

Laredo International Fair and Exposition



2025 L.I.F.E. Queen Rules and Pageant Application

Informational Meeting June 20, 2024

Application Due- Friday July 12, 2024

Note: The pageant and associated events are subject to change.

For additional information contact- Queen Pageant Committee: Chair Jessica Benavides
(956) 774-2342

2025 L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant

On behalf of the Laredo International Fair and Exposition Pageant Committee, we would like to thank you for participating in the L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant. As a Queen contestant, you will have a wonderful experience creating memories, making new friends and challenging yourself to new heights while competing for the chance to be this year's queen. The 2025 **Queen will receive a \$2,000.00 scholastic award the 1st runner-up will receive a \$1,500.00 scholastic award and the 2nd runner -up will receive a \$1250.00 scholastic award.**

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be a high school senior or graduating junior.
2. Must be a Webb County resident.
3. \$100.00 entry fee. (non-refundable)
4. Must sell one \$500.00 sponsorship or 2- \$250.00 sponsorships. (Limit of 2 business cards) Sponsor will be published on pageant program. (non-refundable)
5. Must be compliant with House Bill 72 (No Pass – No Play Form)
6. Must have completed at least 20 community service hours.
7. Must participate in L.I.F.E. Queen Community Service Event (TBA)
8. Must have actively participated in FFA or 4-H club at least two prior years.
9. Candidates must be single, never been married and never conceived a child.
10. Must be a biological female. (birth certificate may be required)
11. Must not be on probation or have been arrested, incarcerated or convicted of a felony.
12. Contestant agrees to ride on float or horseback in annual WBCA parade and pay for practices and horse rental.
13. Candidates must sell or pay (mandatory) for 25 Pageant Tickets. (\$10.00 each)

MANDATORY PAGEANT ORIENTATION:

Complete application packet is due on Friday, July 12, 2024 at **6:00 p.m.** during the Pageant Orientation which will take place at the **L.I.F.E. Restaurant**. Application must be submitted in person by applicant. Applicants must remain at the Pageant Orientation for a presentation on important pageant instructions and schedule. Attendance by applicant is **MANDATORY**. If applicant cannot attend due to an emergency or unforeseen circumstance, you must contact the Pageant Committee for approval to have a family member appear on your behalf.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- DEADLINE: Friday, July 12, 2024
- Contestant Information Form
- \$100.00 application fee* (non-refundable)
- Sponsorship Approval Form with \$500 sponsorship* (non refundable)
- House Bill 72 (No Pass – No Play) Passing Verification Form (last report-card)
- Fair Participation Verification Form
- Community Service Verification Form
- Horseback Riding Agreement Form
- Acknowledgement & Authorization Form

***Checks or Money Order payable to “L.I.F.E. Queen Committee” NO CASH ACCEPTED**

2025 L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant

RULES

1. The L.I.F.E. Queen pageant is limited to those who are Seniors or graduating Juniors for the 2024-2025 school year and all contestants must be residents of Webb County.
2. No contestant who is currently holding any other title is allowed to participate in the pageant unless the title held does not require any duties that would interfere with pageant duties and schedule. L.I.F.E. Queen Court must be available when needed without having other obligations that would inhibit availability.
3. All contestants need to attend all meetings and practices. If a conflict arises, please contact Pageant Committee Chair to let them know that you will be late or will not be able to make it. Failure to attend meetings/practices could result in dismissal from the competition. The L.I.F.E. Board as well as the Pageant Committee understands that there are conflicts with other school activities, but also want to make sure that the potential queen and her court are willing to prioritize and commit their time to the pageant. No makeup practices/meetings will be held. In case of a tie at the pageant, attendance will be considered.
4. All Queen Contestants must keep all attire tasteful and modest as she will be representing L.I.F.E. Fair and Webb County. Skirts and dresses are not to be too short. Additionally, clothing will not be too tight and showing of a **midriff** is never allowed. Strapless dresses are prohibited. Skirt slits must be kept below the knee. See through garments, shall not be permitted. This applies during the pageant as well as during other appearances throughout the year. The queen and her court will be expected to wear western attire for appearances throughout fair week and at other public appearances unless otherwise stated. Attire for certain appearances will be determined and approved by committee.
5. Parents will not be allowed to assist contestants during the pageant interviews or in the holding room/backstage during the pageant. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
6. Judging will consist of the following:
25% Essay 25% Interview 20% Impromptu Question 15% Formal Wear 15% Western Wear

