

Pike County Dogwood Festival Royalty Rules and Requirements

- Contestants must be a resident of Pike County and attend a Pike County School.
- Little Miss/Master 5-7 yrs. Jr. Miss 11-13 yrs. Queen 16-19 yrs. (as of April 1, 2018)
- The judgment of the Queens' director is final in any and all conflicts involving the Queens' program. Rules/guidelines are not open to debate.
- The Little Miss/Little Master, Jr. Miss, and Queens judging will be conducted by 3 judges all of whom are NOT Pike County Residents.
- Girls must be single, never married, and never had children. She cannot live with any partner at the time of application & until the completion of her reign. This status may not change during the year of reign. If a girl should get married, have a live in partner or become pregnant during her reign, title will pass to the next in line.
- Contestants cannot hold a OFEA festival queen or attendant title at the time of the contest or during the year of reign. Any Dogwood Royalty will relinquish her title if she participates in or wins another festival contest during her year of reign. Royalty members may compete for Prom, Homecoming Queen, Pike Co. Fair Royalty or in professional type (paid entries, exp. American Co Ed, Nat'l American Miss, American Excellence) pageants & hold this type of title as long as duties do not interfere with the Dogwood Festival duties or is prohibited by the contract of the other event. Prior approval from the Dogwood Queens director is required to participate in other pageant or to hold a second title.
- A formal full length gown is required, no cut out sides or back, you may not show your lower back or stomach, no slits above the knees. No flip flops or sandals may be worn at crowning. Remember Wholesomeness No visible tattoos or body piercings will be allowed. Court must coordinate matching outfits for festival duties and travel (See below in Dress Code/Appearance)
- Exiting Queens must sit out the following year before competing for another Pike County Dogwood Festival title, even if moving to the next division. Attendants do not have to sit out a year before competing for a title.
- At the successful conclusion of the reign, the Queen & her parents are responsible for organizing decorations and gifts for the Queens' luncheon. Outgoing Queen will serve as hostess with the assistance of other court members. Royalty and parents are responsible for assisting in preparations & clean-up for the luncheon. Established luncheon guidelines must be followed.
- At the successful conclusion of her reign the Outgoing Queen will attend the next year's opening ceremony to crown her successor and the rest of court.

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Royalty Expectations & Behavior

- All Queens's contestants and a parent or guardian must attend a Brief Informational Meeting (Wednesday, February 21, 2018; Dogwood Committee Office; 4:30 P.M.) to discuss the interview process and receive an interview time. This meeting will last about 15 minutes.
- Be a positive role model at all times, even when not wearing title.
- Always be polite & courteous.
- A mandatory meeting will be held immediately after the crowning, Thursday April 26, 2018. With the newly crowned royalty and their parent or guardian to acquaint them with expectations, answer questions about travel, luncheon, etiquette, etc. Attendance is MANDATORY for the royalty member and at least 1 parent/legal guardian. Failure for both royalty & parent to attend ENTIRE MEETING will result in immediate removal from the court. Alternate will be contacted immediately. Photos will be taken of winners at this meeting for the press release.
- There will be additional mandatory meetings periodically throughout the year that will require the attendance of parent/guardian and sometimes court member. This applies to all courts, including Little Miss, Little Master and Jr. Miss
- Royalty members give their consent for their photos to be used in publicity of the Pike County Dogwood Festival. This includes, but is not limited to, use on the internet, newspapers, brochures/flyers, and print media. Festivals and most royalty related events are considered public venues and therefore photo release forms are NOT required for use by the photographer. Be aware that many photos will be posted on Facebook by other royalty & parents.
- The responsibility of the Queen & her entire court will be to represent the Pike County Dogwood Festival to represent the festival in a professional manner. A high standard of proper behavior, dress code, and moral conduct will be expected at all times. If you are unsure of something, ask the director.
- Academics are a top priority. Royalty member must maintain a C average or home school equivalent to travel. Inadequate progress will result in member not being permitted to travel until progress/grades improve as travel time should be spent on study. A copy of grade report with attendance must be submitted to the Queens' director at each mandatory meeting or when requested by queens director.
- Title must be relinquished if a royalty member is expelled from school/college or is convicted of criminal activity.
- The Queen & her entire court will refrain from the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products. Any usage of such products during her year of reign as Pike County Dogwood Festival royalty will result in her title being passed to the next in line.
- The use of profanity, inappropriate slang terms & ethnic/racial jokes/slurs is prohibited.
- Any actions or statements that are detrimental to the Pike County Dogwood Festival will result in the loss of title and scholarship. Behavior is considered from the moment of crowning until the close of the next Dogwood Festival. This includes anything you may post on the internet, or send by any media.

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- Nothing inappropriate (photos, comments, etc.) may be posted anywhere on the internet by a royalty member. This includes blogs, websites, Facebook, Twitter, snapchat & other similar sites.
- Queen and court must be in attendance during the entire Pike County Dogwood Festival unless excused by the Queens' director. Various duties will be assigned to each royalty member during the festival. The Queen must also be on hand to crown the new royalty at the end of her reign.

