

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

I want you to understand the following before practice really gets underway:

Although this is considered an agricultural county fair pageant – it is also a beauty pageant. Let me explain what I just said. You will represent Macon County at many events throughout the year. You need to be prepared to present yourself as if it were the evening of the pageant and the day you won – with hair fixed and make-up polished and applied at these events throughout the year – always looking your best. This also includes your wardrobe and how you dress. We are a conservative pageant circuit and I do not always agree with the current fashion trends and fads.

If you aren't prepared to walk the walk and look the look – you may want to reconsider entering this pageant. Maybe this isn't the pageant for you?

Can you truly fulfill this commitment of being queen if you win? Can you adjust your schedule to physically be present at the fair all 5 days and nights?

If you have signed the consent form to be a contestant/entrant in the Macon County Fair pageant, you are now a representative of the Macon County Fair. So therefore, if caught, seen by community members or anyone that can prove that you were drinking, partying, smoking, or partaking of any illegal substance – you will be removed from this competition.

IF YOU WIN

It is amazing how many people I know in our community and surrounding towns. People do not hesitate to call me, e-mail and notify me of what "my queen" was doing at the mall, at a basketball game, at a parade, at her job, at college, what she posted on facebook or myspace etc.

If you are the queen and have won the title of Miss Macon County Fair and I "hear" that you were at a party, whether or not you are partaking in anything, if you are participating in something that is not becoming of a queen, if you have tarnished the title in any way – you will be stripped of your title and the 1st runner up will be eligible (see General Rules).

Do **NOT** put yourself in any situation or any position that will compromise your title. You are a role model to young impressionable girls and you *have a responsibility* to always act like a queen whether or not you have your crown and sash on.

Although I am very flexible in letting you have opinions throughout the year; please note that as director I have absolute final say. I and I alone answer to the fair board. You will represent our county, our fair, our community, and me as director. This isn't my first rodeo and you are not my first queen. This is my 12th year as pageant director and I know what works and what won't. You have to trust me and we have to communicate the entire year. This truly can be a very rewarding and positive year!

PREPARING FOR A PAGEANT MENTALLY & EMOTIONALLY

One of the first things you should ask yourself is

- ◆ Why did I enter this pageant?
- ◆ What do I expect to receive from this pageant?
- ◆ What can I learn from this pageant?
- ◆ What are my personal goals for this pageant?

Entering a pageant should **NEVER** be just about winning the “crown”.

There are many reasons to enter a pageant:

- ◆ To gain interviewing skills to help in obtaining a career
- ◆ To help build your self confidence
- ◆ To learn public speaking skills
- ◆ To polish your stage presence
- ◆ To make yourself a well-rounded individual by putting yourself “out there”

And most of all.....to have fun and meet new friends! Winning the “crown” is just the added bonus of the “icing on the cake”!

Everyone makes mistakes in life and most people learn from them. That’s what makes people true winners in life! If you are entering this pageant just for the “crown” – then maybe this pageant isn’t for you.

You may not realize this but even as a contestant you are a role model and inspiration to many young girls and even some adults. Entering into this pageant with a clear mind and heart and just wanting to do your best already makes you a winner!

There are a few things that you must be able to do:

- ◆ You must be able to take constructive criticism
- ◆ You must trust your director – the director and her crew are well trained in this circuit and just want to help prepare you for the experience
- ◆ You must have an open mind and be willing to accept any outcome
- ◆ Respect yourself
- ◆ Relax – try your best and have fun!

Your director and crew will always be there to help, but remember that ultimately YOU are the one competing. Your director will only help you as much as you are willing to receive help.

Remember to ask yourself the questions from above. Everyone has weaknesses and everyone has strengths. Work on your weaknesses but play on your strengths. Remember that as long as you did the best that you could do, then you have already won.

Rehearsal Helpful Hints

- ◆ Arrive to practice on time
- ◆ Be prepared – bring your shoes to practice walking and modeling
- ◆ Focus and listen
- ◆ Make sure your make up & hair are nice for the program photo
- ◆ Turn in your paperwork before the due date!
- ◆ Bring your wardrobe as soon as you have it so it can be approved
- ◆ Write your speech, tweak it, memorize it and learn to perform it
- ◆ Practice your speech in front of anyone that will listen to you
- ◆ Study interview questions
- ◆ TAKE PRACTICES SERIOUSLY!

