

GUADALUPE AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK FAIR QUEEN'S CONTEST

Code of Conduct - Contestant and Parents' Guardian Agreement

1. I understand that the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Queen's Contest is for the benefit of the contestants, and as with any contest that young people are involved, the main purpose is to have fun, with that being said:
2. I understand that as a parent /guardian of a contestant, my responsibility is to encourage my child in a positive manner, and to promote the importance of good sportsmanship and fair play.
3. I understand the importance of supporting the Committee and volunteers who help make this contest possible. I acknowledge that should I have a complaint that I should discuss it privately with 2 or more members of the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Queens Contest Committee at a mutually agreeable time and place.
4. I understand that as a parent/guardian I must set a proper example for my child and abide by the rules of the contest. And that the following actions are NOT ACCEPTABLE by either contestant, parent, guardian or friend(s) I am in the company of at any Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Queens Contest event or participating activity I am present at:
 - a. Any negative criticism, activity, illegal acts, or inappropriate comments of anyone involved.
 - b. Profane language.
 - c. Use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.
 - d. No record of illegal or immoral activity.

None of the above will be tolerated by any of the contestants, guests of contestants, parents and/or guardians, and may be grounds for dismissal from the contest or during a title being held.

5. I understand that if I display improper behavior that is reported I may be expelled from the premises, and if the transgressions are repeated or serious enough, I may be prohibited from attending any and all of the event activities.
6. Finally, I understand that as with any volunteer organization, the success depends solely on the support and efforts of the people involved. Support from within creates a positive enjoyable environment and creates a great experience for all involved.

Please indicate by signature below that you have read, understand, and will adhere to the above Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Contestant: _____ Date: _____

This agreement must be signed by parents(s) and/or guardian(s), and the contestant, and returned by September 8, 2024.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please review carefully. By your signature, each of you agree and acknowledge to abide by the rules and regulations set forth below. Failure to sign and submit this by September 8, 2024, may result in your disqualification from the contest.

- 1. Entry fees go towards the expenses that are necessary to put on the contest, items needed and to maintain the float, etc. and equipment used for the contest and the float through the reigning of the court. If you decide or need to drop out this will be refunded if done before September 8, 2024.**
- 2. As a contestant you must have an individual sponsor. This sponsor can be a High School organization, Service organization, Civic organization, business, or a private individual who will pay a \$50.00 entry fee.**
- 3. You are expected to be on your best behavior. Any misconduct from a contestant, guardian, family member, friend or parent will not be tolerated. If said misconduct from a contestant or a parent continues you will not be allowed to continue in the contest. This includes yourself and your parents/guardians/family members/friends. As a contestant, you are a representative of the Guadalupe County Agriculture Fair Association, the Fair Queen's Contest Committee, Guadalupe County, and the City of Seguin. This rule also applies if crowned on the court.**
- 4. Guests of the contestants are welcome to any functions of the Fair Queen's Contest, but if they interfere with the production of the practice/contest they will be asked to leave.**
- 5. Contestants must be a biological female resident of and attend a High School in Guadalupe County from the first meeting of Fair Queen's Contest until such time as a new Court is decided the following held event. In the event one of these prerequisites is not met, it is at the discretion of the committee whether or not the contestant can continue with her reign once the particular circumstances have been reviewed. If it is decided that the contestant should forfeit her title, any such property deemed to belong to the Fair Queen's Contest is to be returned immediately. No exceptions will be made to this rule! If a court member moves outside of Guadalupe County, they have 24 hours to advise the chairman/association in writing. You will forfeit your current reign as a court member. At this point all items will be returned to the committee/association within 48 hours either in person or via shipping. Shipping expenses will be the responsibility of the title holder. If shipped, shipping tracking information must be provided within 6 hours of items shipped. The Committee/Association deems what the duration of the rein will be, and the final date of the title holder. Any Fair financial, prize, or award opportunities will not be awarded.**
- 6. At any time during your reign, you move from your residence listed on the application you must give that new address and school information to the committee within 48 hours in writing. If any other contact information changes it also must be given to the committee in writing within 48 hours.**
- 7. The contest is limited to the first 30 contestants returning a completed entry blank and a \$50.00 registration fee to the first contestant meeting on September 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Guadalupe County Fair Office 859 Nelda Street, Seguin, Texas 78155. If application is late, it is at the discretion of the Fair Queen's Court committee to make a decision on acceptance.**