Dress Code/Appearance

- Royalty must wear the crown or tiara which they received at crowning. Royalty are not permitted to purchase or wear a different crown/tiara or sash. If crown/tiara or sash is lost/damaged it must be replaced with identical item at cost of royalty member. Damaged items may not be worn.
- Royalty are to look professional at all times when in title. This means dressy, clean and neat in well fitted garments.
- All girls are expected to wear a formal dress or gown (floor length) with proper undergarments, dress shoes, tiara/crown & sash when representing the Pike County Dogwood Festival. Queens's director will notify royalty members personally when there is an exception to the dress code due to the nature of an event or weather. Avoid deep plunging necklines, skirts above the knee, bare stomachs, back, or sides and anything see-through. Clothes that are school appropriate may be worn during travel to and from an event. No sleep wear may be worn. Flip flops, tank tops, T-Shirts, bare stomachs, clothes with holes or that are faded are not to be worn with title. Absolutely no bare feet. Tennis shoes/sneakers, & boots are not to be worn with formals. Sunglasses are not to be worn during parades or on stage. Girls may change into dressy, casual clothes to walk around events after their duties are completed, however, formals are preferred. Short skirts should not be more than 3 inches above the knee and shoes should go with the dress and be comfortable walking. Avoid stilettos/heels more than 3 inches. Only 1 formal is needed for the year. Be sure all clothing is properly fitted & not damaged.
- No excessive earrings. No visible tattoos or piercings, other than on ears. Any studs/rings on the face or visible location must be removed when in title. Tattoos must be coverable by appropriate clothing, not bandages.
- It is requested that royalty members try to color coordinate clothes being worn when in a parade together or during the Dogwood Festival while attending to duties. The outfits should not clash. Cream or Beige pants with a burgundy or maroon dressy top with brown shoes/boots. Sweatshirts and hoodies are not acceptable outerwear at any time with the title, in the event coats are needed they should be a dressy "pea coat" style black or cream in color. It is requested a nice "Sunday best" style dress also be purchased by the court. This should be black in color with flat, black dress shoes.
- Make-up should be natural. Avoid bright red lipstick, black/blue/orange/garish nail polish on fingers or toes. Be sure nails are clean, shaped & free of chipped/peeling polish. Polish & make-up must compliment your attire.
- Good personal hygiene is mandatory at all times during year of reign. Avoid greasy/messy hair, body odors, bad breath.

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- Buttons, badges, pins may be worn on the BACK of the sash. These must be limited to those associated with festivals/events attended this year or crown pins. Do not wear pins on your sash that are not related to your reign. Do not make buttons/pins for your sash using the name of any other event. Your title may not be covered in any way. You will be asked to remove excessive pins (more than 6) from the front of the sash. Photo buttons, buttons and pins from other events or may not be on the front. Do not wear event buttons from previous years. Do not write on your sash

Travel

- Travel expenses (meals, gas/mileage, rooms, souvenirs, etc.) are the responsibility of your family.
- Contestants/royalty must be willing and able to represent the Pike County Dogwood Festival at many other statewide festivals. Royalty will be expected to participate in other promotional activities representing the Pike County Dogwood Festival such as pageants, luncheons, parades, speaking engagements, interviews, community service projects, etc. Most of these events/festivals will be on Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. April through October are very busy months. There will also be some events in the winter, especially around the holidays. Some events are restricted to specific court members, meaning not all members will be permitted to attend. Royalty must have at least half of the travel requirements met by Jan. 1
- Events, meetings & deadlines are posted on the web site. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check the site & meet the deadlines. The Queens' director is not responsible for calling you or for reminding you of deadlines, meetings or events. The Queens' director will rarely notify you directly of upcoming events. Occasionally e-mail, phone & printed lists may be used. If you miss the posted deadline, you will not be permitted to attend the luncheon or parade. LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Check the web site weekly for updates, any changes. www.pikecountydogwoodfestival.com Click Royalty schedules/deadlines. Payment must be made to the director 3 days before application deadline.
- The Queen and court must participate in 20 events, including luncheon & parade combinations. Most of these should be OFEA events. The Queen is expected to attend the luncheon, other planned events, participate in the parade, and speak on stage.
- An active e-mail is required for communication with the queens' director. Check it at least twice weekly. Respond immediately to all texts, voicemails, emails, facebook messages, etc. from the queens' director.
- The Queens' director will make all contacts and registrations with other festivals and events. Do not participate in an event without permission of the director. No one else may contact other events or make reservations. Royalty must submit luncheon payment (check/money order made payable to the hosting event-NO CASH) to the Queen's director by the deadline to be included with reservations. The Dogwood Committee will pay for 5 luncheons for Queen, 1st and 2nd attendants. The rest will be paid for by the family. Many festivals limit the age of the royalty who may attend their event and number of adult chaperones. If you did not pay, you may not sit in the luncheon room due to space limitations at most events. This applies even if

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you do not eat. Some events will occasionally invite unpaid chaperones in to watch, in this event it is ok to enter.

