



## 2017 Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest Rules

### Directors in Charge

Vickie Autrey, Elizabeth Drozd, Marjorie Pollard

### Co-Chairs

Michelle Bartee, Lisa Reyes

**ALL RULES APPLY TO FAIR QUEEN CANDIDATES AND FAIR QUEEN WHETHER SPECIFIED OR NOT. ALL DATES AND TIMES WITHIN THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

**This is not a beauty contest. You do not need artistic talent to enter.**

### Purpose

The purpose of the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest is to select a Fair Queen to represent the Fort Bend County Fair and provide scholarships to winning contestants.

### Duration

The dates of competition for the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest will begin on the first day of registration, no later than the mandatory workshop, and end on Friday, September 29, 2017, at the end of coronation ceremonies and completion of Grand Entry.

### Eligibility

All entries to the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Contest are subject to the Fort Bend County Fair Association General Rules and Regulations, Fort Bend County Fair Association Scholarship Rules, as well as the following Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest Rules:

1. Fair Queen Candidates must be at least 15 years of age and not more than 19 years of age on September 1, 2017. A certified copy of birth record may be requested.
2. Fair Queen Candidates must be U.S. Citizens and reside in Fort Bend County.
3. Fair Queen Candidates must be (and always have been) female as recorded on birth certificate.
4. Fair Queen Candidates must be attending high school.

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Approved by Board  
5/11/2017

5. Fair Queen Candidates may never have been married or have had children or be pregnant at the time of the Fort Bend County Fair. If the Fair Queen becomes pregnant or is married during her reign, she will be required to relinquish her title and her scholarship and will immediately cease and desist her representation as Fair Queen. The remainder of the Fair Queen's scholarship will pass to the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up.
6. Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen must not have been charged with or convicted of any criminal offense. This includes but is not limited to misdemeanors (such as minor-in-possession, driving under the influence, criminal mischief, destruction of property, etc.; apart from minor traffic violations). Additionally, there must be no adjudications presently pending against the candidate.
7. Any individual having been crowned Fort Bend County Fair Queen is not eligible to be a Fair Queen Candidate again.
8. Fair Queen Candidates must provide their sealed official transcript to show academic eligibility. Transcript is due at the fair office by the first event; in addition, they must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 and follow the rules as outlined by the Fort Bend County Fair Association Scholarship Rules. Please note that such transcript can be requested at any time by the Fort Bend County Fair Manager.
9. Fair Queen Candidates MAY NOT use alcohol, any form of illegal drugs, smoke, vapor, or use tobacco in any form. Zero tolerance policy will be enforced and should the situation arise, candidate will be notified immediately and may result in candidate being disqualified.
10. Fair Queen Candidates must agree to be personally interviewed by the judges and understand that the decision of the judging panel is final.
11. Fair Queen Candidates must be of good moral character. If any candidate or Fair Queen is deemed to participate in inappropriate comments, immoral or indecent acts or behavior in any way, including but not limited to on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and the like) that candidate will be ineligible for contest. If any Fair Queen Candidate is found to have engaged in any immoral or indecent acts, the Fair Queen Candidates may be found ineligible.
12. Any Fair Queen Candidate or Fair Queen shall abstain from public displays of affection toward their boyfriend or significant other during the Fair week and while participating at any Fair function throughout the year.

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13. Any Fair Queen Candidate who may be related to any Fort Bend County Fair Board Member or Queen Committee member will not be eligible to participate unless the Board Member or committee member abstains during discussions of the Contest and judging. Said Board Member may not vote on any matter that concerns the Contest or the Fair Queen.
14. Any Fair Queen who has relinquished a title by choice or who is removed as Fair Queen by the Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors will be barred from participating in any future Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contests.
15. A newly chosen Fair Queen agrees to participate in parades, attend civic functions, and attend meetings throughout her reign. Failure to attend and participate in the required events may result in the relinquishment of the title and may jeopardize scholarship awards.