8. **Contestants must be single, never married and without dependents at the time of the contest, and if a member of Court, during the entire reign. In the event that this status changes during such a time period of the reign, the contestant will forfeit her title. Any such property deemed to belong to the Fair Queen's Contest is to be returned immediately. Notification of this change must be advised to the committee within 48 hours in writing.**
9. **If crowned, you must attend all functions for the duration of the fair year. This includes but is not limited to out-of-town parades, local parades, banquets, presentations, local activities, and the Guadalupe County Youth Show and Sale, and any other events as deemed appropriate by the Committee. Committee deems what functions and type events missed are acceptable. This is decided upon the type of function that will be missed by the committee chairmen. If you miss more than three types of these functions you will forfeit your title, crown, banner, trophy, and privileges to which you are entitled. No exceptions will be made to this rule!**
10. **You will be responsible for arranging your own transportation and expenses, etc. for parades and other events you are required to attend. Whether you are of legal age or a minor you must have a parent or legal age responsible guardian with the proper emergency documentation attending all functions with you. Boyfriends or minor friends do not qualify and are not accepted for this position of attending all functions. The person in attendance to the function must assist with the needs of the committee.**
11. **Judges will base their points on the following: knowledge of the the past years Fairs, interests in the Fair, participation in the past and current Fair, poise, personality, public speaking and presentation, personal appearance, proper formal wear, promptness, respectfulness, cooperation, public relation ability, grooming and response to questions during the contest as well as the ability to get along and work well with others. And any other things the judges see fit to make a decision from.**
12. **During on-stage competition all judging and auditing will take place in full view of the audience. At this time, the Judges' points from the contestant's judges' social, private interviews, stage scores will be tallied with other points by the judges. Judges will make the decision if they need to leave the stage area for further decisions. All judges' ballots and tally sheets will be kept confidential. All documents including tally sheets are confidential and will not be shared.**
13. **The style show sponsors will receive copies of each contestant's application/style score sheets and will make style show notes/points to be given to the judges on your actions and any other person(s) with you during that experience with them.**
14. **One letter of reference from a teacher or counselor with at least a 5-year relationship will be needed and be included with the contestant application, code of conduct sheets at the time it is handed in.**
15. **Pictures will be taken for the press the day of and during the contest. Signing this agreement gives the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Association permission to release any and all pictures as deemed necessary by the Committee. The Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Association has a website/Facebook/Instagram that may or may not use your photograph, name, or title (no addresses or telephone numbers). Please indicate below if you do not want your name or photograph included on the website.**

• No, I do not want my photograph, name or the file included on the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Association website/Facebook/social media platform. _____

16. This competition is for the youth; therefore, we ask that the adults do not consume any alcohol beverages during the practices/events/activities. There is a zero tolerance of alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco by the contestants and parents during the time of the contest including the court while crowned.

17. You are limited to participation in either Miss Rodeo or the Fair Queen's Contest during the same year.

18. Everyone is required to sign the Thank You notes. Thank You notes set the mood for the donors for the next year. While we appreciate everyone's personal views and opinions, a Thank You with a donor or sponsor that may not be to your liking is not the place for personal comments. We will have the notes ready by our first contestant meeting. You can start signing them at the first meeting. Every donor for the contest will receive a Thank You Note. The THANK YOU notes will be mailed to the sponsors after the first meeting. We ask that if you have any contact with these sponsors that you personally thank them.

19. Attire for the personal interviews is to be professional business in appearance. Keep in mind you are being judged from the moment you walk in. The interview session will start with a general gathering of the contestants socializing with the judges. We will start personal interviews after this session. For personal interviews will start with contestant number 1 with three judges that will have a ten-minute private interview in a private room. No committee members will be present during this interview. Will only be the judges and contestant. You will enter the private room and introduce yourself to the three judges. Giving your name and contestant number. This interview is not open to the public. Judges will all ask questions and keep all notes and scores with them at all times. The committee will have no access to this information. Practice on the stage may be allowed when stage setup takes place. This date will be announced at the interview session. The stage presentation will be held on Saturday at the Seguin Event Center Coliseum at 5:30pm. As a contestant you are required to provide your own interview professional business clothing (sequin attire is not preferred for business type clothing) and formal wear for the contest. Each contestant will be required to wear a formal long dress during parts of the contest. Formal dresses are not allowed to have a slit higher than the knees. Each contestant will be required to set up an appointment with the chosen boutique location prior to the contest to be fitted for an outfit for the style show during the contest. You and your parent/guardians' actions at these locations will be part of the judging for the contest.

20. The Judges' score sheets will be kept by the judges. The judges at the table will tabulate the scores. Programs will be sold prior to the contest starting at 5:30pm. Ballots will be available while programs are sold. The audience is asked to file out the contestant ballot and the ballots will be taken up by the current court, other royalty and held in case of a tie. The ballots will only be counted by the committee and used for a tie. No scores will be posted. The winner's information will be printed in the Fair paper after the Fair is over. All scoring information is kept by the judges. No judges scores or ballots will be shared.