7. Judging will be conducted by a panel of impartial judges and their decisions are final. A queen and two runner ups will be chosen by the judging panel and a Miss Congeniality will be voted on by the contestants. In the event of a tie, L.I.F.E. official procedures will be used. (absences to practices will be considered)
8. The duties of the Queen's Court will include being present and participating at each animal judging to present awards during the fair, attending the fair auction and assisting with any other duties designated by the Pageant Committee.
9. Behavior is key! You will be representing L.I.F.E. and must carry yourself in that manner. Contestant must be of good moral character, never performed any act or engaged in any activity that could be characterized as immoral or indecent. Contestant must not engage in excessive absences, disrespect of authority, illegal behavior (including the use of drugs or underage drinking and smoking). Contestant will limit themselves to one piercing in each ear lobe. All other visible piercings and tattoos must be removed or covered.
10. Additionally, contestants are prohibited from displaying, communicating and/or providing or having knowledge of inappropriate language, materials or photographs on internet/web sites including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, twitter, snapchat or personal blogs. Contestant attests that any and all online depictions associated with the contestant's name are consistent with the standards and dignity of the L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant.
11. Contestants are prohibited from holding hands and kissing while representing L.I.F.E. and wearing crown and sash. This includes fair events, fundraisers, and fair week.
12. All personal appearances as L.I.F.E. queen/court shall be approved in advance by the pageant chairperson; as well as any photographic sessions and pictures released as the role of L.I.F.E. queen/court.
13. If the newly selected queen, or any member of her court, cannot fulfill all of the expressed duties or violates any rule set forth for a candidate, she will relinquish her title, crown and all prizes upon the direction of the L.I.F.E. Pageant Committee. The next eligible contestant will then earn the title. Any grievances or objections to the pageant will be referred to the L.I.F.E. Board.

14. The contestant agrees that if she is selected as the L.I.F.E. Queen, she will serve until her successor has been selected and remains bound by these rules for the term of her reign.
15. Lastly, if the L.I.F.E. Queen or any member of her court becomes married, becomes pregnant or is arrested during the year of her reign, she will be disqualified from the court and the next eligible contestant will then earn the title.
16. During fundraising events and fair week, queen court will be dismissed no later than 7:00 p.m. and will become responsibility of the parents.
17. Absolutely no soliciting is permitted.

Expectations for the L.I.F.E. Queen and Her Court

These guidelines, for the L.I.F.E. Queen and her court, along with their parents, can help ensure a harmonious, respectful, and effective representation of our L.I.F.E. Organization.

Behavior

- **Respect and Professionalism**
All members should treat each other, staff, volunteers, and the public with respect and courtesy at all times. This includes using appropriate language and maintaining a positive attitude.
- **Commitment**
Members are expected to attend all scheduled events and meetings unless excused for valid reasons. Punctuality is essential.
- **Responsibility**
Members should take their roles seriously and fulfill their duties diligently. This includes participating actively in events and organizational activities.
- **Communication**
Clear and timely communication is crucial. Members should keep the organization informed of any issues or changes in availability.

Dress Code

- **Formal Events**

Members should wear attire appropriate for formal events, including gowns for the L.I.F.E. Queen and her court. Dresses should be modest and elegant, reflecting the organization's values.

- Casual Events

For less formal events, business casual attire is acceptable. Clothing should still be neat, clean, and appropriate.

- Uniforms

If L.I.F.E. Queen Committee provides specific uniforms for events, members must wear them as instructed.

- Grooming

Personal hygiene and grooming standards should be maintained at all times. Hair should be neatly styled, and makeup (if worn) should be modest and appropriate.

Unity

- Teamwork

L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court should work collaboratively, supporting each other and fostering a spirit of teamwork and camaraderie.

- Inclusivity

The L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court should promote inclusivity, ensuring that all members feel valued and included in activities and decision-making processes.

- Avoid Outshining

L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court should avoid trying to outshine each other. The focus should be on representing the organization as a unified team rather than on individual glory.

- Conflict Resolution

Any conflicts should be addressed promptly and respectfully, seeking to resolve issues amicably and constructively.

Decision-Making

- Collaborative Decisions

L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court should not make decisions independently. All decisions, particularly those affecting the group or the organization, should be discussed and approved by the appropriate organizational leaders.

- Adherence to Guidelines

L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court must follow the guidelines and instructions provided by the organization at all times.

Representation

- **Ambassadors of the Organization**
L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court are ambassadors of Laredo International Fair & Exposition and should represent the organization positively in all interactions, both in person and online.
- **Social Media Conduct**
L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court should use social media responsibly. Posts should reflect the values of L.I.F.E. organization and avoid any content that could be considered offensive or controversial.
- **Public Speaking**
When speaking at events or to the media, L.I.F.E. Queen and the Court should be prepared, articulate, and stay on message, reflecting the organization's mission and goals.

Parent Code of Conduct

Support

- **Encouragement**
Parents should encourage and support their children's participation and commitment to their roles within Laredo International Fair & Exposition.
- **Attendance**
Parents are encouraged to attend events and meetings to support their children and the organization.

Behavior

- **Respect**
Parents should treat all members, staff, volunteers, and other parents with respect and courtesy.
- **Communication**
Parents should communicate any concerns or issues to the organization promptly and respectfully.

Involvement

- Volunteering
Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time and skills to support L.I.F.E. events and activities.
- Fundraising
Parents should participate in fundraising activities to help support the organization's initiatives.

