What To Expect

Interview:

Each contestant will participate in a four minute interview with a panel of three judges. This is for the judges to see how you conduct yourself and help them to learn more about you.

After interviews, the contestants, committee, and judges will have dinner before getting ready for the onstage portion of the pageant. A business suit (skirt and jacket) or a dress suit (modest business dress) and coordinating shoes, accessories, and pantyhose will be required for the interview.

Grand March:

The grand march is not a judged portion of the pageant. This is a fun way to get the pageant started and provides the judges and the audience a chance to see each of you as a group and individually before the pageant starts. For this portion each contestant will wear a black dress and their taupe shoes.

Speech and on-stage question:

Each contestant will be required to prepare a one minute speech which will be performed on stage. The speech is not about the content as much as how you speak in front of a crowd. The speech can be about any topic of your choosing (we suggest avoiding anything political or emotional). This is also a chance to showcase one of your passions or something that is not on your application.

Each contestant will also answer two on-stage questions. We will rehearse sample questions during practice.

Attire for this can be the same as your interview outfit.

Swimsuit:

This portion of the pageant is meant to show your confidence. A solid color, modest, one-piece swimsuit will be worn for this portion. The suit should not be low-cut, have high-cut legs, or any cut-outs (though they can be filled with matching material). You will wear your taupe shoes; no pantyhose or jewelry.

Evening gown:

The evening gown competition will showcase your poise, grace, and confidence. A floor length gown is required for this portion (many girls will use their prom dress or borrow a friend’s). The back of the dress should not fall lower than the natural waistline, not be too low-cut, no mid-drift showing/two-pieces, and a slit must fall no higher than 4 inches above the knee. Your dress will also need to be bustled. It is suggested that you coordinate jewelry and shoes with your dress.

The speech and all pageant attire MUST be approved by the pageant director.

At one practice, group and individual photos will be taken for a slideshow and/or social media promotions. A photo from this may also be used in local newspapers to announce contestants and invite the community to the pageant as well as the program.

If selected as queen, you will compete at the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant held in January at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield (January 11-14, 2024). You will also need to be available to attend County Fair Day at the Illinois State fair, which is Thursday, August 10, 2023 and Zone Meeting held in the Fall of 2024 (date TBD, most likely October 22 or 29, 2023).

You also need to be available the entire week of the cast county fair July 17-22, 2023. The pageant takes place on the evening of Monday, July 17, 2023.