



Miss Whitley County Contestant Information

Attendance

- Prompt attendance is appreciated and **HIGHLY** encouraged for all meetings
- All meetings are extremely important and beneficial to contestants. Attendance will be “mandatory” at each meeting, unless privately discussed with the director, Jessica Geiger, (260) 610-4050.
- A schedule of meetings and events will be given out at the first meeting, please add these important dates to your calendar. If there are any changes, you will be notified via email or text.

Sponsorship

- Each contestant is to have, **AT LEAST**, one sponsor for the pageant.
- The pageant entry fee is \$100, which includes your t-shirt to be worn during opening number.
- You may have more than one sponsor. It can be family, friends, employer or any other business that will be willing to sponsor you.

Personal Resume

- The personal profile should be taken seriously. It is encouraged that you have it proof read by someone (or several people) to check for grammatical errors.
- This profile is all about **YOU** so **YOU** should know everything that is going into it. The judges will most likely be asking questions directly off of your resume. It is the judges first impression of you, so make it count!
- It is **HIGHLY** recommended that you **TYPE** your personal profile! It will be easier to read for the judges and it looks much more professional!

People's Choice

- The People's Choice Award is very unique, as it is voted on by your friends and family, based on monetary donations.
- Each contestant will need to obtain a box (shoe box, tissue, etc. Nothing outrageous in size) and it is to be decorated to fit your own personal style. Decorate it with pictures and symbols that represent who you are. (**NO LOOSE GLITTER!!!**)
- The boxes must be sealed but be able to be easily opened (magnets, ribbon, etc) and a small slit must be on the lid of the box so that the monetary donations can be easily placed inside but fingers cannot get into it.

Silent Auction

- We will be having a silent auction to help raise funds for the Miss Whitley County Scholarship Fund. - Each contestant is encouraged to bring in a new item to be auctioned off. (purses, bags, baskets, event tickets, baked goods, etc)
- A member of the committee will be standing at the table before the auction sheets are taken to read off the winners.

Formal Dress Rehearsal

- A formal dress rehearsal will be held on Sunday, June 29 at the First Church of God in Columbia City. - All clothing that will be worn the day of the pageant must be brought the night of rehearsal (opening number outfit, interview, formal wear, etc)
- We will run through the pageant several times to make sure that everyone is comfortable and all questions about the next day can be answered.
- The final run through will be done just as it will be on the day of the pageant (full dress rehearsal!) - If you realize that you need something for the next day or you have a wardrobe malfunction, please see Jessica and we can try to get it resolved.
- The evening gown worn at dress rehearsal, will be the gown worn on pageant day!

PAGEANT DAY!

- Contestants are to arrive at First Church of God, at a time to be determined at a later date, on time! (on time... usually means a little early)
- Interview times will be determined once we get a final number of contestants.
- Each interview will be 5 minutes long with each of the 3 judges.
- Contestants will not be allowed to leave the church after interviews. If you would like someone to do your hair, please schedule them to come to the church to do so.

Backstage Help

- A small committee will be backstage to help with any wardrobe changes throughout the night. - Friends and family **WILL NOT** be allowed backstage during or after the pageant.
- You may, however, have your mother or one other female relative to help carry your belongings out of the dressing room but they are to wait in the hallway. Some contestants may not be comfortable with other individuals in the dressing room.

Scoring

- Interview (50 points)
 - Ability to converse - 20 points
 - Personality - 15 points
 - Poise - 15 points
- Professional Wear (20 points)
 - Posture and Poise - 10 points
 - Overall Impression - 10 points
- Formal Wear (30 points)
 - Stage Presence - 15 points
 - Overall Impression - 15 points

Pageant Day Entry Fee

- \$1 entry fee the day of the pageant. All proceeds will go back into the Miss Whitley County Scholarship Fund. Please make friends and family aware.

If You Are Queen

- It is imperative that you attend animal shows during the day and all of the night events that will be going on during the fair. You are the queen of the fair, you must attend.