Conduct at Events

- Professionalism
Parents should conduct themselves professionally at all events, setting a positive example for their children and other members.
- Support
Parents should cheer on and support the L.I.F.E. Queen and her court, fostering a positive and encouraging environment.

Parent's Signature _____

Applicant's Signature _____

2025 L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant

Contestant Information Form

(As you would like it to appear in all media and pageant program)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Webb County Resident:(circle one) Yes / No

Parent's Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Name of School: _____

Classification: _____ Student ID: _____

Club and/or Organization you are
representing: _____

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Sponsorship Approval Form

Any individual, club, organization and/or business may sponsor an Applicant for the L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant. Sponsor must acknowledge that Applicant is of good moral character and worthy of representing you during the pageant. Sponsorship fee is \$500 and must be submitted with application via **check or money order. Sponsorship is non-refundable!**

Sponsor's Name/Business:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Company Name for Ad (if different than above):

Please attach business card to application or page with ad information for pageant program

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Sponsor's Name/Business:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____

Company Name for Ad (if different than above):

Please attach business card to application or page with ad information for pageant program

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

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Passing Verification Form

Teachers:

Each L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant contestant must be passing all subject areas to comply with the House Bill 72 NoPass/ No – Play rule. In order to participate in the pageant contestants must have their teachers complete and sign below and **must have a copy of their schedule attached to this form.**

THANK YOU for your assistance.

Applicant's Name: _____

CLASS	TEACHER'S SIGNATURE	PASSING/NOT PASSING

**YOU MAY SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR LAST REPORT
CARD**

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Fair Participation Verification Form

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant actively participated in FFA or 4-H club at least two years prior to pageant:

Year _____

FFA or 4H Club Name: _____

Project: _____

Project Sponsor Name: _____

Project Sponsor Signature _____

Year _____

FFA or 4H Club Name: _____

Project: _____

Project Sponsor Name _____

Project Sponsor Signature: _____

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Applicant's Information

My name is _____,

I am the daughter of Mr. _____ and Mrs. _____

I am a student at _____.

I am representing _____.

My hobbies are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

My achievements include:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

My future plans include:

2025 L.I.F.E. Queen Pageant

Community Service Verification Form

This verifies that I have completed a minimum of 20 community service hours in Webb County as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact Person</i>	<i>Hours Completed</i>

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

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Horseback Riding or Float Agreement Form

I, _____, agree to allow my daughter _____, to participate in the annual WBCA Grand parade. I will not hold L.I.F.E. or anyone associated with L.I.F.E., i.e. board members, pageant committee, horse trainer, parade walkers, volunteers liable for any injury/accident that may occur at any time during her tenure.

Please check ONE:

- I DO** give my child permission to ride horseback.

- I DO NOT** give my child permission to ride horseback.

- I will provide my own horse** (I will also provide saddle and tack, transportation of horse to and from parade, and parade walker)
 - I will need to rent a horse for training days and parade** (will include all saddle and tack for training and parade, transportation of a horse to and from parade, preparation for parade and parade walker)

- I agree to pay \$50 per training session, minimum of 3 sessions.

- I do not need training sessions.

Print Parent Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

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Acknowledgement & Authorization Form

I have read and understand all the pageant rules and will abide by them. I understand that, if chosen as Queen, First Runner Up or Second Runner Up, I am expected to participate in all scheduled events during the 2025 L.I.F.E.

Fair. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification and withholding of my title/award(s). A schedule of the fair events will be made available at the Pre-Fair orientation session. I approve of the use of photos and my name by the Laredo International Fair and Exposition or its agents for publicity purposes.

I will not hold L.I.F.E. or anyone associated with L.I.F.E., i.e. board members, pageant committee, volunteers liable for any injury/accident that may occur at any time during her 2024-2025 participation. With my signature below, I acknowledge that I qualify to participate in this pageant based on the pageant criteria. I submit that the information on this application is accurate and complete.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

For additional information contact- Queen Pageant

Committee: Chair Jessica Benavides (956) 774-2342

Tentative Schedule

*Informational Meeting (June 20, 2024 6:30 pm at L.I.F.E. Restaurant)

*Mandatory Orientation (July 12, 2024 6:00 pm at L.I.F.E. Restaurant)

*July- Practice Starts (one time fee)

*July- Photo Shoot (2 OUTFITS)

1.Outfit of your choice

2.Blue Jeans, white button shirt, hat

*August- Continue with practices

*September 2024- Mother & Daughter Dinner

*September 2024- Essay and Interview Day

(Business Attire)

*September 2024- Pageant Day (3 outfits)

1. BLUE JEANS, WHITE BUTTON SHIRT, HAT

2. FORMAL WEAR FOR PAGEANT

3. WESTERN WEAR FOR PAGEANT

List 3 songs you would like to dance at the pageant.

1.

2.

3.