

2026 MISS MACON COUNTY RULES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES

To be a contestant in the 2026 Miss Macon County Fair pageant, each contestant and at least one parent must acknowledge and agree to the rules, guidelines, and responsibilities set forth by the pageant director and Macon County Fair Board. These rules, guidelines, and responsibilities will apply to the 2026 Miss Macon County Fair during her year of service.

PREREQUISITES TO COMPETE IN THE MISS MACON COUNTY FAIR PAGEANT

- Contestant must be between 16 to 21 years old on June 3, 2026 and cannot turn 22 on or before January 1, 2027;
- Contestant must be a United States Citizen and resident of **OR** attend school in Macon or Piatt County, Illinois during the duration of the pageant as well her reign;
- Contestant must have been born a female and have always been a female;
- Contestant and parents must agree for the contestant to be personally interviewed by the judges;
- Contestant and parents must agree that the decision of the judges is final;
- Contestant must have never been a Miss County Fair Queen in another county.

ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITES IF CONTESTANT CURRENTLY HOLDS A TITLE

- Any contestant with a current title from another pageant must agree to cease representing herself as her current title and only represent the Macon County Fair should she be crowned the 2026 Miss Macon County Fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - Example: The contestant is not permitted to wear the previous crown/sash from her current title and must only wear her Macon County Fair regalia. She is permitted to attend events with her prior pageant group with Director approval (i.e. photo sessions and crowning her successor)
- Any contestant with a current title must notify the Director and agree to the above statement. The parent or guardian of the contestant must sign a form confirming the intention of the contestant to solely represent the Macon County Fair in the event that she is crowned the 2026 Miss Macon County Fair.

AREAS OF COMPETITION

- (1) Each contestant will participate in a 4 minute personal interview with 3 judges;
- (2) Each contestant will participate in an on-stage question;
- (3) Each contestant will give a 1 minute speech;
- (4) Each contestant will participate in swimsuit; and
- (5) Each contestant will participate in evening gown.

CONTESTANT ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR PAGEANT PRACTICES

- It is *extremely* important that the contestant arrives on time to all practices and events. Attendance will be taken at the scheduled start time. A schedule of practices will be provided to each parent/guardian.
- Contestants must attend at least five (5) practices in order to participate in the 2026 pageant.
- If the contestant or the parent/guardian knows she will be absent or late, they are to notify the Director. Advanced notice of at least two (2) hours is considered excused. Emergencies also constitute an excused absence.

- We will work with all contestants regarding necessary absences as long as we are kept informed of those dates and reasons. If you have concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Pageant Director for further discussion.
- Contestants **must** attend a mandatory final dress rehearsal prior to pageant day.

OVERVIEW OF THE 2026 MISS MACON COUNTY FAIR DUTIES

The 2026 Miss will attend local area events and functions as possible during her reign. She will be chaperoned by the Pageant Director or Pageant Crew Member while she is representing the Macon County Fair. Other adults may chaperone, as approved by the Pageant Director. No boyfriends or other males, not including the Miss’s father will be permitted. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

All personal appearances, photographic sessions, and picture releases as the 2026 Miss Macon County Fair shall be approved in advance by the Pageant Director. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

MANDATORY EVENTS/OBLIGATIONS

- She must serve as an official host of the 2026 Macon County Fair from June 4th-8th. She is required to be present at each day of the fair during required daily events unless the Director gives express permission to do otherwise.
- She must attend at least 5 County Fair pageants throughout the summer.
- She must send written thank you notes to all sponsors, donors, fair board members, and crew members on the list provided to her by the Pageant Director by August 1, 2026.
- She must partake in at least 6 approved volunteer activities between June 2026 and May 2027 – one being agriculture related.
- She must attend County Fair Day at the State Fair in August.
- She must attend the Central Zone meeting in November.
- She must represent Macon County at the 2027 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen pageant held in January 2027. This is typically held the weekend prior to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

She must attend the following events hosted by the Macon County Fair or in Macon County.

- Saturday of Harvest Festival;
- Decatur Labor Day Parade;
- Decatur Christmas Parade; and
- Farmers Breakfast.
- She must attend 3 fairboard meetings.

- The 2025 Miss will not be permitted to compete for any other title during her reign. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

BEHAVIOR AND CHARACTER RESPONSIBILITIES

- She and the Parent/Guardian agree to keep her hair a natural shade (blonde, brown, black, red, auburn, etc.) with no purple, pink, blue, green, etc.
- She and Parent/Guardian agree that all visible body piercings will be limited to only the ear and only one earring in each ear lobe during appearances and events. All tattoos must be covered during appearances and events.
- She and Parent/Guardian agree that she must maintain age appropriate personal grooming (as determined by the Pageant Director) at all times when in public. Her wardrobe must be age appropriate as per the Pageant guidelines and in a pressed and clean condition at all times.
- Throughout her reign, she will conduct herself in an appropriate manner at all times, both with and without her crown. The Miss is to be truthful, respectful, punctual and communicate in a timely fashion with the Pageant Director, crew members, and any and all County Fair Representatives she comes into contact with.
- Parents and family of the Miss are welcome to be present for any and all events where the public is permitted. Parents and family must understand that while the Miss is performing her official duties, the Pageant Director and Pageant Crew are the Queens official chaperones. If the parent/guardian or other family member is present while the Miss is representing the Macon County Fair, they must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner or will be required to leave.

