

**2014 MISS CURWOOD FESTIVAL  
QUEEN'S PAGEANT APPLICATION**

**Postmarked by: February 6th, 2014**

## Introduction

MISS CURWOOD FESTIVAL is selected for the purpose of representing the Shiawassee County area as well as the Curwood Festival at speaking engagements, events, and festivals in the area. Miss Curwood Festival and the Queen's Court member will participate in several parades, join with festival officials at receptions, dinners, and similar activities, and promote the festival through arranged speaking engagements and activities.

There will be no bathing suit or talent competition. Miss Curwood Festival will be chosen on her communication skills, intelligence, poise, personality, appearance, and overall enthusiasm for the Curwood Festival and our community. Scholarships will be awarded to the two winners towards the colleges of their choice at the end of their reign (see rule 8).

Since Miss Curwood Festival and the Queen's Court member are official ambassadors, they will be chaperoned at all times by a festival official and are not permitted to act within the title without a chaperone present. All travel arrangements, parades, events, and scheduling will be done by the Queen/Court coordinator and at the expense of the festival. **All arrangements are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the coordinator and will differ from year to year.**

## Purpose

The MISS CURWOOD FESTIVAL QUEEN & COURT MEMBER program has changed considerably and will continue to change. In the past, the queen & court member attended many parades throughout the state of Michigan all summer long. Because this is no longer economical or practical for the promotion of our festival, the purpose of choosing a queen & court member has changed. The emphasis of the program is now on speaking engagements and events prior to the actual Curwood Festival. **Please note: this year, only the queen and ONE court member will be chosen. Our festival is facing the same economic challenges as other festivals in our area, and as such, we are continuously scaling back the program so that we can continue this opportunity and yet remain viable as a festival.**

The queen & court member will however still be expected to attend several parades after the Curwood Festival concludes if scheduling permits. This schedule will be given to the winners well in advance. It is possible depending on weather that several parades will be attended in April and May to promote the upcoming festival and depending on schedules, a parade or other appearances may be scheduled for the fall and following winter prior to next year's pageant.

In the last few years, as examples, the queen & court have spoken at the Chamber AM breakfasts, Kiwanis meetings, Argie Awards for OCP, and Festival Board meetings and have attended community events like the Relay for Life, the Memorial Healthcare Cancer Foundation "Bra" Fundraiser, Festival of Trees/Glow Parade, and the Curwood Festival winter

event. They have also attended "Make A Difference Day" in October, the Chesaning Showboat Pageant in January, and the Fair Queen pageant in April. The queen & court member are made available to any organization or business that would benefit from a presentation by the queen & court member about the festival or to make appearances at any community event that the queen & court member get invited to that the chaperone deems appropriate.

It is not an efficient use of festival funds to attend many parades after the festival is over. Those spectators in other towns will not remember to come to Owosso ten months later for the following year's Curwood Festival. It is much more efficient to use the queen & court member positions to promote the festival in our area in the months just prior to our festival.

In closing, if you are becoming a candidate because you expect to travel extensively throughout the year if chosen, this program is not for you. If, however, you are considering becoming a candidate because you enjoy public speaking and you wish to get involved and promote the festival through speaking engagements and activities in our area, then this competition may be a good opportunity for you.

### **Pageant Registration**

Each applicant must submit either ONE photograph (3" x5", head and shoulders only) **VIA EMAIL AS A JPEG** to the chairman at [mgobluegrad@hotmail.com](mailto:mgobluegrad@hotmail.com) OR FOUR identical hard copy photographs (**head and shoulders only**, otherwise when they are cropped for the programs and papers they look distorted), no larger than 3" X 5", with an official Miss Curwood Festival entry form. These photos may be color or black & white copies of one original, or you may scan and print them at home, but they must be of good quality as they are used for judging accuracy and press releases. Although either method of submitting the photo(s) is acceptable, we prefer email if at all possible. Do not send photos taken with a cell phone or in any other format other than a JPEG. If you cannot convert your photo into a jpeg, please print the photo and follow the directions above for hard copies of photos. **Please note that the photos must be received the same day or prior to when we receive your application packet. When emailing the photo, please note your full name in the body of the email with the photo attached.**

Applicants are asked to obtain the sponsorship of a Shiawassee County business or civic organization. The sponsor should accept the expense of the entry fee, which is \$70.00. You may obtain two sponsors at \$35 each if necessary. Any checks returned for non-sufficient funds will be charged a \$30 fee. Each sponsor will be acknowledged in the Independent and Argus-Press, in the pageant programs, and multiple times at the pageant itself.

