



CHERRY BLOSSOM PAGEANT F.A.Q.

VALID FOR 2017 PAGEANT ONLY

Please read this document in its entirety before contacting the pageant chairman with questions. Thank you.

Q: Who organizes the Cherry Blossom Pageant?

A: The Barberton Area Jaycees organize & operate the pageant. The Jaycees are a local non-profit volunteer group that runs the pageant as a fundraising project.

Q: What are the pageant's profits used for?

A: The Jaycees use the funds raised at the pageant for community service projects, such as Back to School, Thanksgiving & Project Santa. In addition, the Jaycees make direct donations to local events, youth sports & school activities.

Q: Where do I find a Beauty Pageant application form?

A: Go to www.BarbertonPageants.com to print a form, or to complete an online application. You may also visit the Barberton Public Library at 602 W Park Ave, Barberton OH 44203 for a form.

Q: Where is the pageant located?

A: West Side Theater, 1017 Wooster Rd W, Barberton, OH 44203.

Q: What time can I register on pageant day?

A: The registration time depends on the contestant age. For boys ages newborn to 4 years old, and girls ages newborn to 3 years old, you may register anytime between 8AM-9:15AM. For girls ages 4 to 22, you may register anytime between 12PM-1:30PM.

Q: What time do I have to arrive to check-in if I registered in advance (by mail or online)?

A: Check-in takes just a couple minutes. For boys ages newborn to 4 years old, and girls ages newborn to 3 years old, you may register anytime between 8AM-9:15AM. For girls ages 4 to 22, you may register anytime between 12PM-1:30PM.

Q: What time does the pageant begin?

A: The start time depends on the contestant age. For boys ages newborn to 4 years old, and girls ages newborn to 3 years old, the pageant starts at 10AM. For girls ages 4 to 22, the pageant starts at 2PM. It's hard to determine what time each contestant will reach the stage. We begin with the youngest group and advance to the older groups.

Q: Why do you have two pageants starting at different times?

A: To minimize your wait, the Jaycees have divided one huge pageant into 2 smaller pageants. We start with the AM Pageant where younger children compete. The PM Pageant is for older girls. Our hope is that this later hour is after afternoon nap times.

Q: How long will the pageant take?

A: The length of the pageant depends on the number contestants. Traditionally, the Cherry Blossom AM Pageant takes 2 ½ hours; the PM Pageant takes about 1 ½ hours.

Q: What are the age requirements?

A: Girls ages newborn to 22 years old & boys ages newborn to 4 years can compete.

Q: Is there an admission fee to watch the pageant?

A: Yes, \$1 per person is collected at the door from all spectators. The admission fee collected helps pay for the hall rental. We feel that the weather is too unpredictable to hold the event outside. No admission is charged to contestants.

Q: Can I pay the admission fee by check?

A: No, the \$1 admission fee must be paid in cash.

Q: When are the Jaycees pageant held?

A: The pageant dates vary. The Cherry Blossom Beauty Pageant is held on a Saturday in late April or early May. For 2017, the date is April 29, 2017.

Q: Where do I park at the pageant?

A: The West Side Theater has a parking lot located behind the building, accessible only from 21st St NW, just off of Wooser Rd W. While parking is available on the streets surrounding the theater, please pay attention to any parking restrictions that may be posted.

Q: How are the age groups divided?

A: We have adjusted the age categories to lower the number of contestants in each group. We have 3 categories open to boys, and 10 open to girls. Our age groups are as follows:

- Baby Boy: Newborn - 11 months
- Toddler (Boys): 1-2 years old
- Little Prince: 3-4 years old
- Baby Girl: Newborn - 11 months
- Sweetheart (Girls): 1 year old
- Toddler (Girls): 2 years old
- Dutchess: 4 years old
- Little Miss: 5-6 years old
- Little Lady: 7-9 years old
- Pre Teen: 10-12 years old
- Teen: 13-15 years old
- Queen: 16-22 years old
- Precious Angels (Girls): 5-22 years old.

Q: What will be the order of the beauty pageant categories on stage?

A: We start with the youngest girl, then youngest boy and advance to the older contestants. We will follow the category list provided on your application.

Q: Can I accompany my child on stage?