**GRADE INELIGIBILITY:** Fair Queen Candidates must have a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 to enter the Contest and must maintain said grade-point average. While the Texas Education Agency interpretation on extracurricular activities (as distributed May 2, 1985 and detailed under Update Number 2 example 1 and explanation 6 on page 240) remains intact, the following rule must be in effect for the Fort Bend County Fair. A Scholastically Ineligible Student will not be allowed to participate.

**Duties – Fort Bend County Fair Queen**

The Fort Bend County Fair Queen will serve a term of one year as an ambassador of the Fort Bend County Fair. The Fair Queen is also expected to attend other Fair sponsored events throughout the year, a list of which will be provided. The Fair Queen will also serve on the Fort Bend County Fair Association Queen Committee for the following year.

Attendance at the following year’s coronation, participation in the following year’s parade, and participation in other events as deemed by the Fair Queen Committee are also mandatory. The previous year’s Fair Queen will be provided a horse and carriage to be ridden in the Fort Bend County Fair Parade paid for by the Fair Queen Committee.

The Fair Queen is to be escorted at all times by a member of the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Committee while attending any function during the Fort Bend County Fair in her capacity as Fort Bend County Fair Queen.

By accepting the Fair Queen title and other rewards, the Fair Queen understands and agrees that her behavior during her reign is a reflection on herself, her family, her school and Fort Bend County. She must agree to behave accordingly, as a good role model and upstanding citizen. As such, the Fair Queen must not partake of alcoholic beverages, use tobacco products, or use any type of illegal drug while representing Fort Bend County Fair at any function.

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The Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors may remove the Fair Queen from the position if the Board determines, in its sole discretion, that the Fair Queen has engaged in conduct that casts the Fort Bend County Fair in a negative light, the Fair Queen is not an appropriate role model and upstanding citizen, or the Fair Queen has violated any rules applicable to the Fair Queen, including, but not limited to, those contained in this document.

If for any reason the chosen Fair Queen is unable to fulfill her duties or is removed from the position by the Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors, any scholarship amount to be awarded will be pro rated in accordance with the length of time the chosen Fair Queen has served. The remainder of the scholarship amount that was to be awarded will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up. Further, if the chosen Fair Queen is unable and/or unwilling to fulfill her term or if she is removed from the position by the Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors, she is to return the Crown and Sash to the Fort Bend County Fair Association no later than five business days from date of notification. Failure to return the above-mentioned items in a timely manner will compel the Fort Bend County Fair Association to order a duplicate crown and sash which will be billed to the outgoing Queen. In the event the Fair Queen is removed or unable to fulfill her duties for any reason she may no longer represent herself as the Fort Bend County Queen or as a former Fort Bend County Fair Queen.

**Duties – Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidates**

All Fair Queen Candidates are required to attend the Fair Queen Mandatory Workshop. Photos will be taken at the Fair Queen Workshop and will be used to assist the judges in the scoring process. Candidates, as well, must attend the following: Fort Bend County Fair Sponsor Party, the Life Member and Committeeman’s Dance, Kick Off Event at Silver Eagle, Fort Bend County Fair Parade and Fair Queen Coronation events including Grand Entry immediately following the Fair Queen Coronation Ceremony and other events as assigned. Other required events will be disclosed during the required Fair Queen Workshop to be held Sunday, July 30, 2017.

All candidates must participate in the Fair Parade on Friday, September 29, 2017. The contestant must ride on a float, which is to be provided by the Fair Queen Committee. All candidates are required to ride on the provided float. The chosen Fair Queen will represent the Fort Bend County Fair by being present at several activities during the Fair, to include but not limited to, auctions, receptions, rodeo events, livestock judging, etc., and other events that may be requested by the Fort Bend County Fair Association.