Additional applications are available by emailing Sarah at [mgobluegrad@hotmail.com](mailto:mgobluegrad@hotmail.com) and any questions may be directed to Sarah at (517) 203-4129 or by email or Debra at (989) 723-5055.

**Entries must be mailed to Sarah Hoover, 1221 N. Gould Street, Owosso, MI 48867. Applications must be postmarked by February 6th, 2014. No exceptions to this rule will be made.**

All applications, essays, checks and photographs become property of the Curwood Festival, Inc. and will not be returned unless the Miss Curwood Festival Queen & Princess Pageant Committee has deemed an applicant as ineligible to participate in the pageant.

## Guidelines

1. Applicants must reside in Shiawassee County. Proof of permanent residency must be provided upon request.
2. Applicants must be between 17 - 23 years of age by March 1, 2014.
3. Applicants must never have been married, may not be pregnant nor ever have been pregnant, may not be engaged, and may not be cohabitating with a boyfriend.
4. Applicants must never have been a previous Miss Curwood or Court member.
5. Candidates, if chosen, must be able to attend many functions throughout the year, especially between May and September. This year's Curwood Festival will be June 5-8, 2014.
6. Miss Curwood Festival and the Queen's Court member may not hold or run for any other title during their reign. The reign is defined as from the moment chosen in 2014 to the following year on the pageant night when a new queen & court member is chosen in 2015. Candidates may not compete for another title during the time frame between the application deadline and the pageant itself.
7. Miss Curwood Festival and the Queen's Court member may not alter their appearance once chosen. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a loss of scholarship and immediate removal from the court. This includes any visible body piercing, tattoos or drastic hair coloring or styling. Highlights are acceptable. Any visible body jewelry besides earrings must be removed if chosen, even if you have the piercing prior to or during judging.
8. Scholarship monies will be distributed at the conclusion of reign (approx. one year after being chosen) and monies must be used within one year of reign expiring. All checks will be written to winner **AND** school of choice.
9. Applicants must be in good academic standing as determined by the queen's pageant committee. Circumstances surrounding a candidate being on academic probation must be discussed with the committee co-chairmen.
10. The chosen Queen & Court member official festival photos are not permitted for any use without express written consent of the Curwood Festival Queen's Committee.

11. The two winners will be required to sign a contract stating that they understand the rules and obligations and that they agree to abide by them. In addition, a parent will be required to sign to acknowledge his/her understanding of the commitment as well.
12. If a candidate has charges brought against her in a court of law while participating in the pageant process, she will be dismissed from participation. This includes but is not limited to felonies, misdemeanors, and truancy. Traffic violations do not count.
13. If the winners take summer classes, it will be expected that they live in Shiawassee County for the summer, or that they will be available to attend every event, regardless of how much advance notice is provided. They will travel to and from parades with the chaperones regardless of where they live for the summer and will not be allowed to meet at the parade if they are living outside of the Shiawassee County area.
14. The two winners will have their measurements taken after the pageant and then be given professional (suit) outfits that match. That outfit will be worn to every speaking engagement and other events as designated by the chaperone/schedule coordinator. Your dress size will NOT be a factor used in judging.
15. The two winners will be expected to own or purchase appropriate white shorts and shoes (tennis shoes with some other color accents are ok) at their own expense to wear with their red 'Curwood Official' shirt and sweatshirt. Both the shirt and sweatshirt will be provided.
16. The Curwood Festival (or any of its designees) is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged clothing or personal items during the pageant process.
17. Applicants may withdraw from the competition as late as Sunday evening (February 23) for a full refund of their sponsor check(s). Any candidates that choose to withdraw after that date will forfeit their sponsor check(s). Candidates must **call** Debra or Sarah to officially withdraw from the competition.
18. At the Information Session, Preliminary Judging, and Saturday Pageant events, **there are no cell phones allowed**. Cell phones must be kept in purses and turned off, or better yet, in your vehicle. At the pageant itself, phones should be left with parents as they will be in the audience. Unless there is an emergency, anyone witnessed texting or using their phone will have ten points subtracted from their overall score. This is to ensure fairness during interviews, etc. If there is an emergency, please speak with the nearest committee member first.
19. The Queen & Princess Pageant Committee will review all applications to determine that these guidelines have been met. The Committee reserves the right to reject any

