



2026

PAGEANT
Handbook



Welcome to the 2026 Miss Union County Fair Pageant!

We're so excited to welcome you to the Miss Union County Fair Pageant, where we celebrate confidence, personality, and the unique spirit of each contestant — from our tiniest baby queens to our Teen and Miss representatives.

This year's theme, "Sweet Southern Charm," brings the fun, flair, and styles of the south to the stage. We can't wait to see how each contestant brings it to life in our exciting Outfit of Choice phase!

Our goal is to provide a positive, professional, and encouraging experience for every participant and their families. Whether this is your very first pageant or you're a returning contestant, we're so thankful you chose to be a part of our event.

Throughout this handbook, you'll find everything you need to know — from rules and competition phases to how to enter and what to expect on pageant day. Please read through it carefully and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

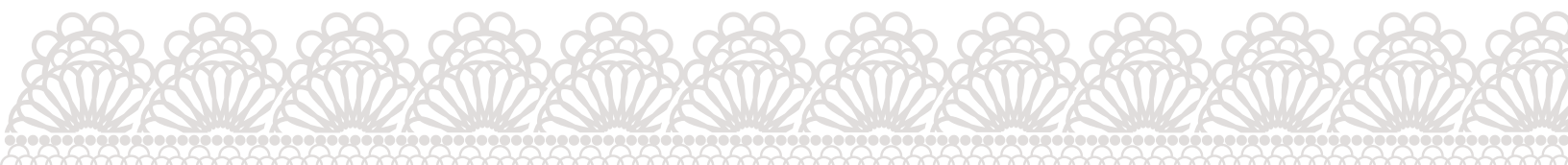
We can't wait to crown this year's winners and watch our community shine on stage.

Thank you for being a part of the tradition and magic of the Union County Fair!

With excitement and appreciation,

Amanda Upton

Director, Miss Union County Fair Pageant



Phases of Competition:

● Outfit of Choice: Sweet Southern Charm

Contestants should wear an outfit that reflects classic Southern style. Think denim, lace, pearls, ruffles, bows, eyelet fabrics, boots, or other timeless Southern-inspired fashion. This is not a costume competition—choose a stylish, age-appropriate outfit that showcases your personality and confidence.

● Evening Gown of your choice

● Photogenic

(email to missunioncountyfair@gmail.com by Monday, October 4, 2026)





PHASES OF COMPETITION:



Each contestant will be judged in three main areas. Every phase is designed to highlight personality, presentation, and confidence in an age-appropriate way.

Evening Gown

All contestants will wear a formal gown and model on stage. Judging is based on poise, grace, confidence, and overall appearance.

- Ages 4 and under may be escorted by a parent or chaperone (adult must wear all black and no low cut shirts).
- Ages 5 and up must walk the stage independently.
- Gowns should be age-appropriate, well-fitted, and reflect the contestant's personality and style.

Judging Criteria:

- Poise and posture, Confidence and comfort on stage, Suitability and fit of gown, Overall impression

Outfit of Choice (Theme: Sweet Southern Charm)

This fun fashion phase allows contestants to show off their personality and creativity. Outfits should reflect this year's theme: Sweet Southern Charm, inspired by living in the south.

- Outfits may be custom, off-the-rack, glitized, or casual — anything that captures the southern charm vibe.
- Props may be used but must be easy to manage and not disrupt stage flow.
- Ages 4 and under may be accompanied by a chaperone.
- Ages 5 and up will walk the stage independently.

Judging Criteria:

- Stage presence and personality, Creativity and interpretation of the theme, Confidence and engagement with the audience, Overall styling and presentation

Photogenic

Each contestant will be judged on one submitted photo. Additional photos may be entered for an extra fee. Judging focuses on natural beauty, clarity, and overall impression.

- Photos can be professional or high-quality personal images.
- No filters or heavy edits that alter facial features.
- Judged prior to the pageant.

Judging Criteria:

- Facial expression and eye contact, Clarity and quality of photo, Natural beauty and age-appropriate styling, Overall presentation and visual impact





AGE DIVISIONS::



Baby Miss – 6 months to 12 months

Tiny Miss – 1 year to 2 years

Little Miss – 3 years to 5 years

Young Miss – 6 years to 8 years

Preteen Miss – 9 years to 11 years

Jr Teen – 12 years to 14 years

***Teen – 15 years to 18 years**

***Miss – 19 years to 27 years**

Age as of October 24, 2026. Divisions subject to change based on contestant participation at the discretion of the director

Attention Teen and Miss divisions:

the winner with the highest score will have the option to represent at the state level, competing in Miss Georgia/South Carolina State Fair Pageant.