A: One adult can accompany or carry a child on stage, if needed. We want your children relaxed on stage, if having an adult with them will help, then feel free to walk with them. However, if your child is able to be on stage alone, encourage him/her to do so. The judges may score your child higher for showing confidence & independence if he/she is able to walk alone.

Q: How will a contestant know when to go on stage?

A: The announcer will announce the category name and age group when it is time to line up. Contestants will line up in numeric order, name & number will be announce & contestant can make their way onto the stage.

Q: Can cell phones be used in the theater?

A: Please show your respect to the contestants on stage by making all phone calls outside and silencing your phone. During line up, contestants and adults are not permitted to use cell phones.

Q: Can I register at the door on pageant day?

Yes, you can register on pageant day. The fees are \$15 higher. For boys ages newborn to 4 years old, and girls ages newborn to 3 years old, you may register anytime between 8AM-9:15AM. For girls ages 4 to 22, you may register anytime between 12PM-1:30PM.

Q: Can I register in advance?

A: Yes, we encourage everyone to sign up before pageant day. This helps the Jaycees determine how large the categories will be, how many concessions & supplies to purchase, etc. You also save \$15 by registering in advance.

Q: Do contestants have to live in Barberton to compete?

A: No, there is no residency requirement. Contestants can live in any community.

Q: What is the deadline for registering in advance?

Your envelope must be received by the April 24, 2017 deadline. This will ensure that your application is received before the pageant.

Q: What should a contestant wear?

A: The pageant has changed over the years. We are now seeing primarily full pageant gowns & Prom-style dressing for the girls and suits on our boys. However, you are welcome to wear more affordable Easterstyle outfits. We ask that no flip-flops, costumes or flashing lights be worn. Gowns may not show bosom or slits above the knee. Also, no visible tattoos or body piercings are permitted. Points will be deducted for improper attire.

Q: What will the contestant be expected to do on stage?

A: Contestant will walk the runway before the panel of judges. At the beginning of the pageant, last year's queen will show the contestants where to line up, where to walk, where to turn & where to exit. Pre-Teen, Teen & Queen contestants will introduce themselves on stage, stating their name and age. Queen-aged contestants will also be asked a question during the pageant.

Q: What does it cost to be a pageant contestant?

A: Pageant registration fee is \$45.00 per contestant. You can save \$15 by registering in advance. Mail your completed application and check or money order to the Jaycees by the April 24, 2017 deadline.

Q: Where do I mail my completed application?

A: Your completed application, person bio page, check or money order and photo (if you choose) should be mailed to:

Barberton Area Jaycees
c/o Beauty Pageant Chairman
4645 Milford St
Norton, OH 44203

Applications can also be dropped in the Jaycees locked mailbox at 600 W Park Ave, Barberton.

Q: Who do I make my check payable to?

A: Check should be payable to Barberton Area Jaycees.

Q: Do you accept checks on pageant day?

A: NO. Checks are not permitted at the Cherry Blossom pageant at the registration table. Cash and Credit/Debit Cards are the only forms of payment accepted at the registration table. Cash is required for the admission table and concession stand.

Q: What is the NSF fee charge to returned checks?

A: The Jaycees will charge you an additional \$25 to cover NSF fees applied to the Jaycee account if your check is returned un-cashed.

Q: How will NSF accounts be handled?

A: If your check is returned from the bank uncashed, you are expected to remit cash or money order of the original amount plus \$25 NSF fee within 10 days of notification. If payment is not received, you will not be permitted in future Jaycee pageant.

Q: Who are the judges?

A: We generally have 3 or 5 non-Jaycee judges, with varying backgrounds, that live & work outside the Barberton area. The judges are not trained, experienced or paid pageant judges. They are volunteers that may or may not have a background in the pageant world. The volunteers are judging based on the Jaycees guidelines & their own personal opinions. The Jaycee pageants are meant to be a self-esteem builder. They also are a stepping stone which offers contestant's experience on stage, if they wish to pursue professional pageants in the future.

Q: How are contestants judged?

A: Contestants are judged in 4 areas. Each area is worth 5 points each, for a grand total of 20 points. The areas are:

- Appearance: The judges may ask themselves is the contestant's make-up age appropriate, is their outfit appropriate & properly fitting, is their hair styled & neat, etc.

