All forms must be mailed and received by the July 11 deadline with the entry fee of \$25 attached. The photogenic contest is encouraged but not required. **It is in the best interest of the contestant to answer all questions on the entry form in complete sentences. THE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE USED. All other formats will be denied and returned. No attachments will be accepted.** All entry forms should be mailed to the address on the bottom of the application. **Once the entry form is received, additions or corrections will not be allowed.** If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, please call one of the directors. **NO E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED NOR DISBURSING OF APPLICATIONS VIA E-MAIL. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN ON ENTRY FEES, NO EXCEPTIONS.** The Independence County Fair is not responsible for entry forms that may be lost or delayed in transit by any method of shipping.

## Rehearsal:

A mandatory rehearsal and contestant meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 6:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds in the pageant building. Attendance is mandatory. Rehearsal will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. **Contestants must be present in order to compete in Tuesday evening's competition.** Emergency situations will be the only reasons for excused absences. The director will determine if the situation is an emergency. All excused absences must be made up on Sunday July 16 at the time and discretion of the director. The contestant will be held responsible in rescheduling the rehearsal. A 20% deduction may occur for not attending the regularly scheduled meeting. Valid excuses are illnesses of the contestant, immediate family or unforeseen hindrances in route to rehearsal. All other circumstances will be reviewed by the pageant director to determine if excused or unexcused. Tardiness will also result in a deduction in the final score of 15%. Please be on time as tardiness will delay everyone involved with the contest. **SWIMSUITS must be brought to rehearsal for approval. The suit will not be worn in practice but must be approved at this meeting. IF SWINSUIT IS NOT BROUGHT TO REHEARSAL AND APPROVED, YOU WILL NOT COMPETE IN TUESDAYS COMPETITION UNTIL THE SWIMSUIT HAS BEEN APPROVED, PRIOR TO THE TUESDAY COMPETITION. Shoes that will be worn in each of phase competition must be brought to rehearsal.**

**The rehearsal is for contestants only. It is a closed rehearsal and not open to the public.**

## Competition Clothing:

Each contestant will have a private interview with the judges being assessed individually and comparatively in swimsuit and Evening Gown competitions. Contestants will need the following clothing for the contest:

**Rehearsal:** Contestants are free to wear comfortable clothing of good taste. Contestants should rehearse in the **same shoes** they will wear in each phase of the competition. The rehearsal is closed to the public. Adhere to referenced Rehearsal policy listed above. **Shoes will be needed for rehearsal.**

**Private Interview:** A suit is required for the interview. The suit should be one of choice that you would wear to a job interview. Interview attire should be professional. Jewelry and shoes are at the contestant's discretion but should complement the contestant. No hats, gloves or purses are allowed.

**Swimsuit:** A one piece swimsuit may be worn. A pageant swimsuit is not required. However, the swimsuit must be of good taste. Swimsuits must fasten as a halter or snap. No strings of any kind will be allowed. **ALL swimsuits must be approved the evening of rehearsal.** The swimsuit must be modest and should compliment the contestant. Should a contestant have doubts about the validity of their swimsuit, please call one of the directors. A solid color swimsuit is required.

**Sportswear:** Contestants will model sportswear 50's attire. This will correlate with the "50's" Theme of "Rock N' Roll Into the 2017 Independence County Fair" for the 2017 Independence County Fair. **If you are in doubt of what you will need, please call one of the directors for clarification.** This phase is upbeat and exciting for the contestant, judges and audience.

**Evening Gown:** Evening Gowns are at the discretion of the contestant. The evening gown should be of good taste with no low backs, low fronts, open areas or high slits. Jewelry should be tasteful and compliment the gown. High-heeled shoes are recommended but not required. **No rings, bracelets or necklaces should be worn.**

\*\*\*Please be aware, body piercings and tattoos are unacceptable. All piercings will be removed and it is to the contestant's best interest that all tattoos be covered and not seen at any point in the competition. Many judges will find this unbecoming in a "young lady" and may possibly deduct points from the contestants score.

### **Interview:**

Interviews will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 18. **Tardiness will not be accepted.** The interview will account for 30 percent of a contestant's total score. All interviews will be five minutes long, timed, and monitored by a contest director. Judges will be instructed to avoid all questions pertaining to current affairs, religion and politics. All questions will be taken from your application and a list of impromptu questions that each contestant will receive the evening of rehearsal. Contestants will be asked to leave at the end of their interview. Please be advised **that no contestant should shake hands with the judges nor have any physical contact with them.** **LINE - UP AND ROLL CALL WILL TAKE PLACE AT 12:50. ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE READY AT THIS TIME.**

### **Swimsuit:**

Swimsuit will account for 20 percent of the contestant's total score. This phase of competition is required of everyone. Over-all first impression, physical fitness, energy level, proportion of figure in relation to height and weight, posture, poise, personality, stage presence, and confidence are also included. Adhere to the instructions pertaining to swimsuit in the competition clothing section of these rules. **ALL SWIMSUITS MUST BE PREAPPROVED THE EVENING OF REHEARSAL. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **Evening Gown:**

The evening gown competition will account for 40 percent of the contestant's total score. Judging will be based on over-all first impression, beauty, stage presence, personality, grace, charm, walk, appropriateness of evening gown and composite appearance. Adhere to the recommendations pertaining to this phase in the competition clothing section of these rules.