The manner in which the newly selected queen conducts herself should always be that of respect for herself, the Macon County Fair, and its Fair Board, at all times including rehearsals.

STUFF TO KNOW FOR INTERVIEWS

- ❖ This is an agricultural fair. You should brush up on your knowledge of the Macon County Fair. The fair website is a great tool.
- ❖ What are your responsibilities as Miss Macon County Fair if you win?
- ❖ What are your duties during fair week?
- ❖ What do the initials IAAF stand for?
- ❖ Who is Raymond Wildman?
- ❖ Who is Don Floyd?
- ❖ Who is the Illinois Secretary of Agriculture?
- ❖ Who is Wendy Bell?

- ❖ How long does your fair last?
- ❖ What is happening at the Macon County Fair this year?
- ❖ What is your favorite part of the fair?
- ❖ Do you attend the fair?
- ❖ Why do you want to become the next MCF queen?
- ❖ What can you bring to the fair that others cannot?
- ❖ Why should we pick you as the next MCF queen?
- ❖ Tell me the about the grandstand events

- ❖ Know the scholarship and if you're only in this pageant for the scholarship that's okay but be prepared to defend that

- ❖ If you win you will compete at the state pageant. What title are you competing for?
- ❖ What are the state queen's duties?

FAIR WEEK

As queen you need to be present at the fair EVERY day of the fair starting Wednesday, June 11th through the last day Sunday, June 15th (which is Father's Day). Be prepared to rearrange your work schedule and put your social life and your love life on hold during the Fair as boyfriends will not count as a proper chaperone. If mom or grandma can bring out the Junior Miss during the day – that's super but they too ALWAYS need to be chaperoned. There are trophies to hand out, ribbons to give, announcing to help with and checking in at the Fair Office every day to let them know you are on the grounds is a must! Fair Week is grueling, hot, and sticky and sometimes the down time is considered boring. Now having said that – Fair Week is also what you choose to make of it. You will be given a fair book showing what events are taking place and what time you need to be there so there is no excuse for being late! These events include the livestock buildings! I will meet you every evening of the Fair around 6:00 pm. We will touch base on what you accomplished during the day and what is expected of you in the evening time. You are allowed to wear casual clothes including shorts. No midriff tops or skimpy attire is allowed. You should always wear your crown and sash. Do not dress up in formal clothes as this is a county fair – but clothes should be clean and pressed. We have a mobile home donated by Four Winds RV that we will use during fair week so bring your soda, and bottled water to keep in the refrigerator of the mobile home. Bring snacks to have on hand because Fair Food during the week gets expensive! This is a good place to cool off in the middle of the day if you need to rest and in your down time you will be required to write your thank-you notes for the gifts you received. Thank you notes MUST be finished by the end of the fair week. Both the Queen and the Junior Miss will be introduced at every grandstand event all five nights. You will sit in the golf cart riding in front of the crowd and wave as the announcer introduces you from the speed tower. After introductions are made to the crowd, we will sell 50/50 raffle tickets to the grandstand patrons. This money will go toward the Queen's state pageant wardrobe in January and I will keep the funds throughout the year. The Queen and the Junior Miss along with their immediate family will enter into the grandstand at no charge but grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and friends will be expected to pay the normal grandstand entry fee. After we are finished selling 50/50 tickets and we have announced a winner for the evening, if there are no other obligations, one we have checked with the fair president and fair manager, you are free to go. Depending on the carnival, sometimes they give VIP armbands for free rides and other years they don't.