(How are contestants judged? ...continued)

- Physical Beauty: The judge may focus on the face, smile, skin, eyes, etc.
- Attitude/Personality: This is an important category. The judges will look at how the contestant carries themselves, their confidence, are they enjoying themselves, their comfort on stage, willingness & desire to be there, etc.
- Overall Presentation: This is a score for the contestant's overall presentation; their beauty, outfit, personality all rolled into one.

Q: What if a judge knows a contestant?

A: If a judge knows a contestant, the judge's scores for that category are not used. They ultimately remove themselves from judging that group, which will eliminate unfair scores.

Q: How are scores tabulated?

A: The tabulator combines the scores of all judges at the end of the pageant. The 3 top scores in each category receive prizes. The judges' decisions are final and ballots are shredded.

Q: What are the prizes available?

A: All contestants will receive a participation ribbon for joining the pageant. The overall 'winner' of each category will receive a tiara/crown, a sash, trophy and opportunity to ride in the parade. The 1st Attendant & 2nd Attendant in the Queen, Teen and Pre-Teen divisions will receive a smaller tiara, a sash, trophy and invite to the parade. The 1st Attendant & 2nd Attendant in all other categories will receive a trophy and sash. Is anything special awarded to the Cherry Blossom Queen? Depending on donations received, additional prizes, such as flowers, jewelry or gift certificates may also be awarded to the Queen.

Q: When will prizes be awarded?

A: All scores are tallied and prizes are awarded at the end of each pageant. The AM Pageant winners will be awarded before the PM Pageant begins.

Q: How does the Photogenic Category work?

A: This is an optional category that contestants can choose to be in for an additional fee. It will require one 8x10 or smaller, unframed photo. All photos from your pageant are added to a binder. The judges score their top 3 photos from the binder. During the AM pageant, all girls photos ages newborn to 4 are judged against each other. All boys, newborn to 4, are judged separate from girls. They are not separated by the age categories that they are competing in on stage. All photos received from the PM pageant contestants, ages 5-22, compete against each other's photos. They are not separated by the age categories that they are competing in on stage. The top 3 scoring contestants will receive prizes: The overall photogenic 'winner' will receive a tiara/crown, a sash, trophy and opportunity to ride in the parade. The photogenic 1st Runner Up & 2nd Runner Up will each receive a trophy and sash.

Q: When will the photogenic category be announced?

A: All scores are tallied and prizes are awarded at the end of each pageant. The AM Pageant winners will be awarded before the PM Pageant begins.

Q: What does it cost to be a contestant of the Photogenic Category?

A: To be in the photogenic category the registration fee is \$35.00 per contestant. You can save \$15 by registering in advance by mailing your completed application and check or money order to the Jaycees by the April 24, 2017 deadline.

Q: Will my photo be returned?

A: Yes, please write the contestants name on the back of the photo. At the end of the pageant, your photo can be picked up from the table in the lobby.

Q: What kind of picture do I enter in the Photogenic Category?

A: Any photo is fine, whether it is a professional photo or family-taken snapshot. The photo can be color or black & white. The photo must be unframed, 8x10 or smaller to fit in our binder. Select a photo that is clear, crisp & includes only the contestant. This photo must be current; for young children it should have been taken within a couple months of the pageant; for older contestant within the past year. The fee for this category includes the submission of one photo only. If you wish to enter any additional photos, you may do so for a cost of \$5 for each photo.

Q: Do I mail or bring my photo for the Photogenic Category?

A: You can mail your photo with your application or save the postage and bring your photo with you on pageant day. Either one is fine.

Q: What are the Optional Special Contests?

A: In addition to the regular on-stage pageant, you can choose to be a part of the Special Contests where contestants are judged solely on:

- Prettiest Smile
- Best Dressed
- Prettiest Hair

The additional fee is \$5 total for all 3 contests. Contestants are scored by a separate judge while on stage. A colored ribbon on your number tag indicates that you are competing in the Special Contest. One winner for each contest per pageant will be chosen. The winners will receive a small trophy.

Q: Who gets to ride in parade?

A: Only the crown wearing winners from each category are permitted to ride in the Cherry Blossom parade on Saturday, May 20, 2017. Winners may be required to find their own cars or arrangement may be made with the Corvette Club. Additional information will be given at the Orientation Meeting.

Q: Are food & drinks available at the pageant?

A: The Jaycees sell water, pop, chips, candy, crackers, and other items at the concession stand for reasonable prices.

Q: What is the Orientation Meeting all about & who must attend?