Union County **FAIR** Pageant



October 24, 2026 ^{2 PM}

Union County Fairgrounds

Theme:

Sweet Southern Charm

Think Pearls, Lace, Denim and Class

For More Information Contact:

Amanda Upton

864-426-6536

or

missunioncountyfair@gmail.com





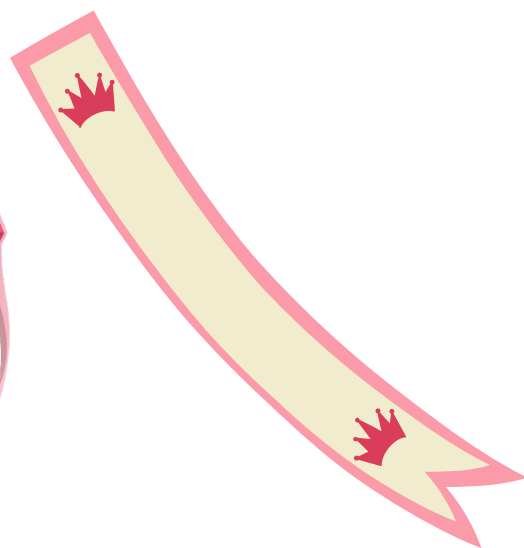
People's Choice

The People's Choice Award is an optional opportunity for contestants to earn a special title, crown, and sash — all while rallying community support!

Votes are \$1 each and can be cast for any contestant of any age division. Voting will be open in person during the pageant. Friends, family, and supporters can vote as many times as they wish!

The contestant with the most votes overall will be crowned our 2026 Miss Union County Fair Ambassador, receiving a custom crown, sash, and title on stage.

Participation in People's Choice is optional, but encouraged. It's a fun way to get your community involved and cheer you on!



Cash will be collected in the contestants container at the pageant. You may collect donations prior to the pageant day and bring them with you at registration.





Awards & Titles:

Each contestant is judged in three categories:
Evening Gown, Outfit of Choice, and Photogenic

Miss Union County Fair Overall Queen

The contestant with the highest combined score across all categories will be crowned Miss Union County Fair Overall Queen.

She will receive a crown, sash, and award.

We do not double crown. Once awarded, she is removed from eligibility for division titles.

Overall Category Winners

One overall winner will be named for each of the following:

Evening Gown

Outfit of Choice

Photogenic

Each will receive an award

Division Queens

Each age division will have one Queen based on combined score. Winners will receive a crown, sash, and award. If the Overall Queen comes from a division, the next highest scorer in that group will receive the Division Queen title.

Division Category Awards

Each age group will have:

Best Evening Gown

Best Outfit of Choice

Best Photogenic

Winners will receive a trophy or medal





Rules & Expectations



To ensure a fair, organized, and enjoyable experience for all contestants, families, and staff, the following rules and expectations apply to the Union County Fair Pageant:

General Rules

- All entry fees are non-refundable, regardless of circumstances, including withdrawal or disqualification.
- Contestants must compete in their correct age division based on age as of October 24, 2026.
- All paperwork and fees must be submitted by the published deadline to be eligible to compete.
- Judges' decisions are final and will not be discussed or disputed.
- No coaching or prompting from the audience or sidelines during competition.
- Contestants must participate in all required competition areas to be eligible for titles.
- Judge feedback is not guaranteed.

Wardrobe & Appearance

- Contestants should be appropriately dressed for each category.
- Wardrobe must be age-appropriate and in good taste.
- No props are allowed during any phase of competition unless otherwise stated.
- Hair and makeup are allowed but must remain age-appropriate, especially for younger contestants.

Sportsmanship & Conduct

- Positive attitudes and good sportsmanship are expected from contestants and their families at all times.
- Any display of poor behavior, disruptive conduct, or unsportsmanlike actions (by contestant or anyone associated) may result in disqualification without refund.
- Bullying, gossip, or negative commentary in person or on social media will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification from current or future events.

Pageant Day Policies

- Contestants must arrive on time for check-in and follow the event schedule as directed.
- Contestants and guests must remain respectful to pageant staff, volunteers, and other participants throughout the event.
- Only one parent/guardian may accompany younger contestants backstage. No additional family members or friends will be allowed in the dressing areas.

Photography & Media

- By entering the pageant, all contestants grant permission for their name and image to be used in promotional materials, social media, and photo galleries.
- Personal photography or video is allowed during the event but is restricted inside dressing room area. Please be respectful of others and avoid blocking views.

We reserve the right to adjust rules or scheduling as needed for the smooth operation of the event. By entering, you agree to abide by all rules and expectations listed above.

How To Enter:

All contestants must complete the official entry form and submit payment by the deadline to be considered registered.

Step 1: Complete the Application

Visit www.missunioncountyfair.com to fill out and submit the online application form.

Step 2: Submit Entry Fee \$125

1 photogenic entry included, additional photos \$10 each

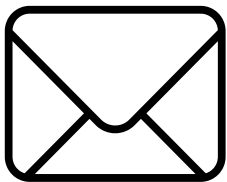
Entry fees can be paid via Venmo, CashApp or cash taken to the Union County Fair office.

Payment links and usernames are provided on the website. Be sure to include the contestant's name in the payment note for proper credit.

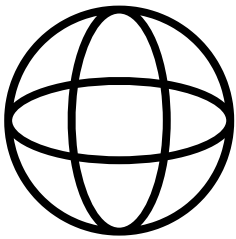
Deadline to Enter: **October 4**

All applications and entry fees must be submitted by October 4. No late entries will be accepted.

Note: All fees are non-refundable, no exceptions.



missunioncountyfair@gmail.com



www.missunioncountyfair.com



864-426-6536