OTHER ITEMS TO ACCOMPLISH DURING FAIR WEEK

- ◆ Write your thank-you notes for the gifts you received
 - ◆ Order your magnetic car signs
 - ◆ Line up a convertible for your first parade
 - ◆ Make your photography appointment

OTHER EVENTS THROUGH THE YEAR

Visiting other County Fair Pageants

Attending other county fair pageants is a great tool in learning what works and what doesn't work prior to attending the state pageant. This is by invitation only. Some pageants do not invite Junior Miss as they have limited seating and the majority of pageants do not have a Junior Miss pageant. Macon County is one of a few counties that have this system. Therefore, we only attend if we are invited. Generally, we try and attend Piatt County, Moultrie-Douglas, Christian, Pana and Champaign. We do not receive any gas money to attend; we do not receive money to eat at other fairs so this is another expense you should be aware of. If I cannot attend with you, you will need an appropriate chaperone (such as last year's Queen) to attend with you and show you the ropes. Attire to other fairs is dressy – no pants. I prefer pantyhose and heels with a business suit or nice sundress. Our first visiting pageant is the week after your fair ends so if you need to go shopping please be aware of this time constraint. Crown and sash are a must! Your hair and make-up should be as nice as when you won our pageant. You are representing Macon County and everyone will be watching you. You will go on stage and introduce yourself – state your name and title and thank them for inviting you. It is nice to bring congratulations card for the new queen showing your name and title and your business cards if you have had them printed. We will take photos for your scrapbook. Royalty will get into the visiting pageant at no cost and will sit in the visiting royalty section with the director. Anyone else wanting to attend - moms, dads and other family members will need to purchase a grandstand ticket (usually \$4-\$5) and are required to sit in general seating. It is a privilege to sit in the visiting royalty section and family members are not allowed. Sometimes there are parking charges into other fairs and even a charge to enter the fair and enter the grandstand as well. Boyfriends are not allowed as the queen's chaperone.

Local Parades

The Independence Celebration parades can be shorts, top (something cool). A lot of royalty will wear something patriotic or something red/white/blue. Sunglasses don't quite go with the crown and sash so leave these off when the parade starts. Bring a blanket to sit on the back/top of the car. Get pictures with your Junior Miss and photos besides your vehicle for your scrapbook. Bring your scepter for the parade and don't be late! Candy is optional but your expense if you decide to throw it. It is your choice whether to decorate your car antenna with streamers or balloons etc. Your first parade is Argenta-Oreana on June 21st, which starts at 12 Noon but you need to check in by 11:30 at the very latest! Bring your magnetic car signs. It is your responsibility to coordinate a vehicle for parades. If you bring a corvette – remember it is fiberglass and you will have to punch holes in your magnetic signs and use suction cups to attach to the car.

The DMH Decatur Celebration parade is dressier. An evening gown with crown, sash and scepter. Flowers are your expense if you want to have them with your scepter but not required. Take pictures standing by your car for your scrapbook. It is always hot at this

parade! Bring a blanket or something nice to sit on so you don't scratch the back of your convertible and don't have to sit on a hot car!

Christmas Parade – dress warm. Sometimes you have to wear your sash on the outside of your coat! Bring a blanket to sit on, a blanket to wrap up in (if necessary), your scepter and gloves!!!

St. Patrick's Parade – dress warm – probably pants. Read above on Christmas.

RACE FOR THE CURE

June

Fairview Park, Decatur

The majority of our queens have participated in this event. They pay their own entry fee and receive a T-shirt. During the walk/run, they wear their sash and sometimes their crown. Director does not attend this event. This looks good on the state entry form as a volunteer activity.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Decatur

Another event you can participate in for visibility and list on your state application. www.relayforlifemaconcounty.com Check into registration or see if you can participate with a team. This is generally held at Richland Community College in July.

HABITAT for HUMANITY

Decatur

This would be a great opportunity to call the local chapter and find out if the queen can spend a day helping build a house or doing something volunteer. This would also look good on the state entry form.

SAMARITAN INN

Decatur

They are always looking for volunteers to help serve food, make the food, clear plates, and wash dishes. Another good application entry if you don't have much volunteer background already.

RADIO / TV

Decatur

Brian Byers from Talk Radio WSOY would be an excellent person to have in our corner to help promote the fair, the queen pageant, your trip to state, just a good contact to let him know that you are available to help with ribbon cuttings or be spokesperson for not just the fair – but Macon County.