A: Crown wearing winners from each category are required to attend this informational meeting along with a parent or guardian. The meeting will be held at the Jaycees Hall, 600 W Park Ave in Barberton on May 2, 2017. At this meeting, winners will receive information about participating in the Cherry Blossom parade, travelling to other events, and attending the Queen's Luncheon on May 20, 2017.

Q: Are outside food & drinks permitted?

A: Yes, feel free to bring your own food or drinks to keep your family content during the pageant.

Q: Do I need to complete all lines of the Application & Personal Bio Sheet?

A: Yes, do your best to complete every line on your form, be creative if you have to. The announcer will read the contestants information while on stage. We know that your newborn or toddler may not be able to express their future goals or hobbies, but parents think of age appropriate goals & hobbies. Include your child's short term goals, such as walking, talking, holding his head up, etc. As for hobbies, think about what your child likes to do, such as play with sibling, watch TV, etc. Try to be cute & creative, if the audience laughs your child will likely smile & have fun on stage.

Q: What does the 'pronounced' line on the application mean?

A: Our announcer is pretty good at pronouncing names, but if your name is unusual, spell it out the way that it sounds to help ensure that your name is pronounced correctly.

Q: Who must sign the application?

A: A parent or guardian must print & sign the bottom of the application for contestants under 18. For contestants 18 & up, they may sign their own form. Your signature is acknowledgement that you understand that the judges' decision is final, that the Jaycees are not liable for injury, that only crown wearing winners are permitted in the parade & poor behavior will not be tolerated.

Q: Why should I include my email address?

A: For contestants that provide their email addresses, the Jaycees will email you a Cherry Blossom & Labor Day application as soon as they are available. Emailing forms saves on postage, so we can keep our prices low. It also guarantees that you will have plenty of time to prepare for the pageant.

Q: Can I bring my camera?

A: Yes, you are welcome to bring your own camera.

Q: Will professional photographs be available?

A: Sometimes. Depending on the arrangements made by the Jaycees & local photographers, professional photos may be available for purchase. Signs will be posted at the pageant with details.

Q: Where will a list of winners appear?

A: The Jaycees work with the Barberton Herald Newspaper to print a list of winners following the pageant. We also post a winners list on the Jaycees 3 websites; www.BarbertonAreaJaycees.com, www.BarbertonPageants.com, and www.BarbertonCherryBlossom.com, along with photos.

Q: Do the Jaycees offer anything special for the Queen aged contestants?

A: To help increase the number of Queen-aged contestants, the Jaycees will feature the name, sponsor & photo of each contestant, age 16-22, in the Barberton Herald prior to the pageant. If you wish to participate, your photo must be received by April 24, 2017. Mail to:

Barberton Area Jaycees
c/o Beauty Pageant Chairman
4645 Milford St
Norton, OH 44203

Or you can submit them to us online by emailing them to BarbertonAreaJaycees@yahoo.com.

Q: Are dressing rooms available?

A: While the theater has restrooms available, it is best to come dressed & ready to compete, when possible.

Q: Who is expected to participate in Community Service activities?

A: The Traveling Royalty, including Queen, Teen & Pre-Teen Winners, 1st Alternates and 2nd Alternates, are asked to participate in Jaycee activities, such as the Cherry Blossom Festival and will be invited to attend area festivals, parades and community events.

Q: What is the Queens Luncheon?

A: The luncheon is a Cherry Blossom event taking place after the parade on Saturday, May 20, 2017. All winners, 1st alternates & 2nd alternates, age 5-22, are invited to attend. Registration forms will be passed out at the Orientation Meeting. Queens from around the state are also invited to attend. Details are still being finalized, review the Luncheon Application to answer your questions.

Q: What if I can't afford pageant expenses?

A: Contestants are welcome to recruit community sponsors. Area businesses may be willing to chip in on your expenses in exchange for advertising for them. You are welcome to make your own arrangements. Your sponsor will be announced while you are on stage.

Q: Who should I contact if I still have questions?

A: If you have a question that is not answered after reading all of these pages, you may send the Jaycees an email at BarbertonAreaJaycees@yahoo.com or leave a message on the answering machine at (330) 745- 3733. Please understand that the Jaycees are a volunteer organization, and the machine & email are often checked weekly, not daily. It may take several days to receive a call back.

Amended 4/20/17