MISS VANDERBURGH COUNTY QUEEN PAGEANT RULES - 2027

Pageant Coordinator – Beth Schmitt

Chairpersons - Beth Schmitt, Rhonda Klueg-Slater & Alyssa Welte

Committee – Katie Barnes, Sara Coomes, Audrey Creel, Laura Duncan, Lauren Durchholz, Becca Lax, Robin Lax, Dru Moreland, Rachel Pohl, Abbey Riggs, and Alyssa Coomes

The deadline for entering the Vanderburgh County Pageant is July 2, 2027.

Complete your entry online at vanderburghcountyfair.com

For inquiries, please email us at Missvanderburghcoqueen@gmail.com

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, 2028. Younger contestants and other members of the Queens Court must be 16 years of age by July 26, 2027.
2. 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 Vanderburgh County.
3. Miss Vanderburgh County contestants may enter a county fair contest/pageant in only one county during the 2027 pageant season. If the contestant has entered a contest/pageant in another county, they are ineligible for the 2027 Miss Vanderburgh County Queen Pageant.
4. Contestants cannot have a child or be knowingly pregnant at the time of the Vanderburgh County Queen Pageant or the State Fair Queen Program Competition. If the 2027 queen becomes pregnant or is pregnant at any time during her reign, she will be required to relinquish her title.
5. Each contestant must be an active member of at least one worthwhile organization in their community, such as church groups, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.
6. Former Miss Vanderburgh County Queens and past participants in the State Fair Queen Program Competition are ineligible to compete or participate in the Miss Vanderburgh County pageant.
7. **Please mark your calendars for our mandatory Contestant Meeting on July 7, 2027, held in the Expo Hall/Activities Center at the Vanderburgh 4-H Center. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. and is required for both contestants and their mothers or chaperones. We ask that you arrive by 5:15 p.m. so we can take official headshots between 5:15 and 5:55 p.m.**
8. A $30.00 entry fee must be submitted at the "Contestant Meeting." Pageant entry fees are non-refundable once payment has been submitted. Each contestant must show their Indiana Real ID (Driver's License) or show their birth certificate at the "Contestant Meeting".
9. The contestants will be judged based on 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 and will not be made available to the contestants. The judges' decision will be final.
10. 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 exceeding one minute. Speeches will be delivered before the judges at the preliminary judging. Speeches are not open to the public.
    Attire: Denim (jeans, skirt, or capris - contestant's choice) and a Queen T-shirt (provided)

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 the preliminary judging must also be worn during the evening finals.

On Stage Word - At evening finals, contestants will give one impromptu on-stage response to be scored by the judges.

11. The Vanderburgh County Pageant will be held on Monday, July 26, 2027. Preliminary judging will occur during the day at Blue Grass Church, 14200 Petersburgh Rd, Evansville, IN 47725. The public pageant and crowning will be in the 4-H Center Auditorium, following the official fair opening. Enter Gate 2 (Boonville-New Harmony Road), right lane.
12. During the Preliminary Judging, the contestants will vote for Miss Congeniality. Contestants are encouraged to vote for a fellow contestant rather than themselves. In the event of a tie for Miss Congeniality, Miss Vanderburgh County 2026 will cast the deciding vote.
13. Miss Vanderburgh County 2027, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd runners-up, and Miss Congeniality will be announced at the public pageant on July 26, 2027.
14. Contestants are required to attend a practice for the public pageant on Sunday, July 25, in the 4-H Center Auditorium at 6:00 pm. Bring the shoes you will be wearing with your evening gown to the practice.
15. Miss Vanderburgh County, Court, and Miss Congeniality must be prepared to spend July 27-31 at the fair, attending daily events. Additional information will be shared during a meeting on Tuesday morning of the fair.
16. **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. Attendance will be taken. Sign-up for Kids Corner will occur at the "Contestant Meeting" on July 7, 2027.
17. The 2027 Queen will compete January 7-9, 2028, at the Indiana State Fair Queen Program competition. Additional information will be provided to the winner.
18. The 2027 1st Runner-Up will have the opportunity to compete at the Indiana State Festivals Association Scholarship Pageant in November 2027. If the 1st runner up has won this pageant previously, eligibility passes to the highest-ranking runner-up who meets the requirements for the pageant. The contestant will receive additional information.
19. The Pageant Committee reserves the right to adjust the pageant rules according to the number of entries for the 2027 year.