

2009
Miss Marshall-Putnam
Fair Pageant

Contestant
General Information
Packet

Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair Pageant General Information

IF CHOOSING TO BECOME A CONTESTANT FOR MISS MARSHALL-PUTNAM FAIR

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Although this is considered an agricultural fair pageant – it is also a beauty pageant. Let me explain what I just said. You will represent the Marshall-Putnam County Fair at many events throughout the year. You need to be prepared to present yourself as if it is the evening of the pageant and the day you won – with hair and make-up polished and applied at these events throughout the year.

If you aren't prepared to walk the walk and look the look – you may want to reconsider entering this pageant. Maybe this isn't the pageant for you. If you have signed the Official Rules to be a contestant in the Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair Pageant, you are now a representative of the Marshall-Putnam County Fair. So therefore, please be aware that drinking, partying, partaking in any illegal substances or behaving in an inappropriate manner will be brought to our attention and may lead to your removal from this competition.

All contestants will be asked to sell or purchase 5 books of raffle tickets @ \$5.00 per book.

STUFF TO KNOW

- This is an agricultural fair. You should brush up on your knowledge of agriculture.
- You should also brush up on your knowledge of Marshall & Putnam counties, and especially the Marshall-Putnam County Fair. The fair website is a great tool (www.marshallputnamfair.org)
- What are your responsibilities as Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair if you win?
- What are your duties during fair week?
- What do the initials IAAF stand for?
- How long does the Marshall-Putnam County Fair last?
- What is happening at the Marshall-Putnam County Fair this year?
- What is your favorite part of the fair?
- Why do you want to become the next Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair?
- What can you bring to the fair that others cannot?
- Why should we pick you as the next Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair?
- If you win, you will have the opportunity to compete at the state pageant. What title would you be competing for? Are you familiar with the State Queen's duties? Their website is a good tool (www.missillinoiscountyfair.com)

REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

Rehearsals will be held at 6:00 pm on Mondays, June 15th, June 22nd, June 29th, and July 6th. Please arrive at least 5 minutes prior to rehearsal start time each night. If you are going to be late, please contact Jodi Slingsby at 815-343-2721 in advance.

For all rehearsals - wear jeans, capri pants, or finger-tip length shorts / skirts with a top that covers your midriff (**NO EXCEPTIONS**); bring your taupe heels; cell phones should be turned off or set to vibrate; no gum chewing; come with a smile and an open mind for learning, taking instructions, and taking constructive criticism / guidance. Each week we will be working on interview skills, walking on stage, making turns on stage, and public speaking.

June 8th - Your completed entry packet is due on this date (signed copy of Official Rules, signed Release & Waiver of Liability & Indemnity Agreement, completed application, completed contestant bio questions, \$50.00 entry/sponsorship fee and one copy of 4" x 6" or smaller head shot photo).

June 15th - we will meet in the Hunt Building at 6:00 pm for a group photo to be taken for the local newspapers. Please wear a nice sun dress, heels, full makeup, and have your hair done for this photo.

June 22nd – we will meet in the Hunt Building at 6:00 pm. Speeches must be ready to practice at this rehearsal.

June 29th – we will meet in the Hunt Building at 6:00 pm for rehearsal.

July 6th – we will meet in the Hunt Building at 6:00 pm for a **MANDATORY** full dress rehearsal. Bring all of your clothes for Pageant night to this rehearsal. At this rehearsal, each contestant will receive 2 adult pageant admission wristbands to be given to their parents or guardians. These wristbands must be worn on July 8th to receive free admission to the pageant. Please be aware that if you choose to give these 2 free adult admission wristbands to grandparents, or anyone else, or if the bands are forgotten the night of the pageant or lost, parents or guardians will be required to purchase additional wristbands to enter the pageant.

Please realize that every one of us is a working volunteer to the Marshall Putnam Fair. We are all dedicated supporters of the County Fair Pageant system. We believe that participating in pageants can turn young girls into more graceful, elegant young ladies.

