

## MISS ST. CLAIR COUNTY FAIR QUEEN

Entry Fee and Application Deadline: Contestants must pay an entry fee of \$100.00. Applications are due on May 31, 2026. Paperwork must be received by May 31, 2026, and payment must be received and/or postmarked by May 31, 2026. No late entries will be accepted. Please make checks payable to Fair St. Clair with Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen in the memo line. Please mail checks to Fair St. Clair at 200 S. Belt East, Belleville, IL 62220.

## OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

\*Please maintain a copy of your signed iteration for your records and reference.

1. **Residential eligibility:** Contestant must be a resident of St. Clair County, Illinois; attend school in St. Clair County, Illinois; or live in a neighboring Illinois county without a Fair Queen pageant. Contestant must provide proof of residence to Pageant Directors by June 9, 2026.
2. Contestant must have been born a woman.
3. Contestant must never have been convicted of a felony offense.
4. Contestant must be single, never have been married or had a marriage annulled, and never have been pregnant.
5. Contestant must be of good moral character. Any and all provocative or distasteful photos or text must be removed from any online source before entering the pageant.
6. **Age Eligibility:** Contestant must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age by the pageant date and not have reached her twenty-second (22nd) birthday by January 1, 2027.
7. Contestant agrees to have her photograph taken at the discretion of the Pageant Directors. It is understood that any photograph may be used in any manner for publicity and advertisement of and created by Fair St. Clair and the Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen Pageant.
8. No one is allowed backstage with the Contestant during the pageant. There will be designated female volunteers to help the contestants backstage. Each Contestant will have a designated space to keep their belongings and change. There will be security at the fairgrounds. Contestant safety is our number one priority.
9. **Practices.** There will be four practices and one dress rehearsal. Contestants are **required** to attend the dress rehearsal. While attendance at practices is not required, it is strongly encouraged. Practices will take place on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 6:00 pm in the Expo Building at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Park, located at 200 S. Belt East, Belleville, IL 62220. Dress rehearsal will take place on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Expo Building.

10. **Pageant Day.** The pageant will take place on Monday, July 27, 2026, in the Expo Building at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Park. Contestants should arrive by 1:00 pm with all of their wardrobe and anything they will need for the pageant. Interviews will begin at 2:00 pm, and the pageant will begin at 5:00 pm. The doors will open for spectators at 4:00 pm. We will have a photographer photographing the pageant – Willow West Photography. In addition to our pageant photos, the photographer generally offers photo packages comprised of stage shots and posed shots for a reasonable fee.

11. **Pageant Wardrobe.** All Contestants must submit photos of their pageant wardrobe to the Pageant Directors for approval by July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Interview. Contestants should wear business attire such as a one-piece business-style dress, a two-piece skirt suit, or a two-piece pantsuit. Contestants shall wear a nude or black closed toe heel.

Introductions. Contestants should wear a sundress of their choosing. This should be a true summer-time sundress, not a formal cocktail dress. Please ensure the length of the dress is appropriate and that the dress is not sheer/see through in the light. Contestants should wear wedges, heeled sandals, or nude heels (open or closed toe).

Swimwear. Contestants are required to wear a one-piece swimsuit. The swimsuit must be lined. Contestants are required to wear nude heels with their swimsuit. The heel may be closed or open toe.

Speech. Contestants should wear business attire such as a one-piece business-style dress, a two-piece skirt suit, or a two-piece pantsuit. Contestants shall wear a nude or black closed toe heel. This can be the same attire the Contestant wore for interview or different.

Evening Gown. Contestants will be judged in an evening gown of their choosing. No two-piece, ball gown, or high-low dresses, and no high slits. Contestants can wear heels in the color of their choosing, and the heel may be closed or open toe.

12. **Areas of Competition:** The competition is comprised of a four-minute Private Interview (35%) with the Judges, Swimwear (15%), Evening Gown (25%), One-Minute Speech (15%), and Onstage Question (10%). Contestants agree to participate in a four-minute private interview with the judges and to appear in swimwear and evening gown onstage. Contestants agree to answer a fish bowl-style onstage question during the evening gown portion of the competition. Contestants agree to prepare and perform a one-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Contestants are prohibited from utilizing AI to draft their speeches. The speech must be memorized. Swimwear must be a one-piece, lined swimsuit.