### **Dressing and Backstage:**

Contestants **must report** to the dressing room at the fairgrounds no later than 5:15 to prepare for evening competition. Line-up will begin at 5:50 for the 6:00 performance. All contestants must be ready to line up at that time. The show will not be delayed for contestants who are not ready. The Independence County Fair Association is not responsible for the loss or damages to clothing or other personal items left in the dressing room or in other areas. **Contestants, pageant directors and dressing room attendants only are allowed backstage at anytime, including following the pageant. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO THIS POLICY.** Failure to abide by this regulation will result in automatic disqualification from the contest. **Cell phones will not be allowed in the dressing room.** Time is a crucial factor. Phone calls and texting can take place after the competition. No tolerance will be given to this policy, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **Admission and Parking:**

Each contestant will receive a gate admission for one contestant the evening of rehearsal. If the ticket becomes lost or misplaced, no replacement will be reissued and you will be required to pay the \$7 gate fee. Please bring only what is needed for competition as you will be walking through the fairgrounds. There is no unloading area. You will be entering the fair along with the "rush" crowd of the general public. Please allow yourself enough time to park and check-in. All admission matters will be addressed the evening of rehearsal. Please ask all questions at that time.

### **Judging:**

The judges will be appointed by the Pageant Association. They will be persons well qualified to judge a contest of this kind. Their decision will be final. **Critiques will not be provided to anyone, nor will any contestant or any representative of a contestant, be allowed to approach the judges at any time.** Please adhere to rule # 10 concerning disorderly conduct.

### **Awards:**

Three winners will be chosen as royalty of Miss Independence County. Two Runners-Up and a Queen will be chosen by qualified judges. Additional titles, Miss Congeniality and an Overall Interview Winner will also be awarded. Contestants will elect the winner of Miss Congeniality by private nominations the evening of the contest. The contestant with the highest interview score will receive the title of Overall Interview Winner. The following awards will be given:

**Interview Award Recipient:** The contestant with the highest interview score will be chosen as the Overall Interview recipient. The winner of this award will receive a plaque and custom sash.

**Miss Congeniality:** The contestant chosen as Miss Congeniality will receive a plaque, bouquet and a custom sash.

**Second Runner - Up:** The second runner-up will receive a plaque, bouquet, custom sash, \$500 scholarship to UACCB and crown pin.

**First Runner-Up:** The first runner-up will receive a plaque, bouquet, custom sash, \$1,000 scholarship to UACCB and crown pin.

**Miss Independence County:** The new Miss Independence will receive a bouquet, plaque, round crown, crown pin, custom sash, a two year scholarship to UACCB, and \$250 cash award,

\*\*Any additional award offered to you as a title winner or contestant must be brought to the attention of the director. The fair association will need to add them to the publicity and sponsorship list.

### **Royalty Duties:**

The new Miss Independence County and the new runners-up are expected to work at the fair following their crowning. The duties below will be expected of each contestant:

### **Queen Responsibilities:**

- ❖ Wednesday Morning Plant Judging 9:00-????
- ❖ Thursday Morning School Day 9:00-12:00
- ❖ Friday Morning Senior Citizens Day 9:00 – 1:00  
*(You are REQUIRED to wear an evening gown for this event.)*
- ❖ Saturday Morning Veterans Day 9:00 – 1:00  
*You MUST wear clothing representing that of a patriotic nature.  
This day is UNEXCUSABLE. FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES.*
  
- ❖ Each evening's pageants will be hosted by the new queen. They are as follows:
  - Wednesday – Prize Baby Girl/Boy & Little Miss/Mister Contests  
(Attire should be something such as a cocktail dress/sun dress)
  - Thursday – Petite Miss/Petite Young Miss Independence County  
(Attire should be something of a homecoming dress...of a formal nature but does not have to be an evening gown. You may wear an evening gown if you so desire.)
  
- ❖ The new queen is expected to ride in the annual Water Carnival Parade (if possible the Christmas Parade would be appreciated), conduct at least four public appearances in the course of her reign and return for all MANDATORY meetings and rehearsals for all contests in the 2018 fair year. ALL APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS that are scheduled must be approved by the Contest Director. Failure to comply with this rule will result in automatic disqualification and its consequences. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **Runner – Up Responsibilities:**

- ❖ Wednesday Morning Plant Judging 9:00-11:30
- ❖ Thursday Morning School Day 9:00-12:00
- ❖ Saturday Morning Veterans Day 9:00 – 1:00  
*You MUST wear clothing representing that of a patriotic nature.  
This day is UNEXCUSABLE. FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES.*

General Rules for all royalty:

- All clothing must be of good taste. You are each an example and are expected to dress and act as such.
- Your attitude **MUST** be pleasant and sincere with each appearance.
- **YOU** and **ONLY YOU** are to be in your vehicle as you pull in the back gate for each appearance. You are being admitted through a private gate. If you are caught with someone in your car rather than yourself, you will pay their admission and yours, move your car to the hill and will pay to get in the remainder of the week. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. As fair directors we must follow this policy and you will do the same.
- Always use good manners and respect when dealing with any of your directors, assistants, board members and the general public. Remember who and what you are.
- **ALWAYS** ask if your day is complete and let a contest director know prior to your departure.
- Your crown, sash and crown pin are to be on your body at each appearance you make. **DO NOT** wear your crown in your car. It is tall and will break and will **NOT** be replaced.
- Be good, be respectful, use sunscreen, drink milk and have a good time!!!