PAGEANT DAY TIMELINE – JULY 8TH

1:30 pm – Contestants may begin dropping off evening gown & accessories at the “Club 29” building on the fairgrounds. Please be sure that you keep your swimsuit, taupe heels, business suit, and all accessories needed for your interview with you. Also, you may want to bring makeup or hair styling accessories with you to the interview.

3:00 pm – Interviews with the judges will begin at the Farm Bureau building. Please be completely dressed in your business suit and all accessories upon arriving at the Farm Bureau building. After interviews have concluded, all contestants may go back to “Club 29” for relaxation and a light meal (which will be provided) before getting ready for the evening’s competition. If the contestants choose to leave the fairgrounds, they **MUST** be back at “Club 29” **NO LATER** than 6:30pm. All contestants must have **ALL** of their clothes, accessories, makeup, etc. with them at “Club 29”.

6:30 pm – All contestants **MUST** be at “Club 29” to begin preparing for the evening’s competition. Contestants will be escorted to and from “Club 29” and the Hunt Building all evening for clothes changes and makeup and hair touch ups.

IF YOU BECOME MISS MARSHALL-PUTNAM FAIR

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Marshall and Putnam counties are made up of many small towns. As Pageant Committee members, people do not hesitate to call us, e-mail and notify us of what “our queen” was doing at the mall, at a sporting event, at a parade, at her job, at college, on Facebook, on MySpace, etc. If you have won the title of Miss Marshall-Putnam County Fair and we “hear” that you were at a party, whether or not you are partaking in anything, or if you are participating in anything that is not becoming of a queen– you may be asked to relinquish your title of Miss Marshall Putnam Fair (see Official Rules).

Do **NOT** put yourself in any situation or any position that will compromise your title. You are now a role model to young impressionable girls and you have a responsibility to always act like a Queen whether or not you have your crown and sash on.

Although we are very flexible in letting you have opinions throughout the year; please note that the Pageant Committee will have the final say in all decisions. You will represent our county, our fair, our community, and us as the Pageant Committee. Trust us and communicate with us, and this truly can be a very rewarding and positive year for everyone!

FAIR WEEK

Fair Week is grueling, hot, dirty, and sometimes the down time is considered boring. Now having said that—**Fair Week is also what you choose to make of it!!**

Fair Dates: Wednesday July 8th – Sunday July 12th. We expect you to rearrange your work schedule to be at the Fair every day to serve as the official hostess of the Fair & make appearances at all the events.

Chaperones: The pageant committee will provide you & your court with an official chaperone for each day during the Fair, but it is strongly suggested that you bring an adult family member (preferably a parent) with you each day. This is not only a great experience for you to share with your family, but it also gives them an opportunity to get to know the Pageant committee & Fair Board members, as you will become close with these people throughout the year.

Approved chaperones: Parent(s) or Guardian(s), Grandma, Grandpa

NOT Approved chaperones: Friends, boyfriends, cousins, siblings

Official Duties: Your duties are to serve as the official hostess of the 2009 Marshall-Putnam Fair. This includes, but is not limited to, participating in activities on the Fairgrounds, such as handing out ribbons at livestock judging events, make welcoming announcements to the crowd at each Grandstand Event, and to make appearances at various other activities during the Fair, to be determined by the Pageant Committee. A complete schedule of Fair events will be provided to you for your reference. In addition to making appearances, you will also be mingling with other Fair-goers around the Fairgrounds. Please use this opportunity to show off your winning personality & be friendly to everyone around you. Remember, there are little girls out there who will look up to you, so make the most of this opportunity. We want you to enjoy this weekend, but don't forget that you are a representative of the M-P Fair at the same time.

Attire: The Fair weekend is usually very hot, so please dress accordingly. Jeans, shorts and skirts (at least finger-tip length or longer & with no rips or holes) & short sleeved shirts are appropriate during the day. Tank tops & tube tops are questionable, no cleavage should be seen or other shirts where you may be considered “over-exposed” or bra straps can be seen. In addition, shirts should be long enough to cover your midriff – no navels should be seen **AT ANY TIME!** Consider this, if your grandparents or great-grandparents might feel uneasy or offended by your outfit – **DON'T WEAR IT!** If at any time the Pageant Committee deems your attire inappropriate, you will be told to change your clothes **IMMEDIATELY!** Another important element to your attire is footwear. Sandals or flip-flops can be worn, but please have a pair of closed toe shoes (preferably tennis shoes or other low, hard-soled shoes) with you, as you will be making many trips down to the barn areas, and you'll be very glad you have something to cover your feet.

