

2011
Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam
Fair Pageant

Contestant
General Information
Packet

Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair Pageant

General Information

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

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Although this is considered an agricultural fair pageant – it is also a beauty pageant. Let me explain what this means. You will be a representative of the Marshall-Putnam County Fair during the week of the Fair (July 6th – July 10th, 2011). You need to be prepared to present yourself as if it is the evening of the pageant and the day you won – with a polished appearance every day.

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 Junior 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 Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair if you win?
- What are your duties during fair week?
- 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 Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair?
- What can you bring to the fair that others cannot?
- Why should we pick you as the next Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair?

REHEARSAL REQUIREMENTS

A Contestant Meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 14th. Rehearsals will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesdays, June 28th, and July 5th. Please arrive at least 5 minutes prior to rehearsal start time each night. If you are going to be late, please contact the Fair Office at 309-364-2814 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 the dress shoes you will be wearing the night of the pageant to practice in; 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 7th - Your completed entry packet is due no later than this date (signed copy of Official Rules, signed Release & Waiver of Liability & Indemnity Agreement, completed Emergency Contact information form, completed & signed application, \$35.00 entry fee and one copy of 4" x 6" or smaller head shot photo).

June 14th - There will be a contestant meeting in the Hunt Building at 6:00 pm for all 2011 Contestants. A group photo will also be taken for the local newspapers at this meeting. Please wear a nice sun dress, heels, natural makeup, and have your hair done for this photo. You should also bring any clothes you plan to wear for the pageant to this rehearsal to be checked-in by the Pageant Committee. We will also be drawing for reserved Pageant Night seating at this meeting. Each contestant will have the opportunity to select & reserve their 2 free reserved seats for Pageant Night.

June 28th – we will meet in the Hunt Building at 6:00 pm for rehearsal. Speeches must be ready to practice at this rehearsal

July 5th – we will meet in the Hunt Building at 6:00 pm for a **MANDATORY** full dress rehearsal. Bring the clothes you will be wearing the night of the pageant to this rehearsal. At this rehearsal, each contestant will receive 2 pageant admission wristbands to be given to their parents or guardians. These wristbands must be worn on July 6th to receive free admission to the pageant. Please be aware that if you choose to give these 2 free 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.

PAGEANT DAY TIMELINE

July 6th

Approximately 2:00 pm – Interviews with the judges will begin at the Farm Bureau building. Please be completely dressed in your interview sundress. After interviews have concluded, you may go home to rest, eat and prepare for the evening's competition.

6:30 pm – All Junior Miss contestants **MUST** be at the staging area of the Hunt Building (dressed in your party dress and ready to go on stage) no later than 6:30 pm.

IF YOU BECOME JUNIOR 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 Junior Miss" was doing at the mall, at a sporting event, at a parade, at her job, at college, on Facebook, on MySpace, on Twitter, etc. If you have won the title of Junior 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 Junior Miss – you may be asked to relinquish your title of Junior Miss Marshall Putnam Fair.

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 6th – Sunday July 10th. We expect you to be at the Fair every day to make appearances at events scheduled for you by the Pageant Committee. This schedule will be discussed with you and your parents or guardians on the night of the pageant.

Chaperones: The Pageant Committee will provide you with an official chaperone for each day during the Fair, but, in addition, a parent or guardian **MUST** accompany you **AT ALL TIMES** for supervision while you are on the Fairgrounds. Supervision can be fulfilled by anyone over 21 years old.

Official Duties: Your duties are to serve as one of the official hostesses of the 2011 Marshall-Putnam Fair. A list of scheduled activities for you to attend will be provided to you by the Pageant Committee. Any other Fair events that you wish to attend that have not been scheduled for you by the Pageant Committee must be brought to the Committee in advance for approval. Please do not take it upon yourself to attend events without the Pageant Committee's knowledge and approval. This is partly for your safety, and so that the Pageant Committee knows where you are at all times while you are on the fairgrounds.

During times that you are not scheduled to appear at any Fair events, you are free to leave the fairgrounds with your parents or guardians to rest or freshen up, as long as you return to fulfill your other scheduled duties.

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. 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 may be making 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 a little nicer, since you will be introducing yourself 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 extra clothes to the Fair Office & leave them there throughout the day to use when you need them. There may 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 every day.

