

2026 Miss Herbstfest Queen Pageant: Rules and Responsibilities

Applications are due FRIDAY, August 28th by 8pm to the address listed on the application.

1. Each Miss contestant must be between the ages of **16 and 20** by Sunday, September 20, 2026.
2. A contestant must be a female, unmarried, without child, not pregnant, and living in the Southwest Dubois County School District, either a graduate or a current student. The contestant must have no prior arrests or convictions.
3. Transportation for contestants to and from Herbstfest Queen Pageant events and to the Herbstfest is the responsibility of each contestant.
4. Contestants should give thoughtful consideration to their use of social media and be advised the Herbstfest Committee/Queen Pageant can review all contestants' internet presence for appropriate online behavior.
5. By entering the contest, permission is given by the contestant and guardians for the Herbstfest Queen Pageant and Herbstfest committee to use images of contestants and winners on social media pages and local media outlets, including newspapers and online newspapers.
6. Each Herbstfest Queen contestant will be judged on the basis of poise, personality, and ability to converse. This judging is divided into five divisions:

Div. I - Interview: 50 points total

Ability to converse: 20 points
Poise/Posture: 10 points
Personality: 10 points
Attire: 10 points

Div. II- Personal Wear: 25 points total

Introduction: 15 points
Poise/Posture: 10 points

Div. III – Formal Wear: 30 points total

Gown: 10 points
Poise/Posture: 10 points
Stage Question 10 points

Div. IV- Attendance: 15 points total

Headshot and rehearsal: 5 points
On time for interview: 5 points
On time for pageant: 5 points

Points will be deducted if absent

(School functions, band/sports, are considered excused absences BUT must be discussed)

The following attire is **REQUIRED** for the Queen Pageant:

Interview and Personal Wear

Attire: Sunday Dress, Skirt Outfit, Dress Pants and Sweater, etc.

- ❖ Each contestant will have one, three-minute interview with the judges, answering impromptu questions asked by each judge.
- ❖ Judges prefer an age-appropriate **COLORED** dress or skirt outfit, with shoulders covered by either sleeves or a business jacket. Dresses and skirts must be knee length. When you sit down, it should cover you **appropriately**.
- ❖ Judges prefer **closed toe heels** that are easy to walk in. Remember, you are being judged on how you walk. Practice in your shoes. Judges **highly** recommend panty hose. Bring an extra pair or two!!

You will also be wearing the same outfit during the Personal Wear section of the onstage part of the pageant.

****PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE BUILDING DURING INTERVIEWS****

Formal Wear

Attire: Formal Gown

- ❖ The gown's hemline needs to be floor length (touching the floor or the contestant's foot). **Gowns with the skirt split above the knee and/or low-cut bodice WILL be discounted.** Two-piece dresses are allowed but with midriff showing 2 inches or less. Dresses need to be tasteful and appropriate.
- ❖ Gloves and hats are **not** allowed. Jewelry is optional and should be kept minimal. No facial jewelry is allowed. All tattoos need to be covered. Any type of shoe is allowed for formal wear, though I recommend a pair that is easy to walk and turn in.
- ❖ Each contestant will answer one question on stage. These questions will be given to each contestant before the pageant. Questions will be drawn out on stage. The judges will be expecting well thought out answers for this question but not too rehearsed.

7. Each contestant is allowed to have **ONLY ONE (1) FEMALE** backstage when changing into their evening gown. After you are changed, they **MUST** go back to their seats.

8. The 2026 Queen will be crowned, along with the possibility of 1st Runner-Up, 2nd Runner-Up, and/or Miss Photogenic, depending on the number of contestants. Double sashing is allowed for a title and Miss Photogenic.

9. There will be a **MANDATORY meeting on Sunday, August 30th at 6:00p.m. at Market Street Park. HEADSHOTS will be taken for the newspapers and to determine Miss Photogenic. This practice will also serve as dress rehearsal and will be the only practice.**

Contestants will learn the pageant day walk, review important pageant day information, and have the opportunity to ask questions. **Parents/Guardians/Sponsors are more than welcome and encouraged to attend.**

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. POINTS ARE AWARDED FOR ATTENDING. The picture is from the waist up. Contestants can wear any type of top as long as it covers appropriately (no cleavage). Judges also prefer shoulders to be covered. If you do not get your picture taken, it will NOT be in the newspaper or the Photogenic judging.

10. The Queen and Court will be required to attend the Huntingburg Herbstfest and are required to be present at all events and activities to which they are assigned. I would recommend trying to **take off work now** just in case you receive a title.

(If you are a band member and have a contest that weekend or if you are an athlete with a meet/match that day, please come talk to me and we will figure out what events you are able to attend.)

**The Herbstfest will begin Thursday September 24th
and will end Sunday September 27th.**

11. Only the Queen and Court will ride in the Herbstfest Parade on Sunday, September 27th. Those who want to throw candy must purchase their own.

12. Contestants will be able to practice onstage Pageant Day with the reigning Queen if they need more practice.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to **call, text, or email.**

There is also a Herbstfest Queen Pageants Facebook page. You can message us through there and can also send us pictures of outfits if you have any questions.

Good Luck to all and we are excited for the upcoming Huntingburg Herbstfest!

**Rhegann Messmer- Director
Amanda Thewes & Gretchen Weyerbacher**