For the nightly Grandstand events, we would like you to dress up a little nicer, since you will be making welcoming announcements to the entire Grandstand audience. A nice summer dress, skirt & blouse, or nice pants & blouse are appropriate for these occasions. There will be a Grandstand show every night of the Fair (Thursday – Sunday) so please plan accordingly. You do not need 4 different outfits.

You can feel free to bring a variety of clothes to the Fair Office & leave them there throughout the Fair to use when you need them. There will be a clothes rack in the Board Room that you can use to hang your clothes & no one will bother them, but please remember to remove all items at the end of the Fair.

Miscellaneous: Your day will likely begin around 8:00 am every morning, and after you have made the welcoming announcements at the nightly Grandstand events, you will usually be dismissed from your official pageant chaperone to enjoy the Fair, or to go home & get some rest - it's your choice. But if you choose to stick around the Fair, you will still be required to have an approved chaperone with you at all times. This **DOES NOT** mean that you get to run around with your boyfriend for the rest of the night, unless a parent or guardian is with you **AT ALL TIMES**. You have a reputation to uphold, and trust me, people will notice, so please take special note of your actions this weekend.

During any downtimes where there are no events going on, your chaperone will probably take you back to the Fair Office to cool off, freshen up, and start writing your Thank You notes to the donors. Please use this weekend to form friendships with your court, including your Junior Miss, Little Miss & their families. Remember to include them in the Fair's activities. The memories you will make this weekend will last a lifetime. Remember to bring your camera every day.

At no time during the Fair weekend will you be allowed to partake in any alcoholic beverages, smoking, or partaking in any illegal substances, regardless of your age

After the Fair is over, we will set up a time for the Pageant Committee to sit down with you & your parents to go over other events & duties for the remainder of the year, including the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant in January 2010.

OTHER EVENTS THROUGH THE YEAR

VISITING OTHER COUNTY FAIRS

Attending other county fair pageants is a great opportunity to meet other County Fair Queens. Attendance is by invitation only. Most County Fair Pageants have limited seating therefore we only attend if we are invited. If a member of the Pageant Committee cannot attend with you, you will need an appropriate pre-approved chaperone to attend with you. Attire to other fairs is dressy – no pants. A nice dress or business suit should be worn with your crown and sash. Your hair and make-up should be as nice as when you won our pageant. This is a great opportunity for you to practice on your hair and make-up for the State Pageant, if you are choosing to participate. Remember, you will be representing the Marshall-Putnam County Fair and everyone will be watching you. You may be allowed go on stage and introduce yourself during the pageant. Royalty will get into the visiting pageant at no cost and will sit in the visiting royalty section with the chaperone. Anyone else wanting to attend - moms, dads and other family members may need to purchase a pageant admission ticket and are required to sit in general seating. Additional parking / fair gate charges may be incurred.

LOCAL PARADES

There are several parades throughout Marshall and Putnam counties that you may choose to participate in. It is your responsibility to contact your Pageant Director in advance if you choose to participate in any of these parades. You will then need to contact the parade organizers to complete your registration, and it is your responsibility to obtain your own transportation, whether you borrow a convertible from a friend or you call a car dealership (this also includes being responsible for having the necessary personal insurance coverage in the event of an accident or other mishap). You may want to have magnetic signs made for use during the parades, but these will be at your expense (approximate cost is \$50.00). The magnetic signs are used to display your name & the Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair title, and they can make for a wonderful keepsake.