The introduction of all Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidates, coronation of the Fair Queen and the presentation of the runners-up and Miss Congeniality will be at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2017. All Fair Queen Candidates are required to participate in the coronation ceremonies. The location of the coronation will be provided to the Candidates at the initial meeting of the Candidates held on Sunday, July 30, 2017. **The interview will take place at the Fort Bend County Fair Office on September 23, 2017, time TBD.**

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In the event of a natural disaster or other unavoidable event, the Fort Bend County Fair Association Executive Committee may change the dates and times of the contest, parade, coronation and other activities associated with the Fort Bend County Fair Queens Scholarship Contest. It is the responsibility of the Fair Queen Candidate to provide the Queens Committee with at least two **valid** telephone numbers, mailing address and appropriate email addresses at which they can be reached, **as well as valid contact information for the Fair Queen Candidate's legal guardian.** It is the responsibility of the Fair Queen Candidate to remain in contact with the Director in Charge, Chairman and/or the Fort Bend County Fair Office to obtain any changes in locations, obligations, dates, times and rules. Fair Queen Candidates will be issued a sash at the initial meeting and will be charged \$50 if the item is lost or damaged. The sash is the property of the Fort Bend County Fair Association and must be turned in prior to individual scores being released and/or any scholarship monies being dispersed.

### Selection Criteria

The Fort Bend County Fair Queen will be selected based upon a pre-determined scoring system outlined in this document.

Each Fair Queen Candidate will receive an individual score based upon scores obtained through the events outlined. Participation points will be determined at each event by the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Committee. The Interview, Essay, and Networking sections of the competition will be conducted by judges. No judge will reside in or be affiliated with Fort Bend County for the purposes of this competition. These scores will be the criteria used to select the Fort Bend County Fair Queen.

The Fort Bend County Fair Queen and her court will be crowned according to the following criteria:

1. Points will be awarded to each Fair Queen Candidate based upon the following scale:
  - A. Interview scored by a panel of judges – up to 50 points. These interview sessions will be scheduled for all Fair Queen Candidates. Interview points will be averaged for each contestant.
    - Ability to converse – possible 20 points
    - Personality – possible 15 points
    - Poise - possible 15 points
  - B. Essay scored by a panel of judges – up to 30 points. Judging is based on an essay written in 800 to 1000 words on “What My Fair Means to My Community”. Guidelines will be provided by committee.

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- C. Presentation scored by a panel of judges – up to 20 points. This will take place at the Networking Event. Points will be averaged for each contest.
- Impromptu Question and Showmanship– possible 10 points
  - Appearance – possible 5 points
  - Poise – possible 5 points
- D. Participation – up to 10 points. Participation points will be accumulated from the mandatory workshop of all queen candidates until prior to coronation. Sign in sheets will be provided at all required events to verify their attendance. Failure to be punctual, wearing required attire and attendance throughout the event or events such as; but not limited to meetings, appearances and practices will determine point accumulation. Fair Queen Committee decisions are final.
- Attendance - 4 points
  - Participation – 2 points
  - Punctuality – 2 points
  - Specified Attire – 2 points
- E. Community Service – 5 points. Points are based on completion of form completed by organizations. Organizations must be approved by the Chairmen or Directors in charge of Queen’s committee. It is absolutely prohibited for any person of said approved organization to evaluate / complete community service form if related to candidate in any way.
- 16 hours of community service – 5 points

In case of a tie in total score or in any category, placement will be determined by the points awarded according to Interview score first and will continue in order referenced above.

All Fair Queen Candidates are expected to display the highest level of sportsmanship during Fair-related activities. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in the disqualification and affect future eligibility to compete in the Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest.

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**Scholarships**

The scholarships are as follows:

- \$5,000.00 – Queen
- \$3,000.00 – 1st Runner-up
- \$1,000.00 – Miss Congeniality

**The recipients must be enrolled as a full-time student and taking a minimum of 12 hours per semester in a Texas college/university.** Recipients must submit either an official transcript or verification of enrollment letter for the upcoming semester. Enrollment documents must appear on official college/university stationery and include the following: dates of enrollment, enrollment status (i.e. full time or part time), classification, field of study, number of credit hours earned, academic standing, and grade point average. Scholarship recipients should also provide a copy of valid student identification and their current course & fee schedule.

The funds will be disbursed directly to the college/university in the following manner: a check, payable to the college/university, will be paid each fall/spring semester for one academic year upon receipt of verification of enrollment in a Texas college/university. **Note: No summer semesters or mini-esters will be eligible for scholarship payment.** The amount paid will not exceed the fees assessed by the college/university.