13. Contestant agrees that the time, manner, and method of conducting and judging the contest shall be solely within the discretion of the Pageant Directors. The decision of the Judges is final.

14. If chosen as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen, any and all directions will only be given by the Pageant Directors. In absence of the Pageant Directors, a Fair St. Clair Committee member will act in their place.

15. **Fair St. Clair.** If chosen as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen, Contestant agrees and is required to attend Fair St. Clair at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds Park in Belleville, Illinois. The Fair will be July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 1, 2026. The Queen will be required to make many appearances throughout the fair, including introducing the live entertainment. The Queen may be required to participate in media interviews promoting the Fair following the pageant.

16. **County Fair Day.** If selected as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen, Contestant agrees to and is required to attend County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Illinois, in August. Pageant Directors will accompany the Queen.

17. **Southern Zone Meeting.** If selected as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen, Contestant agrees to and is required to attend Southern Zone Meeting, generally held in November. The Queen will be required to make a scrapbook depicting her favorite memories of her year thus far and bring with her to Zone. Mock interviews are generally held at Zone. The Queen shall treat this as an opportunity to practice interview for state. The Queen will be required to attend Zone in attire similar to that of which she would wear at the State pageant for interview. Her hair and makeup should be done as though she were competing in interview at the State pageant. The Queen will have her attire approved by Pageant Directors.

18. **Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant.** If selected as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen, Contestant agrees to and is required to compete at the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant held in January at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois. The pageant is typically held Thursday-Sunday in mid-January. The cost of entry and lodging will be covered by the Committee. The Committee will cover the cost of headshots to be submitted for use at the State pageant. St. Clair County Fair Queen will work with Pageant Directors in preparation for the State pageant, including wardrobe selection and practices. **All State wardrobe must be approved by the Pageant Directors.** Areas of competition at the State pageant include a private interview with the Judges, one-piece swimsuit, one-minute speech, and evening gown. There is an opening number dance on finals night, and Contestants wear an opening number dress, typically of the reigning State Fair Queen's choosing. Fittings for the opening number dress takes place on County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Illinois, in August. If selected as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen, Contestant agrees to abide by the State Rules and Regulations in preparation for the State Pageant.

19. If selected as St. Clair County Fair Queen, Contestant is required to send thank you cards to all pageant Sponsors.

20. Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen will be expected to make personal appearances during her year, as arranged by the Pageant Directors or with prior approval of the Pageant Directors.

21. Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen agrees to and is **required** to have a chaperone accompany her to all events. This can be the Pageant Directors, a Fair St. Clair Committee Member, parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle, or sibling over the age of 18. No significant other should accompany the Queen as her chaperone.

22. Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen agrees to and is **required** to have her attire approved by the Pageant Directors prior to each and every appearance by providing photos to Pageant Directors for review.

23. Miss St. Clair County agrees to and attend and participate in any local parade at the direction of the Pageant Directors or the Fair St. Clair Committee.

**\*Miss St. Clair County is responsible for securing her own convertible for parades. No pickup trucks are allowed.**

24. All personal appearances as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen must be approved in advance by the Pageant Directors.

25. If applicable, for any and all appearances, Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen shall remove any and all visible facial piercings and cover any visible tattoos.

26. For all parades, Contestants will furnish their own convertible and will furnish a driver of at least 18 years of age, with a valid driver's license, and proof of insurance to drive a vehicle. If the driver or contestants cause any damage to rented or loaned vehicles while representing Fair St. Clair and the Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen Pageant, Contestants shall hold harmless Fair St. Clair and the Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen Pageant from any and all liability to said vehicle or any damage caused to another individual or vehicle. No pickup trucks will be allowed for parades.

27. If Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen is unable to fulfill her duties, she will automatically relinquish the title and winnings to the next eligible Runner Up. In the event a Runner Up is not qualified to serve as Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen, the Pageant Directors reserve the right to reinstate the Queen from the previous year to fulfill the duties.

28. Miss St. Clair County Fair Queen will receive half of her scholarship money at the outset of her reign, and will receive the remaining half of her scholarship money upon retirement. This is to ensure participation and accurate representation of the pageant and the Fair throughout the year.

29. The Pageant Directors reserve the right to make changes to the Official Rules and Regulations.

**By signing below, I hereby acknowledge that I have read and agree to the official rules and regulations above.**

---

Signature

Date