



## Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival, Inc.

P.O. Box 446  
Ponchatoula, LA 70454  
800-917-7045

### Louisiana Strawberry Queen Pageant Contestant Information

#### **Contestant Meeting: Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 10:00 am**

- **MANDATORY** Meeting at Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Building; 313 North 6<sup>th</sup>, Ponchatoula, LA 70454
- Parent/Guardian can attend this meeting with contestant.
- We will go over the contract in paraphrase.
- The format of the pageant will be explained.
- Any questions regarding the pageant will be answered.
- Contestant numbers will be assigned.
- Dress Attire – Dressy Casual (group picture will be taken for newspaper)
- 5x7 headshot digital picture for program; portrait layout, High-resolution .JPEG file, min 300 dpi
- Completed application (must be typed in provided fillable form)
- Entry fee \$125.00
- Signed Contestant Rules and Regulations form

#### **Pageant Rehearsal: Friday, June 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm**

- Practice is **MANDATORY** at Ponchatoula High School Auditorium; 19452 LA-22, Ponchatoula, LA 70454
- Only one person may accompany you to rehearsal.
- Dress Attire - Casual
- Will vote on Miss Congeniality among contestants.
- Contestants will have time to practice on stage.
  - Between 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm Emcee and Sound Director will be available to review Bio and Sound.
  - It is encouraged to run through your introduction story twice with any audio or props.
  - It is helpful to practice in shoes that you are going to wear for the pageant.

#### **Contestant Interviews: Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 1:00pm**

- Must be at Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Building **NO LATER** than 12:45 pm.
- Dress Attire – Interview Suit/Dress

#### **Pageant: Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 7:00pm**

- Ponchatoula High School Auditorium
- Must be at Auditorium **NO LATER** than 6:00 pm.
- Each Contestant is allowed one guest backstage.
- Dress Attire – Introduction outfit & Evening gown

Questions can be directed to royalty coordinator, Bridget Keyser

Email: [bridgetgaines@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgetgaines@yahoo.com)

Phone: (985) 551-4878

Website: [www.lastrawberryfestival.com](http://www.lastrawberryfestival.com)

Email: [strawberryfest@bellsouth.net](mailto:strawberryfest@bellsouth.net)



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# Louisiana Strawberry Queen Pageant

## JUDGING CATEGORIES

### Contestant Interviews: 40 Points

- The contestants will be interviewed for 10 minutes by the judges.
- Contestants will be judged on the following:
  - Content of answers
  - Ability to converse
  - Personality
- Dress code for interview:
  - Business skirt suit (no pants)
  - Stockings (optional)
  - Natural shoes or those that match the contestants suit
  - Natural makeup
  - Hair fixed so it is out of the contestant's face
  - Contestant number (which will be given at interview)
- Interview is the only time you will be able to converse with the judges. We would like the judges to be able to focus on the contestant, as an individual and her answers.
- Only contestants will be allowed to enter the interview building.
- Contestants must stay at the interview until every contestant has finished.
- A picture will be taken once all interviews are finished.
- If you would like to receive a copy of the judges score sheets and pictures, please bring a stamped and self-addressed envelope to interview.

### Introduction Story: 20 Points

This is designed to judge each contestant's speaking skills and confidence in front of a crowd.

- Can be **NO LONGER** than 3 minutes.
- Contestant will tell the audience a spoken story describing who they are and why they want to be Louisiana Strawberry Queen.
- Limit of two props – movable by contestant only.
- Introduction must include:
  - Contestant Name
  - Contestant Age
  - Contestant Number
  - Why do you want to be Louisiana Strawberry Queen?
- Contestants will be judged on:
  - Creativity
  - Personality
  - How well she depicts the Festival



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### **Evening Gown:** 30 Points

- Formal and appropriate for the event.
- Age appropriate for the contestant.
- Must be floor length.
- Contestant's bio (information from application) will be read during this time.
- Contestants will be judged on:
  - Stage Personality
  - Elegance & Grace
  - Overall Appearance

### **On Stage Question:** 20 Points

- Contestants will have the same question. The emcee will read the question twice then hand the contestant a card which the question is written on. The contestant will then have one minute and thirty seconds (1 ½ minutes) to answer the question. She will then be asked to exit the stage. Contestants do not have to use the entire time.
- Contestants will be judged on:
  - Delivery of Answer
  - Stage Presence
  - Content of Answer

Total possible points: 110

## **ADDITIONAL AWARDS**

**Miss Congeniality:** Contestants will vote amongst each other to elect a winner based on personality.

**Evening Gown:** Judges will choose the contestant with the most fashionable choice in evening gown.

**People Choice:** Audience will vote for the contestant with the most photogenic 5x7 photograph. Cost is \$1.00 per vote.

## **POST PAGEANT EVENTS**

- Once the winners are announced we will take group pictures.
- Queen will receive gift basket from many businesses in town.
  - Write Thank You cards ASAP
- Contracts will be reviewed and signed the week following crowning.



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# Louisiana Strawberry Queen Pageant Contestant Rules and Regulations

- I. Louisiana Strawberry Festival Queen's Pageant Contestants (Hereafter known as Contestants) will be sportsman like and respectful to the other Contestants, Judges, Pageant Directors, Pageant Board Members, or any other Festival Members at all times.
  - a. Any disrespectful or unsportsmanlike conduct, comments or actions will not be tolerated. The contestant will be asked to leave immediately and not to return to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Pageant (Hereafter known as Pageant), or to compete in any future Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Pageants without refund.
- II. Contestant requirements:
  - a. Miss Contestants must be between the ages of 18-24 at time of crowning or by June 1, 2024 and must be enrolled in school or a graduate from accredited program. The contestant and her Parent/Guardian, if less than 18 years of age must reside in Louisiana.
  - b. Contestants must be single, not married or divorced.
  - c. Contestant must not be with child or have previously been with child.
  - d. Contestant must not be currently representing any other fair or festival or currently holding a pageant title.
- III. Contestants will turn in application packet on time,
  - a. This includes entry fee (cash or money order), signed contestant rules and regulations, completed applications, and (1) 5x7 digital headshot.
- IV. Contestants are required to attend the Contestant meeting and pageant rehearsal.
  - a. If a contestant does not attend these meetings without notice and approval by pageant director she will be disqualified without refund of entry fee.
- V. In the event the contestant is crowned she will immediately sign the Louisiana Strawberry Queen's Contract.
- VI. Contestants will not wear any clothing that exposes her midriff, lower/small of her back at any time. Clothing must have a modest bust line. Clothing must not reveal the middle/upper portion of her thigh and must be age appropriate for the contestant.
- VII. Contestants will not post pictures, videos, comments, or write anything that may be interpreted in a negative manner about Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival, or Pageant to any internet, media, or public platform of any kind.
- VIII. I understand that the decision of the judges is final.
- IX. Contestants are expected to attend all events designated for the pageant. A contestant who is unable to attend an event must have the approval of the pageant director.
- X. The Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival may use any pictures or video taken at interview, pageant, or other event hosted by the festival on the festival website, for marketing or promotional reasons without notice.

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Contestant Signature

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Date