

Pasadena Strawberry Festival

2026 Annual Beauty Pageant Official Guidelines & Information Packet

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival proudly presents the **2026 Annual Beauty Pageant**, to be held on **Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 2:00 PM**, inside the **Pasadena Convention Center at the Pasadena Fairgrounds**.

This annual tradition celebrates poise, confidence, personality, and community pride, while offering young women the opportunity to serve as ambassadors for the Pasadena Strawberry Festival throughout the year. Titleholders will represent the festival at a variety of youth, family, and community events.

This is a **natural pageant**, open to female contestants from across the South Texas region, ranging in age from **3 months to 24 years old**. All contestants must provide proof of age, and any participant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian on the day of the pageant.

Pageant Director

Marc Anthony Glover

832-572-9784

Marcanthony@stagedoorinc.org

Age Divisions

Contestants will compete in divisions based strictly on their age as of **May 1, 2026**. Placement is determined by birthdate and must be verified with a certified birth certificate.

The divisions are as follows:

- Baby Miss (3–12 months)
- Tiny Miss (13–23 months)
- Toddler Miss Strawberry (2–3 years)
- Little Miss Strawberry (4–5 years)
- Petite Miss Strawberry (6–8 years)
- Young Miss Strawberry (9–11 years)
- Junior Miss Strawberry (12–14 years)
- Teen Miss Strawberry (15–17 years)
- Miss Pasadena Strawberry (18–24 years)

Contestants may not move up or down between divisions under any circumstances.

Entry Fee and Application Process

The entry fee for the competition is **\$150.00**, which is non-refundable and secures the contestant's eligibility to compete for the title within her division.

All applications, required forms, and payments must be submitted to the Pasadena Strawberry Festival office no later than **May 1, 2026 at 5:00 PM**. Entries received after this deadline will incur a **\$75 late fee**, and no entries will be accepted after **May 4, 2026**, under any circumstances, including the day of the pageant.

Accepted forms of payment include cash or credit card only.

To verify eligibility and proper placement, contestants must present a copy of their birth certificate at the orientation meeting for verification purposes.

Required Documentation

Each contestant is responsible for submitting a completed application, Hold Harmless Agreement, and Master of Ceremonies (MC) sheet along with payment by the stated deadline.

All forms must be **typed and fully legible**. **Handwritten or incomplete** submissions will not be accepted. Any contestant who fails to submit the required documentation properly and on time may be removed from participation without refund. This policy is strictly enforced to ensure fairness and organization for all participants.

Mandatory Orientation Meeting

A mandatory orientation meeting will be held on **Monday in May 4 at 6:00 PM at Campbell Hall**. This meeting is a critical part of the pageant process, as it provides final instructions, expectations, scheduling details, and an opportunity to address any questions prior to competition day.

For contestants in the **Baby, Tiny, Toddler, Little, and Petite divisions**, attendance by a **parent or designated representative is required**, while the contestant herself is not required to be present due to age considerations. However, families are strongly encouraged to ensure that a responsible adult attends and fully understands all expectations, as all information shared will be considered official and binding.

For contestants in the **Young, Junior, Teen, and Miss divisions**, **both the contestant and a parent or guardian must be present**. Attendance for these divisions is mandatory with no exceptions, as these contestants are directly responsible for understanding the rules, expectations, and procedures of the competition.

Failure to attend the orientation meeting as required for the applicable division will result in **immediate withdrawal from the pageant without refund**.

Wardrobe Expectations

Wardrobe plays an important role in presentation and overall impression, and all contestants are expected to adhere strictly to their division's requirements.

For the Baby, Toddler, Little, and Petite divisions, contestants will wear an **outfit of choice that reflects a strawberry theme**. Creativity, personality, and age-appropriate styling are encouraged.

For the Young, Junior, Teen, and Miss divisions, contestants must wear a **full-length gown in the color red**. Gowns should be age-appropriate, well-fitted, and reflect elegance and confidence.

Contestants in the Miss division are additionally required to present an **outfit of choice** that showcases their personality. This look may be classy, fun, or expressive, but should remain appropriate for a public, family-oriented event. On-stage questions will be conducted while contestants are in this outfit.

Pre-Pageant Requirements (Miss Division Only)

All contestants competing for the title of **Miss Pasadena Strawberry Festival (ages 18–24)** are required to attend the official **Pre-Pageant Dinner and Interview**, which will take place on:

Friday, May 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location: To Be Announced

This event is an important and required component of the competition process, providing contestants the opportunity to engage with pageant leadership and participate in a more in-depth evaluation setting.

During the evening, each contestant will participate in a **private, judged interview** conducted by a preliminary panel of judges, separate from those presiding over the final pageant. This

portion allows judges to evaluate communication skills, confidence, personality, and overall readiness to serve as a representative of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival.

While this is not a formal evening event, contestants are expected to present themselves in **business casual attire**. All participants should come **dressed to impress**, reflecting confidence, professionalism, and personal style appropriate for an interview setting.