If choosing to ride in a convertible, you may want to bring a blanket to sit on the back / top of the car so you don't scratch the back of your convertible and don't have to sit on a hot car! Candy is optional but will be at

your own expense if you decide to throw it. Be sure to wear your crown and sash. Sunglasses should be taken off when the parade starts. Bring your sunscreen and a water bottle for the parade and don't be late! Parades are not mandatory but can be fun and something you may want to participate in.

COUNTY FAIR DAY

Friday, August 14th

State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL

County Fair Day is held Friday, August 14th on the Director's Lawn at the State Fair in Springfield. The fair will purchase Miss Marshall-Putnam's meal ticket, but you may be responsible to pay for any parking fees, along with any other expenses for the day. If a member of the Pageant Committee cannot attend with you, you will need an appropriate pre-approved chaperone to attend with you. Anyone attending County Fair Day with you will need to register with the Fair Office and purchase a ticket (approximately \$8.00) no later than Sunday, July 12, 2009.

You will need to wear a business suit or very nice sundress with hose, heels, crown and sash. You can wear tennis shoes to walk to the Director's Lawn on the State Fairgrounds and then you will need to change into your heels prior to entering the Director's Lawn, which is near Conservation World. A camera, fan, make-up, and shoes can be carried in a tote bag. You will register at the Queen's table and then you are free to mingle with other queens. This is a great opportunity to take pictures for your scrapbook. Lunch is generally around 11:00 am. The governor of Illinois "sometimes" will show up for photos with the County Fair Queens. If he does not commit, then photos will be taken with the Illinois Director of Agriculture – Tom Jennings. A Pageant Directors meeting that will provide the latest information on the State Pageant will also be held that day. Depending on your schedules, some royalty have made a "day" of the state fair by changing clothes and walking around the grounds.

NORTHERN ZONE MEETING

Sunday, November 1st

Pittstick Pavilion, Ottawa, IL

Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair, the Pageant Director, and several Fair Board members and volunteers will attend the Northern Zone Meeting at the Pittstick Pavilion in Ottawa. You will need to wear a business suit with hose, heels, crown and sash. You will need to bring your scrapbook to share among the other Northern Zone Queens. The State Queen will view scrapbooks and award a prize for the best scrapbook. This is another opportunity for pictures with other County Fair Queens. Also, you and the other Northern Zone Queens will be asked to hand out door prizes provided by the attending county fairs and associate members of the IAAF. There will be lunch, a Northern Zone meeting, entertainment, and a pageant directors meeting that will update us on the State Pageant. Sometimes at this date, they will be able to show us the production number outfit required for state.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Scholarship – We hope to award a cash scholarship provided by local business donations. See 'Scholarship Information' for more details.

Shopping – If you choose to compete in the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant, you will likely be shopping with your Pageant Director for your wardrobe and accessories. Do not purchase anything without the Pageant Director's approval unless you are confident the store has a good return policy. The Pageant Director makes final decisions on all wardrobe selections. It will likely take more than one shopping trip to select and purchase your State Pageant wardrobe.

Miscellaneous- As some of your many gifts upon winning, you will receive a crown, crown pin, and two sashes. These items are yours to keep after your reign has ended. If any of these provided items are lost or damaged, it is your responsibility to replace these items at your own expense, if desired. Prior approval of any replacement items must be obtained from the Pageant Committee before purchasing any items. As your reign comes to an end, it will also be your responsibility to help collect prizes, gift certificates and coupons for next year's winner.

MISS ILLINOIS COUNTY FAIR STATE PAGEANT

January 2010

County Fairs that are in good standing with the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs will generally send their County Fair Queen to compete for the title of Miss Illinois County Fair Queen (sometimes referred to as the State Queen). The State Queen reigns over the Illinois State Fair and the DuQuoin State Fair and is the official hostess of these events. She is employed by the Department of Agriculture for the entire summer and it is her job to travel throughout Illinois promoting county fairs. Tom Jennings is currently the Director of Agriculture for the State of Illinois and he would be considered the State Queen's "boss".