COUNTY FAIR DAY
Friday, August 8th
State Fair Grounds, Springfield, IL

County Fair Day is held Friday, August 8^h at the State Fair in Springfield. The fair will purchase tickets for the Queen and director but other family participating will need to purchase a ticket for \$7.00. The queen and I will meet and drive to Springfield. There is a \$7.00 parking fee. This is the first day of the State Fair – County Fair Day – and anyone involved in a county fair is encouraged to attend. Queen will wear a business suit or very nice sundress with hose and heels. You can wear tennis shoes to walk to our destination and I will have you change into your taupe shoes prior to entering the Governor’s Lawn. A camera, fan, make-up, shoes can be carried in a tote bag. We will register at the queen’s table and then you are free to mingle with other queens. This is a great opportunity to take pictures for your scrapbook. Lunch is generally around 11:00 AM – another below average BBQ meal included in our ticket price. The governor of Illinois “sometimes” will show up for photos with the county fair queens. If he does not commit, then photos will be taken with the Secretary of Agriculture for Illinois. I will have pageant directors meeting under the tent that will provide the latest information on the state pageant.

Junior Miss and her family are welcome to attend on their own. They can register at the general registration table on the Governor’s Lawn (which is next to Conservation World). Depending on your schedules, some royalty have made a “day” of the state fair by changing clothes and walking around the grounds. The queen and I are generally finished by 2PM or 3PM at the latest. It is hot at the state fair but Junior Miss should also be appropriately dressed – a nice sundress. There are not very many other fairs that have a Junior Miss because they do not want the added responsibility but there may be a few present to have your pictures taken with.

FARM PROGRESS SHOW
Tues-Wed-Thurs
August 28, 29, 30th
Decatur – R.C.C. campus

Every other “odd” year Decatur hosts the largest farm show in the world. A great opportunity to learn about agriculture for your preparations for state. Attire can be nice capri pants etc. with your crown and sash. I have a list of local businesses that we can send letters too telling them the queen is available for their tent. Our 2005 and 2007 queen made special arrangements with college professors to be in attendance at this major event. The queens took off 3 days of college to learn about the Farm Progress show and agriculture at this trade show. Matt Jungman is the director of the event and I have his phone number.

There is also a music concert on Wednesday evening at the Farm Progress Site.

The fair will sometimes put on a tractor pull during the Farm Progress Show – this is a great opportunity to sell 50/50 tickets for more money. The tractor pull will be at the fairgrounds.

MDA TELETHON
Labor Day Monday
Urbana, IL

Business suit, taupe heels, crown and sash. You can help answer phones with other county fair queens. If you can commit to this event, it looks really good on your state entry form. Director does not attend this event.

CENTRAL ZONE MEETING
Sunday, October 26th
Springfield

The queen and director will attend the Central Zone Meeting at the Northfield Center in Springfield. I will pick up the queen and drive. Queen will wear a business suit with hose and heels crown and sash. You will bring your scrapbook to share among the other central zone queens (Northern Zone and Southern Zone meetings are later and we do not attend because we are in the Central Zone). The state queen will view scrap books and award a prize for the best scrapbook. This is another opportunity for pictures with other county fair queens. I will purchase a door prize that we will take on behalf of Macon County. There will be lunch, a central zone meeting, entertainment provided to entice our fairs to use their musical groups at our local fairs and a pageant directors meeting that will update me on the state pageant. Sometimes by this date, the state crew will be able to show us the production number outfit required for state.

HISPANIC RODEO

Sometimes the Fair will host a Mexican rodeo. I'm not sure there would be much to participate with except if we needed to sell 50/50 tickets for fundraising.

SPEAKING EVENTS

Area churches and local Kiwanis clubs will sometimes contact us to speak at their event. This is another opportunity to practice your communication skills. You can tell them about your year and how you prepared for your local county pageant, how you're preparing for the state pageant and what you have learned about agriculture.

FAIR APPRECIATION DINNER

The fair will host an appreciation dinner for the volunteers that helped make the fair a success. There will not be a cost but you will be required to attend. Date to be announced.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

The fair gives out a scholarship every year to a graduating high school senior. You will be asked to present this award at the area high school.