- Royalty only attending parades must still notify the Queen's director by the deadline. Royalty not meeting the deadline will not be permitted to participate in the event. Failure to show up at an event for which you registered on two occasions will result in suspension of travel privileges. The third no show may result in loss of title. If a cancellation for an event is necessary (illness, emergency), the Queens director, not other court member/parent must be called prior to the event to be excused.
- The Queen's director is not required to attend any event, provide any transportation, or purchase any items for the royalty. The Queen's director is to coordinate activities. Surprise event visits may be made. You must travel with a parent or guardian.
- The royalty members' parents are responsible for most travel. The Queens' director may travel with the court or provide occasional transportation. However, this is a special time for the royalty member and should be shared by her family.
- If a girl rides to an event/festival with someone other than her own parent, she must have written permission from her parent. She must return with that person unless otherwise stated in the permission letter. This is a privilege, not a right. Royalty member must respect and abide by the decisions of her chaperone. Don't assume you can ride with someone else without asking. If you have scheduling restrictions, be sure to mention those before traveling with another family/person. Respect the judgment of chaperone/escort while in their custody.
- The Queens' director must be notified immediately if your plans to attend an event change for any reason (illness, family commitment, weather, etc.). Refunds cannot be made after the reservation is mailed to the hosting festival/event. No shows create problems for everyone & must be avoided. Check your schedules and transportation BEFORE registering.
- Members' parents are responsible for obtaining/providing appropriate transportation to and from an event or festival and for parades. Coordinate with the Queens' director for number of royalty attending, as all court members must ride together in a parade, using 1 vehicle. All drivers must be at least 21, have a valid driver's license and current insurance. Vehicles are not to be decorated with paint or chalk. No one may ride on hood or roof without sunroof/t-roof.
- The float may be used in parades instead of cars in local events and when more than 4 royalty travel to an event. The float may be pulled by the Queen's chairperson, festival representative or parent. When the float is used, all royalty members participating must ride on it. Insurance is the responsibility of the driver. No one under 21 may pull the float or drive members. The person pulling the float is responsible for coordinating the decorating/setting up the float and for removing items without damage. Decorations & skirting must be removed before transporting the float. Parents of all royalty members riding on the float need to help with its set up and tear down.
- Punctuality is expected at all times. If you have a conflict with another event or know you will be late, let the Queens' director know as soon as possible. If a problem occurs during travel, please, call others attending to let them know, as well as the queens director. Store court and parent phone numbers in your cell for emergencies.

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- If several festivals/events occur simultaneously, the Queen and court may be asked to attend separate events with their parents/director.
- Boyfriends are not acceptable chaperones for the royalty. No public display of affection will be tolerated by any court member.
- Travel may be suspended any time for inappropriate behavior for any or all court members. Length of suspension will be determined by the queens' director and may be for the remainder of the year. Travel may be limited to only events chaperoned by the queens' director. This can affect your ability to complete your requirements.
- The Queen's meal at luncheons is usually free. The deposit is required before she will be permitted to register for more events. Jr. Miss, Little Miss/Master, attendants and parents must pay for their own meals.
- All Pike County Dogwood Festival royalty attending a luncheon must sit in reserved seats or sit together as a group, if possible. This does not mean that you can't sit with friends on other courts. Chaperones must not be seated with royalty. If a young court member needs help during the meal, other than in the buffet line, she should not attend the luncheon. Each royalty member has her own duties and wants to enjoy the event. Royalty cannot baby-sit younger court members. Young siblings should not attend luncheons.
- Do not be greedy by taking extra luncheon bags or gifts.
- Be respectful during luncheon. Absolutely no texting or phone calls. Do not socialize or talk during speeches.
- Do not make a mess or destroy anything. Clean up after yourself & put trash in cans.
- Restrictions/rules of other events or festivals will be followed when traveling.
- Royalty will keep their own name signs; each will be responsible for bringing them to events. Magnetic festival signs will remain with the Queens' director or float. If the Queen's director does not attend an event, the parents are responsible for picking up and returning the needed signs. Queen's director may determine how long signs may be in royalty member's possession. New signs will be ordered every year by the Queen's director for each royalty member. Cost will be covered by the Dogwood Committee. No other signs may be ordered or used. Royalty member causing damage or loss to personal sign, OFEA sign or festival sign will be financially responsible for its immediate replacement. Cold & folding will crack signs. Sliding signs on vehicle will scratch paint. Signs are only to be used during parades then removed.
- Keep a travel log of events attended with photos. This will be required to verify events attended.
- Cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate & not visible during parades, luncheons, or while representing the festival. They must never be used during a parade or luncheon.
- Royalty, are never to take off alone and must always let the chaperone know where they are going. If you get separated from the group and cannot locate the others, you may use your phone or go to the info booth or contact a host official, or police.

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Failure to abide by these guidelines or any one infraction of guidelines in the contract or duty assignments may result in a mandatory appearance before the committee, loss of any scholarship and forfeiture of title. Tiara/crown & sash will be passed to the first runner up/next in line who will assume those responsibilities. The second runner up/next in line will assume responsibilities of the first runner up.

Please read, date, and sign if you agree to these terms and return this page only back to the Queens Court Director along with the application and entry fee.

Printed Name

Applicants Signature

Date

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date