



## 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, 2026 and have yet to reach their 22 birthday by January 1, 2027
- Junior Miss: Ages 10-13 as of June 1, 2026
- Little Miss: Ages 6-8 as of June 1, 2026

\*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.

### 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 2026 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.



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### **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.

## **Scoring and Wardrobe**

### **King Candidates**

**Personal Interview: 40%:** Royalty polo or a collared dress shirt with dress pants (no jeans)

**On-stage Introductions:** Same as interview

**Communication skills (speech): 30%:** A rented tux from Men's Wearhouse, compliments of the Royalty program

**On-stage question(s): 20%:** Tux

**Stage presence: 10%:** Tux

### **Queen Candidates**

**Personal Interview: 40%:** A skirt or pant suit, business dress, or jumpsuit

**On-stage Introductions:** Pageant t-shirt and jean shorts (appropriate length) and tennis shoes

**Communication skills (speech): 30%:** Same as opening #

**On-stage question(s): 20%:** Evening gown

**Stage presence in an evening gown: 10%:** A floor length formal evening gown for competition. Gowns cannot have side cutouts, no low backs below the natural waist, no low bodices, and any slits must be no more than 5" above the knee.



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### **Jr. Miss Candidates**

**Personal Interview: 40%:** Pageant t-shirt and choice of bottoms and shoes (pants, skirts or shorts – must be at least fingertip length)

**On-stage Introductions:** Pageant t-shirt and jean shorts (appropriate length) and tennis shoes

**Communication skills (speech): 30%:** Same as interview

**On-stage question(s): 20%:** Evening gown

**Stage presence in an evening gown: 10%:** A tea length or floor length gown and age appropriate. High slits in the skirt are not allowed. The back must be no lower than the natural waistline. One shoulder dresses are allowed, as long as it covers the chest area well. High-low dresses are allowed as long as the front comes down past the knee. Make sure you can walk well in the shoes you choose as you will be judged on stage presentation.

### **Little Miss Candidates**

**Personal Interview: 60%:** Pageant t-shirt and choice of bottoms and shoes (pants, skirts or shorts – must be at least fingertip length)

**On-stage Introductions:** Pageant t-shirt and jean shorts (appropriate length) and tennis shoes

**On-stage question: 20%:** Party dress

**Stage presence in party dress: 20%:** Party/Sunday best dress of her choice. Knee length or tea length dresses recommended.

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

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



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