21. These Rules & Regulations cannot cover all situations. If there is a problem or concern, please come and talk to at least two or more representatives of the Fair Queen's Court. The committee will then decide who will meet with the contestant about this issue. We will set up a meeting with the contestant. No discussion of problems/concerns will be done on the phone or during our event. If you

have a conflict, confrontation, or discuss the contest with a judge(s)/accountant(s), this could cause you to be disqualified. This is only allowed during the contest from the contestant meeting date to the on stage contest. No action by a contestant is allowed after the contest is over.

22. It is important to remember that as a contestant or potential member of the Court, you are always representing Guadalupe County, Seguin, Texas. This includes how you conduct yourself on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and the like. And at any event. You are required to be accountable for your actions on all social media platforms and in person events. Misconduct also includes things you post, named and/or are tagged in on social media. These should be free of vulgar or derogatory language, threats or harassment, inappropriate, illegal items, alcohol, in photos or illicit behavior, etc. Inappropriate Social media postings are grounds for dismissal from the program. If the committee is contacted by someone of your actions this will disqualify you for not being able to compete or participate again in current or future contests. If an incident has happened it is your responsibility to come to the committee with those details. Do not go to another member of the court or a court parent. At all times you will dress, speak and act appropriately and respectfully. School dress code guidelines will apply. Nothing outside of this is appropriate at any function wearing your contestant sash, crown and or the court sash. You agree that you will not post negative or disparaging comments about Guadalupe Agriculture Fair, our staff, titleholders, directors, sponsors, volunteers, or any other party or event affiliated with GCFA on any social forum, website, blog, networking site, chat boards, social media outlets, in person to other individuals etc. If you are found to be engaging in this type of behavior, or any negative press, you will be immediately dismissed from GCFA and may be subject to litigation. The committee will deem what qualifies for dismissal. While you are in official capacity as a contestant, or member of the Court, you are not to chew gum, drink alcohol, vap, smoke, use foul language, fight, or engage in public displays of affection with boyfriends. Boyfriends are not part of the Court and therefore not part of the events or appearances.

23. No visible tattoos and/or piercing on the body when representing the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair. Committee must approve all earring and jewelry. (earrings provided by the committee are permitted during court reign).

24. GCFA queens contest and reigning court is a bully-free and drama-free contest and as such, we will not tolerate bullying and drama in any form. Anyone found to be engaged in any type of bullying another person or someone within the organization, will immediately be disqualified from the event and no refunds will be provided. This includes parents, family, guardians and in the company of friends.

In this zero-tolerance organization, GCFA does not entertain drama, gossip, negativity and bullying – on or off the stage. These types of behaviors are at complete odds with our positive approach to the contest and will not be tolerated within our system and will be cause for immediate removal. Parents, family, guardians, and in the company of friends are expected to do everything in their power to end bad behavior and support positive teamwork among their contestants. Parents are to work directly with the committee and association to resolve any issues that occur and be advocates of a solution.

As contestants under the age of 21 must be accompanied by a parent, family, or guardian, if a parent is involved in any of the bullying or negative behavior both the contestant, parent, or family, friends will be removed. All laws of the United State of America will apply.

Any offense, regardless of its seriousness, will be handled at the committee and association's discretion with a warning, probation period or removal of title. If a contestant is removed from the organization, and the required items are not returned within 10 days, the contestant/parent-guardian agrees to pay

a fine of \$250, and contestant agrees that GCFA has the right to process a payment to complete this issue. Or file theft charges with local law enforcement.

25. If crowned for the court of this contest all the above rules and regulations apply as a member of the court. As will the signed contracts after the contest is over and the committee meets with the Queen, Princess, Duchess and parents, family or guardians.

26. The Contestant and Parent/Guardian are required to sign this Code of Conduct and agrees to abide by the Code of Conduct and Title Agreement, as well as the rules published. Failure to sign does not waive the contestants or parent's agreement to the Code of Conduct and Title Agreement, as acceptance of a title with GCFA is the acknowledgement that the contestants and parents agree to the Code of Conduct and Title Agreement and all rules herein upon acceptance.

I hereby acknowledge that the personal data as shown on this application is correct; and that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the General Rules stated. I have read and understand the rules, regulations and judges' guidelines and agree to participate in the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Queen's Contest and if crowned while abiding by these rules. I further understand that each of the judges will be given an exact copy of the rules, regulations, and judges' guidelines. I understand that the time, manner, and method of conducting the contest are solely within the discretion of the contest committee and that the decision of the judges is final.

I have reviewed the Code of Conduct and rules. I, as well as my parent, family or legal guardian, agree to uphold all of its provisions. I hereby release and forever discharge Guadalupe Agriculture Fair its directors, employees, volunteers, and staff from any and all claims and demands arising from damages or liabilities due to theft, accident, loss or injury resulting from participation in the Fair Queens contest. I further covenant and agree that I will not sue the organization, its directors individually, its employees, volunteers, or staff for any claim for damages or liability. I have read and understand all of the policies and rules and agree to abide by them.