Attendance at this event is **mandatory**. Failure to attend will result in immediate disqualification from the competition, as this portion is considered a required and scored element of the Miss division.

Judging and Integrity of Competition

Judging will be conducted by a panel of respected and knowledgeable community leaders. To maintain the integrity of the competition, there must be **no contact whatsoever** between contestants, family members, or supporters and the judges before, during, or after the pageant.

All judging decisions are final and not subject to review or appeal. No parent, guardian, or supporter will be permitted in any judging area at any time.

Scoring Criteria

Contestants in the Baby through Junior divisions will be evaluated across four core categories: beauty, modeling and personality, formal wear, and overall impression. These categories reflect the contestant's appearance, stage presence, confidence, and the judge's overall perception.

Contestants in the Teen and Miss divisions will be evaluated in these same areas, with the addition of an on-stage question component. This portion of the competition is designed to assess communication skills, confidence, and the ability to think and respond under pressure. Questions will not be provided in advance, and contestants are encouraged to be knowledgeable about current events, personal aspirations, and future goals.

All scoring is reviewed and validated by an independent auditor prior to the announcement of winners to ensure complete accuracy and fairness.

In the event of a tie, scores will be reviewed in a specific order, beginning with beauty, followed by modeling and personality, formal wear, and finally the on-stage question if applicable. If a tie still remains, the judges will reassess.

Score Sheets

To protect the privacy and integrity of all contestants, **master score sheets will not be released or made available under any circumstances.**

Individual score sheets will be provided for each contestant. These scores will be organized and distributed by **contestant number only**, not by name, to ensure confidentiality.

Score sheets will be available for pickup **immediately following the crowning at the conclusion of each session** (younger session and older session) at the designated pickup area.

It is the responsibility of the contestant or their representative to retrieve score sheets at that time, as they will not be held, mailed, or distributed at a later date.

Awards and Recognition

The title of **Miss Pasadena Strawberry Festival** may include a **\$2,000 scholarship**, awarded upon completion of the titleholder's year of service and submission of the required scholarship documentation.

Each division will crown a Queen (1st place), Princess (2nd place), and Duchess (3rd place). Award packages include crowns, satin sashes, trophies, and festival admission passes, with additional prizes varying by division.

Special category awards, including recognition for beauty, modeling, and fashion will be presented on stage.

Admission & Event Policies

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival Beauty Pageant is open to the public, and we are excited to welcome family, friends, and community members to celebrate this special event.

General admission on the day of the pageant will be **\$15 for adults (18 and older)** and **\$10 for individuals under 18**, with children ages five and under admitted free of charge. Each contestant will receive complimentary admission for herself and one chaperone.

To enhance the overall experience and create a more elevated and exciting atmosphere for our contestants, we strongly encourage all attendees to dress appropriately for the occasion. While formal attire is not required, guests are asked to avoid overly casual clothing such as shorts and flip-flops. We encourage everyone to **dress up for the event**, helping to create an environment that reflects the importance and celebration of this experience.

The pageant will be presented in two sessions.

The **younger session** will include the following divisions:
Baby Miss, Tiny Miss, Toddler Miss Strawberry, Little Miss, and Petite Miss.

The **older session** will include:
Young Miss, Junior Miss, Teen Miss, and Miss Pasadena Strawberry.

For those wishing to enhance their experience, **table seating will be available for purchase for each session**. Tables will accommodate up to eight guests and will be priced at **\$150 per table, per session**. Due to limited availability, tables are expected to sell quickly.

All tables will be sold on a **first-come, first-served basis**, with a limited quantity available for each session. Table sales will open on **Tuesday, May 5 at 10:00 AM**.

Please note that **tables may be reserved under any circumstances**. This policy will be strictly enforced to ensure fairness for all attendees.

All general seating outside of purchased tables will also be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Saving seats is not permitted. Any individual found attempting to reserve or hold seating for others will be required to release those seats immediately. Failure to comply may result in removal from the event without refund. If such actions involve a contestant's party, it may also impact the contestant's eligibility to compete.

All children in attendance, including contestants and supporters, are expected to be well-behaved and supervised at all times. The pageant is a structured event, and maintaining a respectful and orderly environment is essential to ensuring a positive experience for all participants.

For the safety and integrity of the event, **no individual is permitted to interact with, handle, or enter any vendor or setup areas during the pageant**. All vendor spaces and event setups are considered restricted areas.

Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in the individual, and if applicable their party, being asked to leave the event immediately. Removal due to misconduct will be **without refund**, and continued violations may impact a contestant's ability to participate.

Eligibility Requirements (Miss Division)

Contestants competing for the title of **Miss Pasadena Strawberry Festival (ages 18–24)** must meet and maintain specific eligibility requirements that reflect the responsibilities and expectations of serving as a representative of the festival.

Each contestant must be single, have never been married, must not be pregnant or become pregnant during her year of service, and must not be a parent. In addition, the titleholder must be fully available and committed to fulfilling all duties associated with representing the

Pasadena Strawberry Festival at community events, appearances, and official functions throughout the year.