OTHER COSTS

- ❖ Postage for thank you notes during week of fair
- ❖ Scrapbook materials for your scrapbook during the year
- ❖ Parade candy if you choose to throw candy
- ❖ Your half of the magnetic car sign cost
- ❖ An extra black sash if you want another one (\$20)
- ❖ Congratulation card to new queen at other county fairs
- ❖ Drink/Food at other county fairs
- ❖ Pantyhose!!!
- ❖ Camera, film, digital prints at Wal-Mart etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

\$1000 Fair Scholarship – just a reminder that you will receive a check made out to you and your college for \$500 each semester upon keeping grades up. You need to provide a copy of your transcripts to the fair office before they will mail a check. See scholarship rules if questions.

One Year Tuition from RCC

Richland Community College has donated 30 credit hours, which equals one year of tuition.

Shopping – you will shop with the director. Do not purchase anything without director's approval – period! Director makes final decision on all wardrobe selections. It takes more than one trip to a pageant store to determine state wardrobe. Getting shopping dates early on the calendar will make it much more enjoyable.

Money – Fundraising

The fair hosts bingo 5 nights a week and Thursday is the evening they can use the most help. The queen must be 18 years old. Family members such as mom, dad, grandma and grandpa, boyfriend, siblings can help – as long as they are at least 18 years old. The fair will pay \$25 per helper up to 5 helpers to help you fundraise. You will sell pull-tabs to the seated bingo players. The director can help 1-2 times to show you the ropes if necessary.

*Director is in charge of all monies until we are ready to purchase items. This includes the 50/50 money made during fair week at the grandstands and bingo money.

Magnetic Car Signs

Jeff Hollon with Hollon Signs donates 50% off a set of magnetic car signs. You need to call him during fair week and give him your name so that he can have the set of signs for your car ready by your first parade. Your half of this gift is usually around \$45-\$50. Jeff' number is (217) 468-2110.

D.R. Roberts Photography

They donate a free sitting and an 8x10 photo. This photo is what we send with our state packet due October 1st so this photo session needs to be accomplished mid-summer. You are responsible to make the appointment and I will meet you there. You need to be on time and ready to take photos with your hair and make-up already applied.

Alterations

We will use Linda Ingle who works at Delbert's Clothing store in Arthur, IL for any alterations that are needed for your state wardrobe. She is very inexpensive and she works with other county fairs so she knows what works in this system and she has an amazing talent! Her work number is (217) 543-2322. You will make the appointment and coordinate your schedule with me, as I need to be with you. Remember to send her a thank-you note.

June 2009

You will receive a crown pin upon winning from last year's queen and you are expected to purchase a new crown pin for next year's winner in June. You will also receive a scepter to use during your reign and you will also need to purchase a new scepter for next year's winner. Crown pins are generally around \$10-\$15 and scepters are no more than \$25. (Director has catalogs)

You are also required to collect prizes for next year's winner. It is your responsibility to collect prizes, gift certificates and coupons for next year's winner. After returning from the state pageant in January, February is not too early to start collecting prizes as you will be working against post-prom and other area organizations requesting gifts too. Most businesses make their advertising budget early at the beginning of the year. Do not wait too late to start soliciting for prizes and coupons. This is much more difficult than it appears and I have a deadline for printing these in the pageant program so I will need your final list toward the end of May 2009.

IAAF State Pageant

January 2009

Your state application, photos, banquet tickets, brunch tickets, advertising are all due by October 1st – no exceptions!

The Macon County Fair is in good standing with the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs and will send you, our new Queen over as our representative to compete against all the other county fair queens in the state of Illinois that are also members of the IAAF. You will compete for the title of Miss Illinois County Fair (state queen) who reigns over both state fairs in Springfield and DuQuoin.

The Macon County Fair will pay your \$225 entry fee and they will pay the \$45 to purchase your group photo of all contestants in their evening gown and their swimsuits (2 photos). The fair will also pay for the Queen and the Director's hotel room for the four-day event. The queen and director will share a room with no one else allowed. Also included in the price of your entry fee is the cost for your production number outfit to be determined by the state crew. Measurements will be taken and mailed in with your state application due October 1st. Alterations with Linda Ingle will be extra if needed.