- Formal photos will be taken by Leaha Meinika, as one of our sponsors. This needs to include crown and sash.
- The judges comments will be given to you shortly after the pageant. These tips and constructive criticisms can be used in your preparation for the State Fair Pageant.
- **YOU** are responsible to securing a vehicle for the parades (4-H, Turtle Days and Old Settlers). The 4-H parade will be the first so please get a vehicle **ASAP**. A sign stating your name and title is encouraged to be placed on your parade vehicle (magnets work best). Formal attire is encouraged for the parades, including your crown and sash.
- You will be selling your kiss at the Whitley County 4-H Auction, once you are crowned, you are highly encouraged to begin raising money for your kiss. You are able to choose who you kiss. Half of the money raised will go back to the Miss Whitley County Scholarship Fund.
- As Miss Whitley County, you will be asked to attend several events during your reign as queen, please take this job seriously, you are a representative of Whitley County and must be professional and courteous at all times.

If You Are On Court

- It is HIGHLY encouraged that you attend all shows and night events with your queen.
- Events over the year are very important and encouraged for you to attend.
- You must get your own car for the 4-H parade and signage as well.

Attire

- At the Fair

- No open toed shoes during large animal shows.
- Formal dresses are to be worn during the parade.
- Be a little more dressed up for Parade of Champions and Fashion Revue.
- Appropriate, casual attire for the evening events.
- Sashes are required while you are on the fair grounds, unless you are participating in an event.

- Any event

- Appropriate, casual clothing choices, no cleavage or inappropriate skirt/short lengths (be mindful of the weather)
- Sash (crown) must be worn at all events.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to contact Jessica, 260-610-4050.

More information will be given at the meetings, hence the importance of attending. If you have any questions feel free to either text, call or email Jessica; misswhitleycounty@yahoo.com or 260-610-4050.

- **May 31, 2026** - Teen and Miss Resume/Modeling/Outfits Practice; 4pm at the 4H Center

- **June 1, 2026** - All resumes and paperwork due.



- **June 7, 2026** - Official first meeting. Time and location to be determined.

- **June 13, 2026** - Turtle Days Parade

- **June 14, 2026** - Miss mock interviews from 2-8pm (includes headshots and mock interviews) at the 4H center

- **June 20, 2026** - Old Settlers Day Parade

- **June 28, 2026** - Full dress rehearsal at the First Church of God in Columbia City. Little Miss Pageant.

- **June 29, 2026** - Teen and Miss Pageant day! 7pm at First Church of God in Columbia City.

Miss Whitley County Terms and Conditions

1. To be eligible for our program and the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant, contestants must be at least 18 years of age but cannot have reached their 22nd birthday on or before June 1, 2026. She must also live, go to school OR participate in at least one worthwhile organization in Whitley County.

2. Contestants cannot be married and must have never been married.

3. Each contestant must be a Whitley County resident, and a U.S. citizen. One of her parents or legal guardians must also be a Whitley County resident.

4. No professional model is eligible to compete. (A professional model is one who earns her livelihood by modeling.) A contestant, who has had training or schooling in the modeling field, has been paid on occasion for modeling or works for a fashion board is not considered a professional model.

5. Each contestant must be an active member of at least one worthwhile organization in their community, such as church group, Scout, 4-H, etc. Eligibility is **NOT** limited to 4-H membership.

6. Contestants cannot have had a child or be knowingly pregnant at the time of the county fair or

the State Fair Queen Pageant. If Miss Whitley County or Miss Indiana State Fair becomes pregnant anytime during her reign, she will be required to relinquish her title.

7. Once a contestant has been crowned Miss Whitley County or any other county queen, they are ineligible to compete in the Miss Whitley County Pageant again.

8. Any contestant who has competed in a State Fair Pageant cannot compete again and is not eligible for Miss Whitley County.

9. The newly crowned queen will sign a contract following the pageant stating she will be available for appearances the week of the Whitley County 4-H Fair, July 17-23, 2026. There will be a schedule of appearances throughout the year and she must also be available for the 2026 Miss Whitley County Scholarship Program.

10. The county winner (or first runner-up if the winner becomes ineligible) will represent Whitley County at the State Fair Queen Pageant in January at the Indiana State Fair and must abide by the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant Rules.

11. Contestants should give thoughtful consideration to their use of social media and be advised that members for the Miss Whitley County and Indiana State Fair Queen Pageants reviews all contestants' internet presence for appropriate online behavior.

12. The Miss Whitley County Queen Committee reserves the right to change the foregoing rules and regulations at any time to be deemed necessary.