This competition takes place in January 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL (a four-day event) and is not mandatory for Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair to attend. We certainly do not want to put a lot of time and effort into an event that you do not want to attend – so our Fair Board and Pageant Committee has made this event optional. If you choose to attend, the fair will pay the entry fee and the room fee for Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair (and her mother or other approved chaperone) to stay at the Crowne Plaza for the 4 nights of the Pageant. Also included in the price of your entry fee, paid by the Fair Board, is the cost for your production number outfit to be determined by the state crew. Alterations to this production number outfit will be an extra expense, if needed. You do need to be aware there are a lot of other expenses & time involved with this State Pageant. The State Pageant is a major event and can be quite costly and time-consuming to prepare for, but it can also be a great opportunity if you are willing to put in the time, effort, and money. In the event that Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair 2009 does not attend the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant after the application and entry fee have been submitted, Miss Marshall-Putnam will be responsible for promptly reimbursing the Marshall-Putnam Fair Association for the entry fee amount (approximately \$225.00-\$250.00).

If you choose to participate in this pageant, your Pageant Director will shop with you to make sure clothing is appropriate. Clothing expenses include: business suit for interview, business suit for the speech competition, swimsuit (paid for by Pageant Committee & retained by Pageant Committee after State Pageant), evening gown, other business suits / skirt & sweater outfits for rehearsals, taupe shoes, jewelry and accessories for all outfits, pantyhose, etc. A "pageant" interview suit starts anywhere from \$200 and up. You are not required to purchase a "pageant" suit if we can find a business suit that fits at Bergners, Macy's, Marshall Fields, Dillards, or on-line etc. If you purchase your business suits from a pageant store, they will more than likely make alterations at no cost. If you purchase from a department store and you need alterations, this will be an additional expense for you. You may potentially also need alterations on your evening gown and your swimsuit. Accessories will include hose and earrings, possibly a pin or scarf. Most girls will wear the taupe shoes they purchased for the county level during the summer and will purchase a new pair of taupe pumps for state. We are also encouraged to bring approximately 70 gifts from our county to give to the other contestants at the State Pageant, which will also be at your expense, unless you are able to get these gifts donated.

The State Pageant application is due on or before October 1, 2009. Along with this application, the Pageant entry fee, your measurements for the production number outfit, any State Pageant Program Book ads being purchased, and an 8x10 official color photo and two official color wallet photos will be submitted. Ads for the State Pageant Program Book usually cost around \$125 for a full-page, \$65 for a ½ page and \$45 for ¼ page. The Pageant Committee will purchase a ½ page ad to wish you good luck at State. If you choose to purchase any additional ad(s), you will need to design the ad copy, which must be approved by the M-P Fair Pageant Committee, prior to submission to the State Pageant Committee. This additional ad will be at your own expense. Summitt Photography has donated a photo session for you that he will schedule during the summer, which will provide you with the necessary official photos described above. It is best to have your make-up on and your hair done for the official photos, which will be used in the State Pageant Program Book. You will then change into your evening gown, add your crown & sash and take the evening gown photos, which will be displayed on the State Pageant Contestant Board.

A polished hairstyle and make-up is essential during the entire weekend of the State Pageant. You want to look like a queen at all times. If you choose to use a make-up artist or hairdresser during the State Pageant weekend, it will be at your own expense. Parents are on their own to secure a hotel room in the Springfield area (excluding your mother, if she is staying with you in your room). There are not enough rooms at the Crowne Plaza Hotel because the entire IAAF convention is booked at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Parents, family, and friends will only be allowed to visit the queen during specified times during the weekend. It is absolute chaos in the hotel room with too many people. It is the Pageant Director's job to make sure your hair; make-up, accessories, outfits and YOU are packed and ready to go downstairs to compete every day by 8:00 am.