It is a four-day event starting with check-in on Thursday at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Springfield, IL. I will pick up the queen, load up the car and take her to Springfield. Interviews are all day Friday, you have a free evening on Friday night when your family can come over to Springfield and take you to dinner for some time 'away'. Depending on whether you are in the afternoon or evening group on Saturday – afternoon starts at 1:00 PM and evening begins at 7:00 PM - Saturday is competition day. Sunday is more rehearsal for the final production number, brunch and the grand finale banquet beginning at 5:00 PM.

We take 75 gifts to state representing our home county of Macon. In the past, ADM has donated chocolate bars, boxes of spaghetti, Enova oil. If you cannot find something unique that is made in Macon County or cannot find a business that will donate 75 items – you will need to use some of your fundraising money to purchase the 75 items. Queens in the past have ordered luggage tags for each county queen and personalized them; coolie/huggies that are personalized with a crown for each queen, a sack of goodies they put together, etc.

You will need an evening gown and I am 99.9% sure that the gown you wore to our county pageant is not the caliber of gown that will hold up at the state pageant. We will go shopping together for an evening gown. There is a pageant store in Farina, IL (south of Effingham) that carries everything we will need, a pageant store in Urbana and we have also traveled to Paducah, Kentucky (4-hour trip) to Debrah's pageant store. Gas money can be used from your fundraising money. You will also need evening gown heels along with accessories such as earrings. Most of the time gowns do not need a bracelet or a necklace – just earrings. But the earrings need to be large enough to see from stage and the bigger the rhinestone, the more expensive the earring.

You will also need a pageant swimsuit. The pageant committee (me) will purchase your swimsuit to wear at the state pageant and then I will keep it for next year to rent out to county contestants. A swimsuit runs anywhere from \$95 - \$250. You will need to purchase taupe pumps for the swimsuit competition, as they are required for state. You will also wear taupe pumps to county fair day in August with a business suit and other county fair pageants that we visit. Most girls will wear the taupe shoes they purchased for the county level during the summer and will purchase a new pair of taupe pumps for state. They are \$45 and the cheapest place to order is from Quest from the Crown in Springfield.

You will need a business suit for your personal interview with the judges. You will wear your taupe shoes with this suit. A "pageant" interview suit starts anywhere from \$200 and up. You are not required to purchase a "pageant" suit if we can find a business suit that fits at Bergners', Macy's, Marshall Fields, Dillard's, or on-line etc. One year I ordered a business suit off e-bay for the queen! If you have great success at fundraising – I will tell you up front that finding a business suit is not as easy as it seems and it is much easier to just purchase a pageant business suit. Accessories will include hose and earrings, possibly a pin or scarf.

You will also need a business suit for your speech competition (again wearing taupe shoes). Same scenario as above except this suit will be worn on stage and sometimes needs to be more vivid in color or with fur cuffs, a glitzy rhinestone pin etc. Accessories will include hose and earrings, possibly a pin or scarf.

You will need at least two (2) practice business suits to wear during rehearsals on Friday morning and Saturday morning. You will need a cute pantsuit to wear for Sunday brunch.

If you purchase your business suit from a pageant store, sometimes they will make alterations at no cost. But if you purchase from a department store and you need alterations – be prepared to pay from your fundraising money. You may potentially also need alterations on your evening gown and your swimsuit.

At the state pageant the official photographer is Studio 131 from Springfield. They are on-site during the four days and will take a million candid photos. Each candid photo is around \$7.00 and sometimes they have package deals if you are interested.

There are crown items on hand from the IDPA (Illinois Pageant Directors Association) to purchase such as crown rings, bracelets, business card holders, earrings, tote bags and crown pins. This is a good time to pick up a new crown pin for your county winner in June 2009. Crown pins are usually about \$15.

The official video from state is from Dean Williams Productions. The fair will pay ½ of this DVD set if you want to pay for the other half. The DVD set we generally purchase is Saturday competition (either afternoon or evening depending on which group you are in) and Sunday finals. The entire set is \$150. I can copy a set for you to keep.