Miss Whitley County Scholarship Program
OFFICIAL PERSONAL RESUME INFORMATION

(PLEASE CONSTRUCT YOUR OWN PERSONAL RESUME, using the following information as a guide - once completed, sign the back of your resume {parents also sign if under the age of 18})

Complete Name:

Date of Birth: Age on 6/1/2026:

Parents Names:

City of Residence:

County of Residence:

High School: Current Grade/Year (if in High School): College (Current or Future):

Current Year/Class (Upcoming Fall Semester):

Major(s):

Career Goals:

Active Member and Past Member of the Follow Community Organization(s):

Awards and Honors (School and Community, etc):

Hobbies and Special Interests (Music, Sports, etc):

Interesting Facts About You:

Contestant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature (if contestant is under age 18): _____ Date _____

County Pageant Chairperson Signature _____ Date _____



Miss Whitley County Scholarship Program Sponsorship Form

Contestant Name:

Sponsor Name/Company:

Address & Phone:

Detach the bottom of this form and keep for personal Thank You's!

Sponsorship Form

Contestant Name:

Sponsor Name/Company:

Address & Phone:



Miss Whitley County Scholarship Program

LIABILITY RELEASE

I, undersigned, agree to hold harmless the Miss Whitley County Scholarship Program, its director or committee, along with Whitley County 4-H Clubs, Inc., its directors, board, council or employees, from liability, and/or damages due to any injury or property damage sustained by me being involved in any event on the Whitley County 4-H Fair Grounds or local community event, that is volunteered for by myself or parent/legal guardian.

Date: _____ 20 _____

Participant's Name and Date of Birth: _____

PRINT CLEARLY

Participant's Signature: _____

NOTE: If under 18 years of age, the name and signature of a parent or legal guardian is required.

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

PRINT CLEARLY

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Jessica Geiger, Miss Whitley County Scholarship Program Director

2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition

January 2-4, 2026 Updated & Approved 3/4/26

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

FOR CONTESTANTS

1. Each contestant must be certified as their county fair's representative to the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition. If the selected county representative does not meet the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition terms and conditions and the county program director so chooses, the county representative may participate in the event but will not be eligible to compete for the title of Miss Indiana State Fair 2026, the Queen's Court, the Top 10 Finalists, or the Top 16 Semi-Finalists. (See "For Contestants #4)
2. Each contestant must be at least 18 years of age and cannot have reached their 22nd birthday on or before June 1, 2026.
3. At the time of their selection as the county representative, each contestant must be an Indiana resident, a U.S. citizen and represent their home county (county of legal residency). One of the contestant's parents or legal guardians must also be an Indiana resident. The only exception: the contestant may reside in an adjoining Indiana county if the majority of their activities are in the county in which they entered the contest. Should a fair represent more than one county, the winning contestant must reside in one of the participating counties or an adjoining county.
4. Each contestant must be employable by the State of Indiana.
5. Any contestant who has competed or participated in a prior Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition (i.e.: the State contest) cannot compete or participate again.
6. Transportation to and from the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition in Indianapolis is the responsibility of each contestant.
7. Each contestant must stay in their assigned room/dorm at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center throughout the Competition.
8. Contestants will be chaperoned by adult, female event staff selected by the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator.
9. Contestants should give thoughtful consideration to their use of social media and be advised the Indiana State Fair Queen Program may review contestants' internet presence for appropriate online behavior.
10. If any of the previous terms and conditions listed in their brochure are not followed by the contestant and/or county, the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator has the right to disqualify that contestant from the Competition.

11. The contestant or county fair may appeal the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator's decision to the Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair Commission by written appeal. The written appeal must be received by the Executive Director's office no later than 10am EST on December 1, 2026.
12. Should the Executive Director or their designee take no action on the appeal within 15 days from the receipt in the office of the Fair Board, the exhibitor/contestant may request an appeal hearing no later than 18 days of the initial violation determination. Requests for an appeal hearing must be sent to the State of Indiana Office of Administration Law Proceedings (OALP) by submitting a petition for review. To submit a request, go online to <http://www.in.gov/oalp/>. Select that you are an individual filing a petition for review. Then:
 - a. Fill out the form via the link at the bottom of the page. You will be asked to upload a copy of the violation determination.
 - b. Download a paper copy of the request form and mail it to OALP, or... c. Personally appear at the OALP office located at 100 N. Senate Avenue N802, Indianapolis, IN 40204.
13. OALP shall appoint an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to conduct an appeal hearing. The ALJ shall issue an order to parties setting a date for the appeal hearing.
14. OALP's assigned ALJ shall issue a final order concluding the Administrative Review.
15. Either party wishing to appeal the ALJ's final order may file for judicial review of the order. Any judicial review shall take place on a competent court situated in Marion County, Indiana.