As a public-facing ambassador of the organization, contestants are expected to present themselves in a manner that reflects professionalism, confidence, and a polished image appropriate for a wide range of audiences and appearances. Any visible tattoos or piercings should be able to be appropriately covered, removed, or presented in a way that aligns with the overall professional image of the titleholder during official events and appearances.

Failure to meet or maintain any of the above eligibility requirements at any point during the competition or reign will result in immediate forfeiture of the title. In such cases, the title will be awarded to the first runner-up for the remainder of the term.

Conduct and Sportsmanship

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival Beauty Pageant is built on integrity, respect, and the celebration of each contestant's hard work and dedication. As such, all contestants, parents, guardians, family members, and supporters are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the highest standards of professionalism, courtesy, and sportsmanship at all times.

Participation in this event is a privilege, and all individuals associated with a contestant are considered an extension of that contestant. Behavior that is disruptive, disrespectful, or inappropriate—whether directed toward contestants, judges, staff, volunteers, or other attendees—will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

This includes, but is not limited to, negative or confrontational interactions, unsportsmanlike behavior, interference with event operations, failure to follow instructions from staff or pageant officials, or any actions that detract from the positive and supportive environment we strive to maintain.

Coaching, signaling, prompting, or directing a contestant from the audience or sidelines during any portion of the competition is strictly prohibited. Contestants are expected to perform independently, and any attempt by a parent, supporter, or representative to influence a contestant while on stage will result in **immediate disqualification**. This policy will be enforced without warning or exception.

Additionally, any attempt to approach, communicate with, or influence judges before, during, or after the competition is strictly forbidden and will result in disqualification.

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival reserves the right to remove any individual from the event who fails to adhere to these expectations. In cases where misconduct is associated with a contestant's party, the contestant may also be subject to disqualification.

All decisions regarding conduct and sportsmanship are final and will be upheld in the best interest of fairness, integrity, and the overall success of the event.

Returning Contestants & Titleholders

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival is committed to evolving and creating opportunities for continued involvement and growth.

Current titleholders are no longer required to sit out until they age up.

This change reflects a thoughtful shift in our philosophy. While this was a long-standing rule, we recognize that it has prevented many young women from continuing to participate in something they genuinely love. Each year brings a new panel of judges and fresh perspectives, meaning that no outcome is ever guaranteed.

Because of this, **past winners and current titleholders are now permitted to compete again in the same division**, even if they currently hold that title. Every contestant will have the opportunity to earn the title based on that year's competition.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Contestants are encouraged to seek business or family sponsorships to support their participation in the pageant. Sponsorships obtained by a contestant are considered **personal sponsorships for that individual contestant only** and are intended to assist with her pageant experience.

Sponsors will be recognized during the contestant's on-stage introduction, provided the sponsor's name is properly listed on the Master of Ceremonies (MC) sheet submitted with the contestant's paperwork.

Sponsorships do **not** constitute sponsorship of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival or the Beauty Pageant as an event. As such, sponsors will not receive any official festival benefits, advertising packages, vendor opportunities, tickets, reserved seating, or access to pageant-day privileges unless those items are separately purchased through official channels.

No sponsor names, logos, or materials may be distributed, displayed, or promoted at the event outside of the approved on-stage recognition without prior written approval from pageant or festival leadership.

All sponsorship arrangements are solely between the contestant and the sponsor and do not imply any formal partnership, endorsement, or obligation on behalf of the Pasadena Strawberry Festival.

Volunteers and Pageant Committee

Family members of contestants are not permitted to serve on the judging panel or participate in scoring. However, they are welcome to assist with pageant operations, including event setup, execution, and breakdown.

All volunteers are expected to fully support the event from beginning to end. This includes actively participating in **setup prior to the pageant, assisting as needed throughout the event, and remaining after the conclusion of the pageant to help with full breakdown and cleanup of the facility.**

Volunteer credentials for the **Pasadena Strawberry Festival weekend**, including official **volunteer badges and event t-shirts**, will be distributed **only after the completion of the pageant breakdown and once all cleanup responsibilities have been fulfilled.**

Volunteers must be present and actively assisting throughout the event, including breakdown, in order to receive these items. Any individual who leaves early, is not present for cleanup, or does not fulfill their volunteer responsibilities will **not** receive a volunteer badge or shirt for the festival weekend. This policy will be strictly enforced with no exceptions.

Photography and Media

Photography and video recording are permitted for personal use; however, tripods are not allowed, and flash photography is strictly prohibited to ensure the safety and comfort of contestants.

Guests are encouraged to share their experience on social media using **#strawberrypageant** and **#strawberryfest**.

Dressing Room Policy

Designated dressing areas will be provided for contestants. Participants are responsible for their personal belongings, as the Pasadena Strawberry Festival is not liable for lost or stolen items.

For the safety and privacy of all contestants, **men and boys are not permitted in dressing areas at any time**, before, during, or after the event.