I also give permission for photographs, videos, or audio tape to be used for promotional and publicity purposes in print media as well as the Internet. I understand that the Guadalupe County Agriculture Fair Queens Contest is not responsible for any prizes forfeited by sponsors. I understand that this contract is enforceable in court under state and federal laws.

All contestants and their parents/guardians further covenant and agree not to sue the organization, its directors individually, its employees, volunteers, or staff for any claim for damages or liability. I agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations set forth by GCFA and committee. By signing in this agreement below, I am certifying that I have read and agreed to all rules, which are published on the organization's website, handbooks, rules of regulations, and applications.

By accepting any titles, you are agreeing to the rules and policies herein. Every contestant completes the forms which includes the above code of conduct agreement and an acceptance of our rules and policies as published.

Guadalupe County Agriculture Fair supports these activities, memberships, scholarships, and educational opportunities provided by the Guadalupe Agricultural and Livestock and Fair Association are open to all people, regardless of social, economic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.

Signature

I have read and agreed to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Queen’s Contest and Court Committee. And at any time I understand that the committee reserves the right to excuse me from the contest.

_____ Date _____
Signature of the Contestant

_____ Date _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian/Relationship

_____ Date _____
Signature of Committee Member

Contest information:

Ads sold do not count towards the contestants final score.

Fundraising only counts towards a portion of your final score. This is to help cover the cost of Fair Queens contest.

Any questions about what events during the Fair that are mandatory to attend should be asked of the committee.

Dress for the contestant interviews is Professional Business school appropriate. Sequin attire is not permitted during this interview process.

All formals should not have a slit above the knee during the on stage presentation.

No cell phone use during interview social, private interview, or stage contest.

**Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Queen’s
Calendar of Events**

September 8, 2024, Sunday

5:00pm Be at the contestant meeting at The Guadalupe County Agriculture Fair 859 Nelda Street Seguin, Tx 78155 for the first contestant meeting. Have application, code of conduct, rules and regulations finished, signed to turn in with a copy of

the reference letter. Contestants must also have the sponsor fee of \$50.00 to be turned in at this meeting. Be presentable for photographs.

September 24, 2024, - October 1, 2024 these dates only!

Call your assigned boutique from 10-5pm and make an appointment with a designated contact person to be fitted for an outfit for the style show during the contest.

October 8, 2024, Sunday

5:00pm approximate time Personal interviews will be held at the Dance Pavilion 950 South Austin Street, Seguin, Tx 78155. All contestants must be present at the start. Contestants are welcome to stay or leave after the interview is over. Contestants finished with the interview are not allowed to discuss the interview with anyone else that has to do with the interview process. This includes anyone present at the interview session. Practice on stage will be done during the coliseum onstage setup. Date will be announced. This is a mandatory event.

October 10, 2024

Fair Chamber Mixer, Assist with setup, serving and clean up. See Fair board member for details. This is not a mandatory event to be attended.

October 11, 2024, Friday

9:00am Fair Parade contestants are invited to ride on the entry the Fair Queen's committee has for the contestants. No items, changes or decisions will be made to the entry the contestants are riding on unless the committee approves 8 days before the event. You will need to be on College Street on the entry no later than 9:00 am. If you need any position information you may go to the parade route for a volunteer with information on position for that info. This is not a mandatory function to be attended.

October 12, 2024, Saturday

4:00-5:00pm Contestants need to provide a food item for donation. Any type of sandwich, appetizer, chips, crackers, cookies, or dessert is suggested. Bring these to the Dance Pavilion Office - committee.

4:00-5:15 pm Arrive no later at the coliseum to prepare to begin the contest. All contestants will have a contestant number. Contestants will be split up 1/2 on each side of the coliseum dressing rooms located in the rear of the stage area on the second floor. We ask that you support this request the best you can.

2024-2025 Fair Queens Court will be asked to go after the contest to the rodeo and will be introduced at the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Rodeo. Please bring along an extra outfit to be worn.

October 13, 2024, Sunday

3:00pm Fair Queen Court will meet at the Fair Office 859 Nelda Street, Seguin, Tx 78155 or the Dance pavilion office with their parents/guardians to discuss the year to come and sign contracts.

November 12, 2024, Tuesday

7:00pm Fair Queen Court will be required to attend the Guadalupe Agriculture Fair Board of Directors meeting in crown, banner, and nice dress (no blue jeans) to be introduced to the board. You will be excused after the introduction. If this is in conflict with an FFA event please advise the committee as soon as possible.