FOR COUNTIES

1. All Indiana county fairs intending to send a representative to the 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition shall ENTER their county and pay the ENTRY FEE online by credit card. Entry fees paid by check will not be accepted.

Entry and payment by: September 1, 2026, require a \$75 entry fee. Entries made September 2-15, 2026, require a \$85 entry fee. Entries made September 16-30, 2026, require a \$100 entry fee. Entries made October 1, 2026, or later require a \$130 entry fee.
2. The Indiana State Fair Queen Program will accept only one entry per county. Should there be more than one queen/ambassador contest in association with the county fair, it will be the responsibility of the fair/contests concerned to hold an elimination contest to determine which individual shall represent the county fair to the 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition.
3. Each county is encouraged to select its representative based on public speaking, the ability to converse, poise and personality in a competitive contest.
4. Only the county fair winner may represent the county at the 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition. If the county winner is unavailable or ineligible, the county is

encouraged to send another eligible representative of their choice to the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition. Recommended: First Runner-Up, followed by the Second Runner-Up, etc. If the selected county representative does not meet the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition terms and conditions and the county program director so chooses, the representative may participate in the event but will not be eligible to compete for the title of Miss Indiana State Fair 2026, Queen's Court, Top 10 Finalists, or Top 16 Semi Finalists. The participating county representative would be eligible for the Miss Congeniality award, as selected by fellow county representatives.

5. The paid county entry fee is non-refundable.

FOR THE STATE PROGRAM COMPETITION

1. Personal Entry & Information Packets will be issued directly to county representatives (the contestants) whose county directors have entered the county into the 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition by means of the contact information submitted by the county program director when the county entry is made. Information will be issued to contestants via email/online in late October 2026.
2. Contestants are requested to submit their personal entry and other required information to the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition no later than Monday, December 1, 2026 at 11:59pm EST. Details and "how to" will be included with the email and information issued to contestants in late October.
3. The 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds: January 2-4, 2026. NOTE: Should it be deemed unsafe for contestants to travel to and/or hold the Queen Program Competition as originally scheduled due to severe winter weather, the 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition will be held January 9-11, 2026.
4. Contestants are required to register with the Queen Program Competition at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center on Friday, January 2, 2026, and remain through the final event (Finals & Crowning) on Sunday, January 4, 2026.
5. The Indiana State Fair Commission will provide overnight accommodations on Friday and Saturday night (January 2 & 3, 2026) for each contestant. Contestants will be housed at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center in a dormitory with bunk beds. Contestants must bring their own bedding, towels, toiletries, etc.
6. During the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition, county representatives will be divided into groups (housing dorms), with each group assigned an adult, female chaperone selected by the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator.
7. The Indiana State Fair Commission will provide transportation for contestants to any public outing/activity away from the Indiana State Fairgrounds during the Queen Program Competition, January 2-4, 2026.

8. Each contestant will receive an official 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program t-shirt as part of the paid county entry (provided by the county), distributed during registration on-site on Friday, January 2, 2026.
9. Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition contestants will be scored based on their ability to converse, speaking ability, poise, personality, and the judges' overall impression.

All contestants will take part in the **Preliminary Judging**, divided into four categories:

PRIVATE INTERVIEW 45 percent of scoring

Attire: Solid black pants or skirt; Solid white top (blouse, jacket, etc.)

Each contestant will have one (1), three-minute interview with each of the three judges individually. Therefore, each contestant will give three separate interviews (9 collective minutes total), answering impromptu questions asked by each judge. Interviews are private and not open to the public.

PRIVATE PREPARED SPEECH 15 percent of scoring

Attire: Solid black pants or skirt; Solid white top (blouse, jacket, etc.) – same worn for Interviews

Each contestant will prepare a speech no longer than one (1) minute, on the topic of their choice. Each speech will be scored on natural speaking ability, delivery, poise, and originality. Each speech will be timed, with one (1) point deducted from each judge (3 points total) for speeches going over one-minute. Props, music and audio-visuals will not be allowed. Speeches will be delivered privately to one panel of three (3) speech judges – different individuals than the primary judges – immediately after their individual private Interviews.