The State Pageant is a four-day event starting with check-in on Thursday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL. Interviews will be held all day Friday, and you will have a free evening on Friday night where the Fair Board or Pageant Committee will treat you and up to 2 parents or guardians to dinner. Preliminary competition is held on Saturday in two sessions, usually an afternoon session at 1:00 pm and an evening session at 7:00 pm. You will be notified in advance as to which session you will compete in. Preliminary competitions are open to the public, for an admission fee of around \$7.00. Sunday is generally reserved as a final rehearsal for the production number dance, brunch and the grand finale banquet beginning at 5:00 pm. Sunday brunch usually begins around 11:30 am. The Pageant Director and Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair will attend. You will sit with the other County Fair Queens. If any family or friends would like to attend, the brunch tickets are approximately \$25 each. Banquet tickets for any family or friend that wish to attend the Final Competition on Sunday evening will need to be purchased in advance and are usually around \$30.00.

During Saturday competition, Marshall-Putnam County Fair is generally given 8 reserved seats in the audience during the portion of the competition in which you compete. During the other session (either afternoon or evening), another County Fair will be given those same seats, so we will not have guaranteed seats to watch the other session of competition. The Pageant Committee will determine who is allowed to sit in the Fair's reserved seating. Most likely, your entire family & friends will not be able to sit in the reserved seats, so they will need to come early and attempt to get a first-come seat in the open seating area. It gets crowded very fast! Afternoon competition usually starts at 1:00 pm and sometimes the doors open to the ballroom at 12 Noon. Evening competition usually starts at 7:00 pm with the doors generally opening around 6:00 pm for open seating.

The Official Photographer for the State Pageant is Studio 131 from Springfield. They are on-site during the four days and will take numerous candid photos. Each candid photo is about \$6.00 and sometimes they have package deals. There are also pageant merchandise items for sale from the IDPA (Illinois Pageant Directors Association), such as crown rings, bracelets, business card holders, earrings, tote bags and crown pins. Crown pins are usually about \$15. The official video from state is from Dean Williams Productions. The DVD set includes the Saturday preliminary competition (either afternoon or evening depending on which group you are in) and Sunday finals. The entire set is generally \$125.

OTHER EXPENSES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Expenses paid by Fair Board / Pageant Committee:

- 2 (two) box seat tickets for each Grandstand Event during Fair week
- Thank you notes for Pageant Donors, including postage
- 1 (one) meal ticket for County Fair Day
- 1 (one) meal ticket for Northern Zone Meeting
- Scholarship (see Scholarship Information)
- Clothing / accessories allowance
- Entry Fee for Miss Illinois County Fair state pageant, if choosing to compete
- One hotel room (4-night stay) for Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair & her mother in Springfield for State Pageant (includes room fee & taxes only – no additional expenses, i.e.: room service, phone calls, etc.)

- State Pageant competition swimsuit (to be kept by Pageant Committee after State Pageant for rental to other county contestants in future years)
- Friday night meal at State Pageant for Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair and up to 2 (two) parents / guardians
- 1 (one) 8 x 10 Official Photo for State Pageant contestant board and 2 (two) wallet-sized Official Photos for State Pageant program book (donated by Summitt Photography)
- 1 (one) ½ page ad in the State Pageant Program Book

Expenses Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair will be responsible for:

- Meals and drinks during Fair week
- Meals and drinks at other county fairs that you choose to attend
- Gifts and cards for newly crowned County Fair Queens at other pageants you attend
- Mileage / fuel / parking expenses for events attended throughout your reign
- Scrapbook materials for your scrapbook during your reign
- All parade expenses (vehicle / mileage / fuel) including parade candy if you choose to throw candy
- Camera, film & photo processing expenses throughout your reign
- Clothing / alterations / accessory expenses above pre-determined clothing allowance
- Magnetic car sign for parades, if desired
- Gifts for other County Fair Queen contestants at State Pageant
- Hotel room(s) for any family / friends in Springfield for State Pageant
- Meals and drinks at State Pageant (with the exception of Friday night meal paid by Fair Board for Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair and up to 2 (two) parents / guardians)
- Hairdresser / Makeup artist expenses, if desired
- Ad in State Pageant Program Book, in addition to ½ page ad paid for by Fair Board / Pageant Committee
- Door decoration for State Pageant hotel room
- State Official group photos & candid photos
- Other merchandise available at State Pageant
- Additional photos from Summitt Photography photo session, if desired
- Any and all other expenses not listed as paid for by Fair Board / Pageant Committee