application that does not meet the guidelines as stated. All decisions of the Committee are final. If your application is rejected, you will be notified in writing within two weeks after the deadline.

**If Miss Curwood Festival does not attend any one festival/function without prior approval, her title will be assumed by the Court member.** If the Court member assumes the title of Miss Curwood, she will be subject to the same guidelines as above. **The Court member cannot miss more than two festivals/functions.** In the event that the Queen or Court member forfeits her title, no scholarship will be awarded. **Arriving late for any event is unacceptable. Being late to events two (2) times will constitute as one (1) of the absences. Please keep in mind that being late two (2) times as queen or four (4) times as a court member means that you will forfeit your title and scholarship.**

Attending an event at a festival or function should be treated as an all day commitment, unless otherwise specified. No return time guarantees will be given, as travel time, parade time, and line-up numbers, etc. are too difficult to determine ahead of time. The winners must travel to and from events with the chaperone/coordinator unless prior arrangements are approved. Plan for a full day's outing when an event is scheduled unless you are told otherwise.

The chosen winners are not allowed to miss certain events unless there are extenuating circumstances. High school graduation would be considered an extenuating circumstance, while having plans already with a boyfriend is not. Keep in mind that missing events will forfeit your title and your scholarship if you are chosen.

Your chaperone/schedule coordinator will determine what parades and functions you will attend and where. The chaperone will schedule any & all events that you are to attend, and will accompany you at all times. The chaperone/schedule coordinator reserves the right to amend existing schedules as is seen fit and all decisions are final.

*Please note:* The farthest the winners will travel will be approximately ONE hour away from Owosso to attend parades/events. No parades will be attended outside of the hour driving distance radius. A partial schedule will be given to you if you are chosen on a month-by-month basis to help you plan accordingly.

**Important Information** (please check your email frequently once your application is submitted – we will email any changes to the scheduled activities below!)

**Informational Session**--An informational session will be held as an informal chance for all candidates to get to know each other and understand exactly how much responsibility comes with this title. Dress will be casual; come ready to learn and ask questions. We will also tour Curwood Castle and each candidate will meet her pageant mentor (a past queen or court member) on this day. Pageant format will not be discussed at this meeting extensively. **This informational session is required for all candidates.** Failure to attend this session may result in a candidate's disqualification from the pageant process. Brunch will be served. This will be held on **Saturday, February 22nd, 2014 from 9:00am - 12pm** at the Curwood Festival office in the Matthews building at Water and Main Street in Owosso.

**Preliminary Judging**--This judging will be held on **Monday, February 24th, 2014** from 7 - 9pm at the Baker College Welcome Center, 1301 S. Shiawassee Street (South M-52), Owosso. Dress as you would for a job interview, as you will be interviewed for five minutes by a panel of judges. During this time we will also discuss the format of the pageant and answer pageant-related questions that may arise.

*A note for students attending school out of town: we recognize you may have to drive back to school after interviewing in hazardous weather conditions – we will make accommodations for you to be one of the first interviews and then we will excuse you to leave so that you can drive back to school.*

**The Pageant**--The Miss Curwood Festival pageant will be held on Saturday, March 1st, 2014 at the Baker College Welcome Center at 6:30pm. On Saturday morning, candidates will gather at 7:45am at the Baker College Welcome Center for breakfast and the morning judging activities. At this time you will meet formally with the evening judges for two rounds of interviews. The candidates will proceed from judging & breakfast to Baker College for practice at approximately 10:45am. Again, dress as you would for a job interview. Candidates will leave for the afternoon by approximately 12:30pm and plan on returning by 5:00pm to get dressed and ready and allow plenty of time before the pageant's start at 6:30pm. Remember to leave cell phones with parents when you return to Baker College.

