



## McLean County Fair Royalty Program Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the McLean County Fair Royalty Program?

The McLean County Fair Royalty Program has been a tradition at the McLean County Fair for over 80 years. Our program provides a scholarship to the new Queen and King, helping them to pursue their educational goals.

McLean County Fair Royalty selects youth to serve as ambassadors for the fair. Responsibilities of the court include:

- Daily attendance at the McLean County Fair, including presenting awards and ribbons and participation in a variety of fair week activities
- Attending public events throughout the year

### Who is eligible to compete?

Candidates MUST live or go to school in McLean County or be a member of a McLean County 4-H Club and meet the age requirements below:

- King & Queen: Minimum of 16 years of age as of June 1, 2025 and have yet to reach their 22 birthday by January 1, 2026
- Junior Miss: Ages 10-13 as of June 1, 2025
- Little Miss: Ages 6-8 as of June 1, 2025

\*All categories capped at 12 candidates on a first-come, first-served basis

### Why compete?

The McLean County Fair Royalty Program provides an opportunity for young adults to grow their interview and public speaking skills and confidence. Candidates will gain skills that will benefit you in whatever career path you pursue.

Winners selected as King, Queen, Jr. Miss and Little Miss will receive a scholarship as well as other prizes and gifts.

### What are the phases of competition?

King candidates will be scored as follows: Personal Interview (4-min): 40%; Communication skills (speech): 30%; On-stage question(s): 20%; Stage presence: 10%

Miss candidates will be scored as follows: Personal Interview (4-min): 40%; Communication skills (speech): 30%; Stage presence in an evening gown: 10%; On-stage question(s): 20%

Junior Miss candidates will be scored as follows: Personal Interview (3-min): 40%; Communication skills (speech): 30%; Stage presence in an evening gown: 10%; On-stage question(s): 20%

*\*Speeches are limited to 60-seconds on a topic chosen by the candidate and approved by the McLean County Fair Royalty Committee.*

Little Miss candidates will be scored as follows: Personal Interview (2-min): 60%; Stage presence in an evening gown: 20%; On-stage question: 20%



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**Does it cost a lot of money to compete?**

The entry-fee is \$50 per candidate to compete. This can be covered by family, friends, a local business or a combination of those. Each candidate will receive a t-shirt. You do not need to purchase new clothes to compete. Many candidates have re-worn school dance dresses, borrowed or rented from friends or borrowed through Kara and Kaylee's Closet in Bloomington. The McLean County Fair Royalty Program also has a partnership in 2025 with The Dress Culture. Candidates can receive 20% off a dress purchased for the pageant.

King candidates will receive a polo they can wear during the interview with dress pants and will receive a free tux rental from Men's Wearhouse in Bloomington to wear on stage the day of the pageant.

**What is the time commitment to compete?**

Optional rehearsals will be held in June and July for candidates. Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend rehearsals to get to know the other candidates and to help them feel their best and most confident when it comes to pageant day. There will be one mandatory dress rehearsal practice.

**What are the responsibilities if you win?**

The short answer is four evenings and three days at the fair. Candidates who are selected as King, Queen, Jr. Miss and Little Miss will abide by the code of conduct and serve as ambassadors of the McLean County Fair. Royalty and court members will attend the McLean County Fair, presenting awards and ribbons, and are invited to attend other county fair pageants. Royalty members may attend community events and parades throughout the year, do volunteer work and represent the fair around the county.

The Queen and court are also invited to attend County Fair Day at the Illinois State Fair. The Queen also has the option to attend and compete in the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen pageant in January. The Royalty Committee has a list of potential appearances if you'd like to see what opportunities could be available throughout the year.

**Who can watch the pageant?**

Everyone is invited to watch the pageant at Heartland Community College. There is no charge to attend. No noise makers are allowed at the pageant.

**Who will make the court?**

Court members attending the fair include the candidates selected as King, Queen, Jr. Miss, Little Miss and 1st and 2nd Runner-ups from each category.

The latest information will be available at <https://mcleancountyfair.org/royalty>.

Questions? Contact [mcleancofairroyalty@gmail.com](mailto:mcleancofairroyalty@gmail.com)



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