Make-up is essential at the state pageant. You want to look like a queen. State is such a stressful weekend that we usually have a make-up person come over and apply the queen's

make-up for her. The make-up person will do a practice run so she can coordinate colors with outfits. If you have her apply make-up every day (4 days x \$25) you will pay her \$100. You will also need to purchase her a banquet ticket for Sunday night finals (\$30) and potentially a special thank-you gift for her giving up her time to be with you for the 4-day event. You will also need to pay for her hotel room, which is approximately \$95 per night.

The hairdresser (unless you can style your own hair) is also needed during the state pageant. She charges \$50 per day (4 days x \$50) you will pay her \$200. This does not include the \$50 due to her for the practice day of hairstyles to determine specific hairstyles for state. You will also need to purchase her a banquet ticket for Sunday night finals (\$30) and potentially a special thank-you gift for her giving up her time to be with you for the 4-day event. She will share the hotel room with the make-up lady but your fundraising money will pay for this hotel room.

Parents are on their own to secure a hotel room in the Springfield area. There are not enough rooms at the Crowne Plaza because the entire IAAF convention is booked at the Crowne including 67 queens that are allowed 2 rooms each. Parents in the past have also just drove back and forth from Decatur, and we are a lucky county that we are close to Springfield.

Parents, family, friends will only be allowed to visit the queen during specified times from the director. It is absolute chaos in the hotel room with too many people. It is my job to make sure your hair; make-up, accessories, outfits and YOU are packed and ready to go downstairs to compete every day by 8:00 am. We cannot be late for roll call and there are only three elevators.

During Saturday competition Macon County Fair is given 8 seats to watch our queen's competition. If you are in the afternoon group – we get 8 seats to watch you compete and then in the evening group “another” county will have our 8 seats (because you already competed in the afternoon we give up our evening seats and vice versa if you're actually in the evening group). So the rest of your fan club will need to come early and attempt to get a first-come seat in the open seating area. It gets crowded very fast! Afternoon starts at 1:00 PM and sometimes the doors open to the ballroom at 12 Noon and with evening starting at 7:00 PM – the doors generally open around 6:00 PM for open seating. I encourage you to have friends come over and watch you compete on Saturday. Bring a big cheering section!

We will have photo buttons made using your picture for the fair board, friends and family to wear during the state pageant. We will pay for these photo buttons using your fundraising money.

Sunday brunch usually begins around 11:30 am. The director will attend and the queen. The queen sits with other county fair queens (required). If your family wants to attend, the brunch tickets are \$30 each.

The Sunday finals begin at 5:00 PM. Each banquet ticket is \$30, which includes a very below-average banquet meal, a program and a guaranteed seat at finals. Banquet ticket requests along with the money will be mailed in with our state application due October 1st.

Advertising for the state program book is \$125 for a full-page, \$65 ½ page and \$45 for ¼ page. Some queens have submitted an ad by asking area business and sponsors to help pay for the ad (see my state program book examples). It really helps to know someone that is computer savvy or involved with graphic design. We submit this advertising on a disk along with your state application due October 1st.

We also submit an 8x10 color photo to be displayed in January at the state pageant. D.R. Roberts Photography will take your photo during the summer (you make the appointment and I will make sure I am there). He will also take (2) wallet photos of you in your business suit to submit. This wallet size photo will be scanned onto your entry form for the judges to see. It is best to have your make-up on and your hair down/natural looking for the photo. Then you can change into your evening gown, put your hair up, add your scepter, crown & sash and take the evening gown photos. Sending these photos with your entry form is also due October 1st. Be ready when you arrive at the photographer! They have donated this gift and we do not want to go over our appointment/time slot.

When you return from the state pageant – about February you can make an appointment with a photographer of your choice (depending on what you received as gifts). We will need a wallet size photo to display on the permanent fair plaque that hangs in the fair office. Most queens will want to have a new photo taken with their state gown – new sash from state, crown and scepter. I can also use this photo to put on the front cover of the county pageant program.