

MISS VANDERBURGH COUNTY QUEEN PAGEANT RULES

Pageant Coordinator – Beth Schmitt

Chairpersons - Beth Schmitt (812) 550-3487, baschmitt53@gmail.com; Rhonda Klueg-Slater (812) 459-4662, rjkslater@gmail.com; Alyssa Welte (812) 483-1389, alyssa.l.welte@gmail.com

Committee – Katie Barnes, Audrey Creel, Laura Duncan, Lauren Durchholz, Robin Lax, Dru Moreland, Rachel Pohl, Abbey Riggs, and Emma Ruedlinger

The deadline for entering the Vanderburgh County Pageant is June 26, 2026.

To enter, go to vanderburghcountyfair.com (Events, Contests, Pageants, Queen Pageant)

1. Contestants chosen as Queen and First Runner Up must be at least 18 years of age and cannot have reached their 22rd birthday on or before June 1, 2027. Younger contestants and other members of the Queens Court must be 16 years of age by July 20, 2026.
2. Contestants and moms/chaperones are required to attend a “Contestant Meeting” on July 1, 2026 at 6 pm, in the Expo Hall at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center. Please come prepared to have a head shot taken.
3. A \$30.00 entry fee and **a copy of the contestant’s birth certificate** must be submitted at the “Contestant Meeting.”
4. Contestants 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 county if the majority of their activities are in the county in which they entered the contest.
5. Contestants cannot have a child or be knowingly pregnant at the time of the county fair queen pageant or the State Fair Queen Program. If the 2026 queen becomes or is pregnant anytime during her reign she will be required to relinquish her title.
6. Each contestant must be an active member of at least one worthwhile organization in her community, such as church groups, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.
7. Any contestant who has competed in a State Fair Queen Program cannot compete again and cannot compete for the title of Miss Vanderburgh County.
8. The contestants will be judged on the basis of poise, personality, and the ability to converse. At the county level, the judging is divided into five divisions: speech, interview, professional wear, evening gown and on-stage word response. Points and score sheets are for judges’ assessment only. Final selection is the judges’ decision.
9. The requirements for each division include:
Speech – Prepare and present a speech no longer than one minute, on the topic of their choice. Speeches will be scored on natural speaking ability, delivery, poise and originality. Each speech will be timed, with one point deducted for speech going over one minute. Speeches will be delivered before the judges at the preliminary judging.
Attire: Denim (jeans/skirt/capris -contestants choice) and Queen T-shirt that is provided to each contestant

Interview – 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.

Attire: Suit, Pant Suit, Jumpsuit or Dress

Professional Wear – same attire as Interview

Formal Wear – 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 county pageant may be discounted by the judges. Formal wear worn during Preliminary Judging must also be worn during the Competition finals/evening competition.

On Stage Word: Contestants will give one impromptu on-stage response, to be scored by the judges.

10. The Vanderburgh County Pageant will be held on Monday, July 20, 2026. Preliminary judging will occur during the day at Blue Grass Church, 14200 Petersburg Rd, Evansville, IN 47725. The public pageant and crowning will be in the 4-H Center Auditorium, following the official fair opening.
11. Contestants are required to attend a practice for the public pageant, on Sunday, July 19, in the 4-H Center Auditorium at 6:00 pm.
12. Miss Vanderburgh County, Court and Miss Congeniality must be prepared to spend July 20-25 at the fair, attending daily events. Additional information will be shared during a meeting on Tuesday morning of the fair.
13. **All** contestants are expected to participate in community service, which includes assisting with the Senior Day Lunch on the Tuesday of the fair, and working a shift in Kids Corner, on the Saturday of the fair.
14. The 2026 Queen will compete January 8-10, 2027 at the Indiana State Fair Queen Program competition. Additional information will be provided to the winner.
15. The 2026 1st Runner Up will have the opportunity to compete at the Indiana State Festivals Association Scholarship Pageant on November 7, 2026. Additional information will be provided to the 1st Runner Up.
16. The Pageant Committee reserves the right to adjust the pageant rules according to the number of entries for this 2026 year.