

February 12, 2026

Dear 4-H Member:

We are pleased to inform you that you are eligible to become a candidate in the 2026 Hancock County 4-H Fair Queen Pageant. Because you are an active member of the Hancock County 4-H program and meet the age requirements, (16 thru 19) we would like to encourage you to consider participating as a Queen Candidate in 2026. Your participation is an opportunity to gain experience with filling out applications, stage presence, interviewing, and to provide development of poise and self-confidence. And besides, it is FUN!

We are fortunate, in Hancock County, to have *NineStar Connect* sponsor our 4-H Queen Pageant. *NineStar Connect* will award monetary awards to the 4-H Queen and her Court. The 2026 Queen will receive a \$400 award, the Princess will receive a \$300 award and each of the three members of the Queen's Court will receive a \$200 award.

Hancock County 4-H Fair Queen Pageant:

The 2026 Hancock County 4-H Fair Queen Pageant will be held the weekend prior to the county fair on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at Trinity Park Church in Greenfield. The judging and pageant will take place the same day. The interview portion will remain in private and each participant will be given 5 minutes with the judges (morning of the 13th). The modeling of professional wear and formal wear will be judged live in front of the audience in the afternoon during the pageant and the Queen and her court will be named that evening after the judges have made final decisions. **We will be discussing this further at the Prospective Queen/Application Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at *NineStar Connect* in Greenfield.**

Each contestant represented at the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant must now be at least 18 years of age, on or before June 1, 2027. The minimum age requirement has been raised, and unfortunately, those who are 16-years-old will no longer be eligible to participate in the **STATE FAIR Queen Pageant**.

What does this mean for the Hancock County Queen Pageant?

- The Hancock County 4-H Queen Pageant requires that a candidate given the title of Queen or Princess be of State Fair age.
- This should not discourage younger eligible contestants from participating and competing for the court and congeniality positions. It will give you experience and will grow confidence.
- The contestants will learn life skills regarding applications, interviews, and finding new friendships.

The complete list of rules and regulations for the pageant will be discussed during the workshops hosted by the Hancock County 4-H Queen Committee.

We are hosting a Prospective Queen Candidate Meeting/Application Workshop to be held Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:30pm at *NineStar Connect* in Greenfield. This workshop is designed to give you an idea of what being a 4-H Queen Candidate is all about. We will also help guide you with the proper way to complete your application. The application is very important since it is the first impression of you that the judges will see. Coming to this meeting in no way obligates you to become a 4-H Queen Candidate but would be very helpful to inform you about the pageant and the application process. Feel free to bring a parent if you wish.

Some of the rules of the contest and requirements that you should be familiar with are:

- Each 4-H Club is eligible to submit as many candidates as they choose, providing that the correct age is followed (turning 16 on or before June 1, 2026) and that they are currently enrolled and an active member of the Hancock County 4-H Program. There is no limit as to the number of Queen Candidates a club may have in the pageant.

INTERVIEW - Each contestant will have five (5) minutes before the judge. She will answer impromptu questions asked by the judges in a private setting.

PROFESSIONAL WEAR - Attire: Suit, Pant Suit, Dress or Separates. Pant suits or pant separates will be allowed. Attire worn by the Contestants in the Interview may also be worn in the Professional Wear Category. Props are not allowed. Each Contestant will model her Professional Wear attire on a stage in front of the judges.

FORMAL WEAR - Attire: Long/Floor Length Evening Gown (no short or tea-length hems) PLEASE NOTE: Gowns with the skirt split highly above the knee and/or a low-cut bodice is not recommended by judges. Each Contestant will model her Formal Wear on a stage in front of the judges.

APPLICATION – PLEASE PUT ACTIVE EMAIL ADDRESS THAT YOU CHECK OFTEN!!!