IF THE CONTESTANT HAS SOCIAL MEDIA

- Contestants are prohibited from displaying, communicating, and/or providing or having knowledge of inappropriate language, materials, or photographs on the internet/websites including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, “X” (“Twitter”), Tik-Tok, Threads, Lemon, or Personal Blogs. This includes being mindful of the photos her friends/family share of her as well. It is at the discretion of the Pageant Director to determine what is inappropriate.
- The Pageant Director will be given access to (i.e. follow/be friends with) the Miss’s social media (i.e. following/friends with on) and has the right to ask the Miss to remove herself from all social media for the duration of her reign. *This is not a common practice and will only be implemented if serious issues arise.*
- The Pageant Director may also ask the Miss to remove any inappropriate content in lieu of removing social media during the duration of her reign. Failure to do so if asked will result in forfeiting her 2026 Miss Macon County Fair title and all prizes and gifts received.
- Contestants and parents/guardians agree that the contestant will have her photo taken by professionals hired by the Pageant Director.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- As the 2026 Miss, any misconduct brought to the Pageant Directors, Pageant Crew, or Fair Board's attention will result in a written warning; any such behavior after that warning may result in being stripped of her title and all prizes. However, if the misconduct is determined to be severe, this will result in being stripped of her title and all prizes immediately.
- As a contestant in the 2026 Miss pageant, any misconduct brought to the Pageant Directors, Pageant Crew, or Fair Board's attention will result in a written warning; any such behavior after that warning may result in being disqualified. However, if the misconduct is determined to be severe, the contestant will be disqualified immediately. *Refunds not included.*
- Any conviction of crime or definitive proof of misconduct will result in her losing her title immediately and all prizes.
- If the 2026 Miss Macon County is stripped of her title, the 2026 runner ups will be given the opportunity to take over starting with the 1st runner up. This option is available until October 1, 2026. If she is stripped of her title following that date, there will be no Miss until the 2027 crowning and either the 2025 Miss Macon County or the 2027 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen will crown her successor if available.

INTERVIEW: Each contestant will participate in a 4 minute interview with 3 judges.

- This outfit should be job interview appropriate attire. A daytime dress, dress with blazer, skirt suit, jumpsuit, or pantsuit. Sleeves are required to be long sleeve, ¾ sleeve, or short sleeve.
- There should be no capes, wraps, or extra fabric draping from the dress.
- Keep accessories to a minimum.
- Contestants should wear high heels at least 2 inches, no platforms higher than 1 inch.
- Taupe or black closed toed heels.

- Dress, skirt suit, pantsuit, jumpsuit
- Pantyhose
- Taupe or black closed toed heels
- Jewelry
- Underclothes

INTRODUCTION/OPENING NUMBER: Each contestant will participate in the opening number and contestant introduction.

- This should be an appropriate length plain black dress. A daytime dress or business dress is appropriate.
- This should be a daytime dress or business professional dress. Nothing too extravagant – do not think of homecoming dress attire. Think classic black dress.
- Contestants should wear high heels at least 2 inches, no platforms higher than 1 inch.
- Black heels.

- Black dress
- Pantyhose
- Black shoes
- Jewelry
- Underclothes

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Each contestant will participate in giving a 1 minute speech on the topic of their choice and answer a pop question. Nothing controversial or political.

- This outfit should be the exact same outfit as your interview.

- Dress, skirt suit, pantsuit, jumpsuit
- Pantyhose
- Taupe or black closed toed heels
- Jewelry
- Underclothes

SWIMSUIT: Each contestant will wear a one piece swimsuit.

- This should be a one piece - solid color swimsuit. It should be long enough to cover your hip bones and completely cover your bottom. The swimsuit must be lined.
- Contestants should wear high heels at least 2 inches, no platforms higher than 1 inch.
- Taupe open or closed heels.
- Only stud earrings are allowed. Tattoos must be covered.

- Swimsuit
- Stud earrings (if applicable)
- Taupe open or closed toed heels

EVENING GOWN: Each contestant will participate in evening gown.

- This gown should be full length, with no high-low hem line, and no slits further than 5 inches above the knee (adjustable depending on height of contestant). No U-Slits/rounded cut out slits allowed.
- Dress should not touch the ground when busteled. 5 bustles total. Maximum of 5 hooks/buttons attached to 5 loops.
- No mesh on the front or sides of your dress. Must be lined with fabric to match the color of the dress. No gloves.
- Shoes should blend in with dress, no platforms higher than 1 inch.

- Dress
- Jewelry
- Shoes
- Underclothes