Miscellaneous: Your day will begin according to your schedule of events for each day, and after you have introduced yourself at the nightly Grandstand events, you will 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 stay longer at the Fair, your parents or guardians must be with you at all times. This **DOES NOT** mean that you get to run around with your boyfriend or friends 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.

If you choose to stay on the fairgrounds between your scheduled events, your chaperone may take you back to the Fair Office to cool off, freshen up, and start writing your Thank You notes to the pageant donors. Please use this weekend to form friendships with the other royalty & their families. The memories you will make this weekend will last a lifetime. Remember to bring your camera every day.

Please remember that you are the Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair, and not Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair. What this means is that although you are a special part of our royalty, you are not the top crown holder, so please remember to respect the position of Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair at all times. Do not try to "fill her shoes" or diminish her role in any way with your words or actions.

As a reminder, all alcoholic beverages, smoking, or partaking in any illegal substances are against the law for young ladies your age and will not be tolerated at any time by the Pageant Committee.

OTHER EVENTS THROUGH THE YEAR

LOCAL PARADES

There are several parades throughout Marshall and Putnam counties that you may choose to have your daughter participate in. A list of these local parades can be provided to you by the Pageant Director. We do not require your daughter to participate in any parades, so if you choose to do so, please understand that you will be responsible for everything included in participating in the parade. This includes being responsible for contacting the parade contact person to register for the event, paying any entry fees (if applicable), providing your own transportation to and from the parade site, and obtaining your own transportation for your daughter to use in the parade (including being responsible for having the necessary personal insurance coverage in the event of an accident or other mishap). Candy is optional, but if you choose to throw it during the parade, you will be responsible for the expense of purchasing the candy. 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 Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair title, and they can make for a wonderful keepsake.

If you do decide to participate in any parades, you must notify your Pageant Director so that she is aware of your daughter's public appearance as Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam County Fair. Be sure to have your daughter wear a nice outfit, her crown and sash. Sunglasses should be taken off when the parade starts. Bring sunscreen and a water bottle for the parade and don't be late!

COUNTY FAIR DAY

Friday, August 12th

State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL

County Fair Day is held Friday, August 12th on the Director's Lawn at the State Fair in Springfield. County Fair Day is when all County Fair Queens meet at the State Fair and represent their county. You are not required to attend, however if you decide to attend, you will be responsible for reserving and purchasing your own meal tickets (including anyone else attending with you) by Sunday, July 10th. Approximate ticket cost is \$8.00 per person. If attending County Fair Day, you must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and will be responsible for providing your own transportation, and for paying any parking fees, along with any other expenses for the day.

If choosing to attend, you will need to wear a nice sundress with appropriate shoes, 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 shoes prior to entering the Director's Lawn, which is near Conservation World. A camera, fan, a change of clothes 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 royalty. 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 and other royalty. If he does not commit, then photos may be taken with the Illinois Director of Agriculture. A Pageant Directors meeting will be held that day also, so your Pageant Director may be attending as well.

Please remember, this is another opportunity for you to represent the Marshall-Putnam County Fair, so please dress and act accordingly. Depending on your schedules, some royalty have made a "day" at the state fair by changing clothes and walking around the grounds.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

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 the responsibility of the Junior Miss to replace these items at her own expense, if desired. Prior approval of any replacement items must be obtained from the Pageant Committee before purchasing any items.

If Miss Marshall-Putnam County Fair chooses to participate in the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant in January 2012, you are welcome to attend the weekend of activities to support her. Attendance is not required of you, but if you would like to attend, you will be responsible for all expenses incurred during the weekend, including all admission tickets and your own transportation to and from the event in Springfield, IL. Once again, please remember that a parent or guardian must be with you at all times. If you would like more information about the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant, please ask your Pageant Director.

OTHER EXPENSES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Expenses paid by Fair Board / Pageant Committee:

- Thank you notes for Pageant Donors, including postage
- Sitting Fee for Official Portrait (donated by a photography studio)

Expenses Junior Miss Marshall-Putnam Fair will be responsible for:

- Meals and drinks during Fair week
- Mileage / fuel / parking expenses for events attended throughout your reign
- Camera, film & photo processing expenses throughout your reign
- Photos from photography studio photo session, if desired
- Entry fees and all other expenses for any other pageants entered either during or after your reign.
- Basket Raffle items to be raffled off for fundraising for the following year's local Pageant (approx \$75)
- Any and all other expenses not listed as paid for by Fair Board / Pageant Committee