Your 2026 Queen Application must be typed on a computer. Remember that your application is the first impression that the judges will have of you. It is suggested that you have someone proofread your application submitting. You will be able to access the application by clicking on the link available on the Purdue Extension-Hancock County Office Website. You can also click here at bit.ly/hancockqueenapp

NOTICE! Candidates will submit the application electronically only by Google Form. No Exceptions! Make your first impression a good one! Once submitted you will receive an electronic receipt. You will also receive an email from a committee member to the email on your application to know we've received your application. Applications must be submitted by 4 pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

NOTE: Pictures for the newspaper and program will be taken of each candidate at the Queen Workshop on SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026.

QUEEN PAGEANT SCORING

The candidates will be judged on the following four areas:

INTERVIEW - Ability to converse, Poise, Personality

FORMAL WEAR - Posture, Stage Presence, Overall Impression

PROFESSIONAL WEAR - Posture, Stage Presence, Overall Impression

4-H ACHIEVEMENT - Activities and Involvement in Hancock County 4-H Program

*Points and score sheets are for judges' assessment only. Final selection is judges' decision.

QUEEN AND COURT GUIDELINES - The 2026 4-H Queen and Court members will represent the Hancock County 4-H Fair and 4-H Program. They are expected to act and dress in a mature and respectful manner. The 4-H Queen and Court members are required to be at the 4-H Fair for events throughout the week. If they are a participant in a 4-H Project or 4-H Activity that occurs during the week of the 4-H Fair, that 4-H project/activity has first priority over fulfilling Queen and/or Court Member duties. There will be other events that they may attend throughout the year.

Please remember that there is no paper application to turn into the Extension Office. Candidates will submit the application electronically only by Google Form. Once submitted, you will receive an electronic receipt. You will also receive an email from a committee member to the email on your application to know we've received your application. Applications must still be electronically submitted by 4 pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Please take a moment to consider participating in an exciting and fun-filled 4-H event. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a committee member.

We hope to see you at the Application Workshop/Prospective Queen Candidate Meeting to be held Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at NineStar Connect at 6:30 pm.

Sincerely,

Hancock County 4-H Queen Pageant Committee

Michelle Hasty:317-691-2876 or moosehasty@gmail.com

Megan Addison:317-509-3172 or addisonfam04@gmail.com

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2026 4-H Queen Pageant Dates

***All Queen Candidates need to be present at all Pageant events. Your attendance at pageant events will be shared with the judges. If there should be a conflict with any of these dates, please contact a committee member as soon as possible to make prior arrangements. Thank you!**

Tuesday, February 24th- 6:30pm **located at NINESTAR CONNECT on US 40 in Greenfield for the PROSPECTIVE QUEEN CANDIDATE MEETING/APPLICATION WORKSHOP** This meeting is designed to give you an idea of what being a 4-H Queen Candidate is all about. It is highly suggested to come and get help on how to properly fill out your application. Please attend to meet other participants, even if you have previously been in the pageant.

Wednesday, April 15th- 4:00pm **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION** Candidates will submit the application electronically only by Google Form. No Exceptions! Make your first impression a good one! Once submitted you will receive an electronic receipt. You will also receive an email from a committee member to the email on your application to know we've received your application. Applications must still be submitted by 4 p.m. on April 15, 2026.

Sunday, May 3rd- Time TBD **PRESENTATION WORKSHOP** ***located at NINESTAR CONNECT on US 40 in Greenfield*** - This workshop is for candidates only. Dress nice, as pictures will be taken. Please bring makeup, suits, dresses, jewelry, or shoes for help and opinions. Photos for the 4-H Fair Queen Pageant Program will be taken. Please no bare shoulders or low necklines. **PARENTS MAY COME DURING THE LAST 30 MINUTES TO ASK QUESTIONS OR GET ADVICE!**

June ? – TBD **CONTESTANT FUN NIGHT!** ***TIME/DATE and Location TBD!*** *We will enjoy a fun activity so contestants get to know each other better! More information to come!*

Friday, June 12th - 4:00-6:30pm **DRESS REHEARSAL MANDATORY** ***Trinity Park Church 207 Park Avenue, Greenfield*** All Queen Candidates need to be present. **If times interfere with other 4-H activities, please talk to the Queen Committee as soon as possible.** MUST have formal wear dress to practice modeling on stage. This is DRESS rehearsal. We will likely run through the pageant twice to make sure everyone is comfortable. Group photos will also be taken this evening.