**Fair Queen Candidates are responsible for submitting a copy of transcript each semester along with enrollment schedule for the following semester** to the Fort Bend County Fair Association, P.O. Box 428, Rosenberg, TX 77471 in order for payment to be made. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of scholarship award without notice.

Student must maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average and remain in good academic standing. Scholarship will begin the fall semester following graduation.

Scholarship payments will be forfeited without notice if recipient fails to comply with the above requirements or receive payments in two (2) consecutive semesters within two (2) years of high school graduation. Recipient may request an exception in the form of a letter to the Scholarship committee before scholarship expires.

All scholarship recipients must attend the scholarship awards presentation unless approved in writing by the Fort Bend County Fair Association.

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**Mandatory Workshop**

A **MANDATORY** workshop meeting for all Fair Queen Candidates will be held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 30, 2017. This will constitute the last day Fair Queen Candidates may register for the upcoming competition. At least one parent or legal guardian must accompany each contestant if the Fair Queen Candidate is under 18 years of age. All Fair Queen Candidates must arrive dressed appropriately for initial contestant photographs. No shorts, cut-offs, ripped jeans, low cut dresses or flip flops.

**Prohibited Acts**

**For the purposes of these rules, the term “Fair Queen Candidate” also includes any Fair Queen Candidate’s family member, or any such individual acting on behalf of the Fair Queen Candidate.**

No Fair Queen candidate will participate in defacing another Queen candidate’s photo on any advertisement or printed material. Violation of this rule will constitute grounds for disqualification of the Queen Candidate.

No Fair Queen candidate can represent themselves as a candidate until after the mandatory workshop and registration is complete. Anyone promoting themselves as a Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidate prior to the submission of registration forms and mandatory workshop will be grounds for disqualification of the candidate.

Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen are encouraged to ensure there are no unseemly and/or offensive photos on their Facebook (or other social media) pages. This includes written comments, video, and other sources of media. The existence of such materials, or the failure to delete or edit such content at the request of the Fair Queen Committee, will be grounds for disqualification.

Fair Queen Candidates may not be accompanied by anyone other than a parent or legal guardian to any Fort Bend County Fair sponsored event. Candidates will be supervised at all times by members of the Fair Queen Committee at official fair events. All person’s other than the candidate are responsible for paying any entry fees required by the Fort Bend County Fair Association at time of entrance.

Fair Queen Candidates may not use cell phones or devices for personal use, other than in case of an emergency while attending any Fort Bend County Fair sponsored event.

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All Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen must comply with the following dress code at all times during Fort Bend County Fair activities:

- Awarded Sash
- Western Attire (Dresses must be fingertip length or longer)
- Jeans and Boots are recommended
- No visible tattoos
- No visible body piercings, with the exception of ears
- No shorts
- No sandals
- Candidate should have their hair and makeup presentably done at each event. Hair, makeup and overall appearance should be age appropriate.

All Fair Queen Candidates must have a current Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement on file in the Fair Office to participate.

The Fair Queen Candidate selected as Fair Queen must sign a contract with the Fort Bend Fair Association immediately following her coronation.

Fair Queen Candidates and the Fair Queen agree that they must abide by the Fort Bend County Fair Association General Rules and Regulations, Fort Bend County Fair Association Scholarship Rules and Fort Bend County Fair Queen Scholarship Contest Rules.

**The Fort Bend County Fair Association Board reserves the right to make additional rules, regulations and amendments as necessary. Decisions of the Fort Bend County Fair Association Board of Directors are final.**

The Fair Queen candidate signing below, as well as her parent/legal guardian, acknowledge, represent and agree that they have carefully read and fully understand all the provisions of this document, they have had sufficient time within which to consider this document, they accept and agree to abide by the terms of this document, and they knowingly and voluntarily execute this document.

**ALL RULES APPLY TO FAIR QUEEN CANDIDATES AND FAIR QUEEN**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

AGREED: \_\_\_\_\_ Fort Bend County Fair Queen Candidate

AGREED: \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate Parent/Legal Guardian

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