Only the Top 16 Semi-Finalists will deliver their Prepared Speech during the public Competition Finals in the Indiana Farmers Coliseum on Sunday, January 5, 2026. The Top 16 Semi-Finalists will deliver their Prepared Speech wearing their Professional Wear attire.

PROFESSIONAL WEAR 20 percent of scoring

Attire: Suit, Pant Suit, Jumpsuit, or Dress

A suit does not have to be of the same fabric – separates are allowed.

FORMAL WEAR 20 percent of scoring

Attire: Formal Gown or Tuxedo

Any style tuxedo is acceptable and must include pants, shirt, jacket, and tie. When choosing a formal gown, at least one portion of the hemline must be floor length (touching the floor or top of the contestant's foot). A gown with the skirt split above the knee (more than 2" above

the kneecap), a low-cut bodice and/or cut/design inappropriate for the Indiana State Fair Queen Program may be discounted by the judges. Formal Wear worn during Preliminary Judging must also be worn during the Competition Finals.

10. Selection of the Top 16 Semi-Finalists is the judges' decision. The Top 16 Semi-Finalists will be announced during the public Queen Program Finals. Only the Top 16 Semi-Finalists will compete again (with new scores given by the judges) in Prepared Speech and Professional Wear. Those scores will be combined with the Top 16 Semi-Finalists' original Interview scores to determine their semi-final point total. Those semi-final point totals will determine the Top 10 Finalists.
11. Only the Top 10 Finalists will compete in Formal Wear during the Program Finals, also answering one (1) impromptu on-stage response, to be scored by the judges.
12. Selection of Miss Indiana State Fair 2026 and the four Queen's Court members are the judges' decision and may not be based solely on the Top 10 Finalists' overall point totals awarded during the Competition Finals. The judges' decision shall be final and binding. Judges will not meet with contestants following the Competition or provide verbal or written feedback.
13. Prior to the Finals, contestants will vote to select a county representative to receive the Miss Congeniality award.
14. Failure to comply with the above requirements could result in the loss of judging points. Points and score sheets are for the judges' assessment only and will not be available to view following the Competition.
15. The Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator reserves the right to change the foregoing terms and conditions at any time as may be deemed expedient.

FOR THE WINNER

1. The winner of the State Competition will receive the title "Miss Indiana State Fair 2026" (2026 Queen) and must be prepared to spend the entire Fair period in Indianapolis, IN at the 2026 Indiana State Fair: August 7-23, 2026 (closed Mondays).
2. The winner will become an employee of the Indiana State Fair Commission throughout their 12-month year of service, must qualify to be employable by the Indiana State Fair Commission and the State of Indiana, and will be asked to complete a USCIS Form I-9. The winner will keep and submit a time sheet and be paid an hourly wage for time spent at work during appearances scheduled by the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator.
3. The Indiana State Fair will be responsible for expenses incurred by the 2026 Queen during the period of the 2026 Indiana State Fair and non-Fair appearances scheduled on behalf of the Indiana State Fair Commission by the Queen Program Coordinator (i.e.: lodging, meals,

and transportation). The Queen will be responsible to the Queen Program Coordinator, who will schedule appearances and serve as the Queen's supervisor.

4. The winner must agree to appear for the Indiana State Fair Commission and Indiana State Fair Board in official capacities as required throughout their year employment until a successor is crowned. All appearances made by Miss Indiana State Fair 2026 in official capacity must be approved by the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator. Transportation and expenses for official appearances scheduled by the Indiana State Fair Queen Program Coordinator will be arranged by and/or reimbursed to the Queen by the Indiana State Fair Commission.
5. The winner will be required to travel extensively throughout Indiana during June & July 2026 in promotion of the 2026 Indiana State Fair.
6. The winner must agree not to accept another program or pageant title or endorse any commercial product as "Miss Indiana State Fair 2026" for 12 months following the 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition without the written permission of the Indiana State Fair Commission. There are no restrictions on program/pageant/queen titles the 2026 winner may have received prior to competing in the 2026 Indiana State Fair Queen Program Competition.
7. The winner will receive all prizes, gifts and awards at the conclusion of the Program Finals except the wardrobe award.
8. If at any time the Indiana State Fair Board, in its sole discretion, determines that the winner is unable to perform the official duties and obligations of Miss Indiana State Fair, the winner shall relinquish the Miss/Queen title, crown, sash(es), duties, and remaining benefits of the position to the First Runner-Up or next Court member in the line of succession.