**A note about what to wear for the pageant itself:** please do not feel as though a dress must be purchased solely for this event. Almost all of our past candidates have worn their homecoming or prom dresses, a dress worn in a wedding, or a dress they simply borrowed from a friend.

**Candidates must attend the informational session/Castle tour, preliminary judging, and Saturday morning's practice & judging to be considered an eligible contestant for the title of Miss Curwood Festival 2014. After submitting your application, please check your email for any changes to our tentative itineraries\*\*\***

*We expect commitment and dedication from Miss Curwood Festival and her Court, just as we are all volunteers within the festival and take our own commitment seriously.*

**2014**  
**Miss Curwood Festival**  
**Queen's Pageant Application**

(please type or print, and mail only this and the next two pages with other materials)

**Applicant's Statement**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you check your email at least once daily? Yes or No      Dress size \_\_\_\_\_ (\*\*See rule #13)

Parent(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(and address if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

High School attended/attending \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one if still attending) Freshman    Sophomore    Junior    Senior    Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle one) Freshman    Sophomore    Junior    Senior

Degree Received/Working towards \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment**

Current place of employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is your supervisor supportive of this opportunity? \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Training** (dance, cheer, music, speech, modeling, theater, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Hobbies & Special Interests** (reading, painting, etc.) **\*please list no more than five interests\***

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**\*\*Please attach a 250 (or more) word essay addressing the following:\*\***

Last year, we celebrated 36 years as the biggest community event in our area. As the future of our community, do you feel that we should leave traditions alone, or that the festival needs to reinvent itself or freshen up certain events? If you feel the festival traditions should be left alone, why? If you feel we need to revitalize certain events or revamp the entire festival to remain viable, how should we do this?

***Candidate Background*** (you may continue writing on the back if you need more space)

Please list any volunteer/community activities you have participated in that were not school related.

In your opinion, how do you think the duties of the queen differentiate from the duties of a court member?

What do you think you would gain out of the year if chosen as Miss Curwood or a court member?

Why do you think you would make a good queen?

What's your favorite quote and why?

How can social networking be used both positively and negatively regarding Miss Curwood and her Court?

How did you hear about this program?

Is someone special encouraging your participation? Who?

Do you personally know any prior Queens or Court Members? Please list her/their name(s) here. *(We ask this in case someone you know is involved in our committee. In your best interest, we will make sure that the committee member is not placed in a position where other candidates feel you have an unfair advantage.)*

If you have competed in the past and would like the same mentor, please write your prior mentor's name here, otherwise your mentor will be randomly assigned.

Applications cannot be returned to a candidate once they become property of the Curwood Festival, Inc. Applicants, by signing this entry form, acknowledge their understanding of the Miss Curwood Festival rules and regulations, regarding both the pageant and the title itself. Applicants also acknowledge they have read through the application and understand the obligations of becoming a candidate.

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the rules governing Miss Curwood Festival.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's name/business

\_\_\_\_\_  
Second sponsor's name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Second sponsor contact person (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's address (required to verify Shiawassee County address as well as sponsor mailings)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Second Sponsor's address if applicable (required to verify Shiawassee County address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make \$70.00 entry fee checks out to: Curwood Festival, Inc.**

**\*\*\*Sponsor checks will be refunded only if the candidate withdraws prior to Monday, February 24th, 2014. The checks are non-refundable after that date.**

**\*\*\*Checks returned for non-sufficient funds will be charged a \$30 fee in addition to the sponsor amount of \$70**

**Before mailing, don't forget:**

\_\_\_ *Completed Application (pages 8-11 only)*

\_\_\_ *Four (4) good quality, identical photographs with your packet or ONE (1) sent via email  
As a JPEG at the same time that you mail your packet*

\_\_\_ *Essay*

\_\_\_ *Sponsor Check(s)*