Saturday, June 13th - *(arrival time is TBD based on contestant participation)* **CLOSED JUDGING and PUBLIC PAGEANT** ***at Trinity Park Church 207 Park Avenue, Greenfield*** Interview times will be determined once we know the number of contestants. At the conclusion of interviews participants will eat lunch and relax until judging/**pageant resumes that afternoon at 3:00pm.** Candidates will not be allowed to leave, due to safety. Participants will be judged live as they model professional wear and formal wear during live pageant. The judge's final decision and crowning will follow the formal wear portion.

On the day of the pageant, you will:

- Contestants will arrive at the church at a set time TBD and stay until the pageant is completely over.
- Judging is CLOSED to the public.
- First, contestants will have your interview with judges.
- There may be time between your interview and the start of the pageant but all contestants will stay at the church. We will have food and you can socialize or play games with the other contestants.
- Once the public pageant begins at 3:00, you will model your pageant shirt with choice of jeans and shoes and introduce yourself on stage to the audience.
- Then, you will change into your professional wear and model that on stage.
- Finally, you will model your formal wear.
- The judges will deliberate and we will take an intermission while they do.
- Then, the court will be announced in this order: Miss Congeniality (voted on by contestants), 3 Queen's Court members (in no particular order), Princess, and finally Queen

Saturday, June 20th - 11:00am Farmer Olympics **4-H FARMER OLYMPICS in the Show Arena.**

We will have teams created for all queen candidates. We will wear our Queen t-shirts to join in on the fun!

Sunday, June 21st - 6:00pm, parade begins at 6:30pm **4-H FAIR PARADE** – With respect to NineStar Connect, **ALL Queen Candidates are required to ride on the Queen Float.** All participants will be wearing formals this year... **ABSOLUTELY NO SHORT DRESSES OR HIGH SLITS.** Candidates will meet at the **Fairgrounds North Parking Lot** no later than 6 pm. We are at the very beginning of the parade line-up. Everyone please bring a towel and umbrella.

For contestants who receive a title of royalty, you are also committing to these dates:

Tuesday, June 16th - 12:30pm **FAIR SCHEDULE MEETING at HANCOCK COUNTY EXTENSION**

OFFICE – Contestants and an adult guest will meet with the queen's committee to review the fair schedule for the week

Friday, June 19th - Saturday, June 27th (most of the day, each day) **HANCOCK COUNTY 4-H**

FAIR The Queen and her court will be required to attend the fair each day and their scheduled events, which will be determined on Monday, June 16th.

Friday, June 26th Post Fair Brunch at 10 am **HANCOCK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE** The

Queen and her court and one adult guest will meet with the queen's committee to review the fair week.

2026 Hancock County 4-H Fair Week is June 19th-27th.

A schedule of activities for the Queen and her Court, to be used at the County Fair 4-H events, will be furnished by the 4-H Queen Committee. The Hancock County 4-H Queen will enter the Indiana State Fair Queen Contest in January 2027, if she complies with the State Fair rules and regulations.

Hancock County 4-H Fair Queen Pageant History with the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant 1958-2025 67 years

1978 Kelli Davis Gossett Miller 1st Runner Up ISF



1981 Kim Frist Alexander 4th Runner Up ISF



2017 Ashley Fritz Spegal 3rd Runner Up ISF 2017



2020 Jordyn Wickard Top 10 Finalist ISF 2020



2022 Claire Bishop 2023 Miss Indiana State Fair Queen



2025 Addison Buckley 2nd Runner Up ISF 2026

