BANDERA COUNTY FAIR PAGEANT 2026

Contestant Rules, Requirements & Participant Waiver

Bandera County Fair Association

IMPORTANT DATE: Application Deadline is Sept. 19th, 2026.

QUICK REFERENCE

Application fee	$50 per contestant $25 for Little Mr. Bandera County
Optional categories	$15 each for Miss Photogenic and People's Choice
Payment	Application and all selected category fees must be submitted together
Refunds	All fees are nonrefundable if a contestant cannot attend
Program materials	Platform biography and headshot are due by the deadline announced at orientation
Questions	Email: BanderaCountyFairPageant.com

HOW TO BE ACCEPTED

- ☐ Submit a completed and signed contestant application.
- ☐ Pay the application fee and any optional-category fees.
- ☐ Provide one recent 8 × 10 printed headshot and a digital copy.
- ☐ Submit the application by the confirmed deadline. Late entries may not be included in the program book.
- ☐ Wait for confirmation from a Bandera County Fair Association representative. Submission does not guarantee acceptance.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Contestants must meet every requirement that applies to their division:

- ☐ Reside in Bandera County, including Bandera, Utopia, Lakehills, Pipe Creek, Medina, or Wharton's Dock.
- ☐ Be enrolled full-time in a Bandera County school or homeschool program and provide records upon request.
- ☐ Be a United States citizen.
- ☐ Be single, never married, and have no legal dependents.
- ☐ Enter the division matching the contestant's age during the stated eligibility period: October 3, 2026–October 3, 2027.
- ☐ Female contestants may enter Miss divisions; male contestants may enter the Little Mr. division.

TITLE DIVISIONS

Division	Eligible ages
Little Miss Bandera County	6–9
Little Mr. Bandera County	6–9
Jr. Miss Bandera County	10–12
Miss Teen Bandera County	13–15
Miss Bandera County	16–18

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Contestant Responsibilities & Awards

Bandera County Fair Association

ORIENTATION, HOSTESS, AND PROGRAM MATERIALS

Attend orientation and all required meetings, rehearsals, and pageant activities.

Submit the platform biography and headshot by the deadline announced at orientation.

Provide a T-shirt size at orientation. Accepted contestants receive one complimentary T-shirt and a sponsor-provided gift; gift contents vary by year. *Subject to change at any time.

Work respectfully with the assigned volunteer hostess. A hostess may help with the platform, interview preparation, confidence, and reminders.

The hostess is not responsible for purchasing attire, supplies, meals, transportation, entry fees, or any other contestant expense.

CONTESTANT EXPENSES

Each contestant is responsible for all costs associated with:

Interview attire

Opening-number outfit

Fashion wear or athletic wear

Talent performance, costume, music, props, and supplies

Evening wear

Girls' Day Out expenses, except food provided by the Association

People's Choice donation or voting container, if participating

TITLEHOLDER COMMITMENT

A Bandera County Fair title includes public appearances, community involvement, and other responsibilities that require time and dependability.

Contestants involved in school or extracurricular activities should consider whether they can fulfill the titleholder schedule.

A titleholder who cannot perform the required duties may be asked to relinquish the title.

Minor titleholders will be accompanied or supervised by an adult during official titleholder activities.

Pageant dates, schedules, awards, gifts, and prizes are subject to change.

JUDGING CATEGORIES

Contestants are judged in four weighted categories totaling 100%:

AMBASSADOR FOCUS: The pageant seeks a positive Bandera County ambassador. Poise, stage presence, communication, community involvement, and the contestant's platform are important—especially during interviews.

Weight	Category	What judges consider
10%	**Opening Number**	Introduction and opening outfit
20%	**Fashion/Active Wear**	An outfit that expresses the contestant's personality
30%	**Evening Wear**	Poise, presentation, and age-appropriate formal wear
40%	**Interview & On-Stage Question**	Personal interview, platform, communication, and response to a judge-selected question

SEPARATE AWARDS

Talent Award: Talent is mandatory but does not affect the overall pageant score. Talent is scored separately on a 1–12 point scale; the highest score receives the award.

Miss Photogenic: Judges review all submitted photographs and select one winner.

People's Choice: One winner is selected through the fundraising or voting process explained at orientation. Participants must prepare a collection or voting container and may collect donations, sell tickets, or obtain votes as directed.

Miss Congeniality: Contestants vote during intermission.

Spirit Award: Applicants must submit volunteer hours and an essay. The essay may address a pageant topic, the contestant's platform, or why the contestant would be a strong Bandera ambassador.

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Participant Waiver & Release of Liability

Bandera County Fair Association

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Participant's legal name:	**Age:**
Parent/legal guardian:	**Phone:**
Pageant division:	**Date:**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDES A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND OTHER LEGAL RIGHTS.

Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk. I understand that participating in pageant-related activities may involve risks, including injury, illness, emotional distress, loss, or property damage. I voluntarily choose to participate and knowingly accept the inherent risks associated with rehearsals, interviews, performances, travel, public appearances, and related activities.

Release of Liability. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I release and discharge the Bandera County Fair Association, the Bandera County Pageant, their officers, directors, volunteers, judges, sponsors, venues, representatives, and agents from claims or liability arising from participation in pageant-related activities, including claims involving ordinary negligence.

Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I agree to indemnify and hold the released parties harmless from claims, demands, damages, expenses, or lawsuits arising from my conduct or participation, except to the extent prohibited by law.

Supervision and Safety. I understand that contestants and their parents or legal guardians remain responsible for the contestant's personal safety, conduct, belongings, transportation, and supervision except when a minor titleholder is participating in an official activity under designated adult supervision.

Medical Care. If emergency care is reasonably necessary and a parent or guardian cannot be reached, I authorize pageant representatives to contact emergency services. I understand that I am responsible for resulting medical costs.

Media Permission. I grant permission for the Association and its authorized representatives to photograph, record, publish, display, and use the participant's name, image, voice, likeness, platform information, and pageant participation for program, publicity, news, social media, archival, and promotional purposes without additional compensation.

Rules and Titleholder Duties. I have reviewed the eligibility rules, fees, judging information, contestant responsibilities, and titleholder expectations. I understand that failure to follow the rules or fulfill titleholder duties may result in disqualification or relinquishment of a title.

Voluntary Agreement. I sign this agreement voluntarily and confirm that I have had the opportunity to ask questions before signing.

Entire Agreement and Severability. This waiver reflects the parties' complete understanding regarding the subjects addressed. If any provision is found invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will fully continue in effect permitted by law.

SIGNATURES

A parent or legal guardian must sign for every participant under age 18.

Participant — print name and sign:	**Date:**
Parent/legal guardian — print name and sign:	**Date:**
Emergency contact and phone:	**Relationship:**