



MISS CONTRA COSTA

✦ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ✦

General Rules, Requirements, and Registration

Contra Costa Fair
1201 W 10th St
Antioch, CA 94509
(925)757-4400

Miss Contra Costa

General Rules & Requirements

The Miss Contra Costa Scholarship Program is an experience that will educate and enrich the lives of young women in the Contra Costa community. Although mistaken as a beauty pageant, the Miss Contra Costa program is actually an opportunity for young women to learn valuable public speaking, interview, and performance skills in a completely positive environment. The aim is to bolster the self-esteem of young women and to honor them for their achievements and leadership skills. Participants will work with other local young women in order to showcase the talented, youthful energy present in our community. After a couple of months of learning, friendship building, and fun, the participants in the program will showcase their newly learned skills and talents at the Miss Contra Costa event on **Thursday, May 14th 2026**. The night will culminate when one of the participants is selected as Miss Contra Costa to represent the entire program throughout the next year and hold the title of Miss Contra Costa.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Participant must be a resident of Contra Costa County for at least six months and a resident of the State of California for not less than one year prior to the opening of the 2026 Contra Costa Fair.
- B. Participants must be 16 years of age by May 14th, 2026 and not reach her 21st birthday prior to May 2027.
- C. Participant, if attending school outside of the Contra Costa region, should not temporarily live any further away than 150 miles. She must be able to attend all local functions required of Miss Contra Costa team members and the selected Miss Contra Costa.
- D. Previous participants are welcome and encouraged to participate again.
- E. Participants must also never have held the title of Miss Contra Costa.
- F. All registrations will be time and date stamped in the order of submission. Entries are not considered "officially submitted" unless they include a \$250 application fee. (Use of sponsorships is encouraged)
- G. As few as 3 participants and as many as 12 participants will be allowed into the program. Contra Costa Fair management reserves the right to make exceptions to this requirement.
- H. Participants must not have been involved in, ever convicted of, or pleaded guilty to any crimes including felonies and/or misdemeanors (exclusive of traffic violations), nor have ever used illegal drugs of any kind now or in the past.
- I. Participants may be of amateur or professional status.

REGISTRATION

To be selected as a participant for the scholarship programs, interested applicants must fully complete the enclosed registration form and turn it in to the Contra Costa Fair Office no later than **4 pm, February 13th**. The registration form must be accompanied with a \$250 application fee (All checks must be made out to the Contra Costa Fair). Contra Costa Fair Management reserves the right to extend the deadline if additional participants are needed. The Contra Costa Fair also reserves the right to accept a late registration in the case that a selected participant drops out of the program.

REFUNDS

Registration fees are only refundable if the participant wanting to drop out of the competition notifies the Fair Administration office no later than **4pm on February 27th**. At that time, a refund will be processed within 30 days of the cancellation.

SPONSORSHIP

Participants are encouraged to obtain sponsors. Donations to participants for registration fees. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the Competition Program and on stage during the competition.

ORIENTATION

Selected participants and their parents will be required to attend the Scholarship Program orientation on **Sunday March 1st @5pm**. Participants over the age of eighteen(18) may or may not choose to bring their parent(s) with them to the orientation.

Participants will be given the rehearsal schedule and specific questions regarding the scholarship program will be answered. Participants will also be given an outline and instructions on how to fill out an information sheet for personality interview judges and a community service list for community service judges.

AREAS OF COMPETITION

The participants in the 2026 Miss Contra Costa Scholarship Program will be judged in the following areas. The participant garnering the highest final score will be selected as the 2026 Miss Contra Costa.

Communication Skills 25%

Impromptu Question 15%

Talent 15%

Personality Interview 20%

Fair Platform 15%

Administration Responsibility 10%

=100%

The above areas of competition serve to select a young woman who is well rounded in her abilities to communicate, entertain, and serve. No area of competition will focus on physique or outer beauty.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: This phase of competition is the first area of competition performed on stage in front of an audience. The participant will perform a one-Minute- minute and half speech on an assigned topic. Judges will score the participant on her creativity and ability to speak before a large audience. Participants will receive the topic for the communication skills speech at the Orientation. Participants will learn good speech-writing and public speaking skills at rehearsals.

PERSONALITY INTERVIEW: A panel of judges will meet the participant face-to-face and engage in a conversation about the participant's goals, family, and values. Judges will score the participants **8 minute interview** based on her ability to communicate one-on-one and on her personal appeal and sense of humor.

IMPROMPTU QUESTION: In this phase of competition, the participant will answer an impromptu question specifically tailored for her by the panel of judges. The question often focuses on the participant's goals, education, community involvement, or interests. Judges score the participant based on her ability to think on her feet. Judges look for poise, confidence, posture, and grace. The selected Miss Contra Costa will often be asked questions in a public format or be asked to speak in front of an audience at the last minute. This area of competition helps select a young woman with the ability to publicly speak under pressure.

TALENT: This is the second phase of competition performed on stage before an audience. Participants will be given no less than one minute and no more than two and half minutes to perform a live talent. This area of competition gives the participant an opportunity to express her creativity and ability to entertain. The performance may be any talent that the participant can demonstrate on stage. Talents can range from vocal performance, dance, instrumental, theatrical, mime, baton, martial arts, to sewing, cooking, and athletic demonstration. Judges will score the presentation based on degree of difficulty, technical ability, creativity, originality, stage presence, and audience appeal. The following are some restrictions concerning the stage demonstration and performing arts portion of competition:

1. Any talent exceeding the two and half minute time limit or going under the one-

minute minimum will be disqualified in this area of competition.

2. Participants must turn in two professionally recorded copies of their musical accompaniment on a CD or audio file marked clearly with their name and participant number. Musical selections may not be cued to the middle of a song or have a false ending. Musical backgrounds may not begin in the middle of participant's presentation.

3. All presentations must be performed live.

4. Participants may not use film, video, or slide presentation, as stage lights do not allow for the audience to clearly see such a presentation.

5. All talent outfits MUST be approved by the Scholarship Director.

6. Duplication of a presentation is prohibited. No two participants may perform using the same song. For example, one participant cannot sing a song that Another participant is performing a dance too. Priority will be given to the participant who turned their registration form into the Fair office first.

7. Participant may not change her presentation, in any way, after it has been officially approved by Scholarship Director unless the Director feels it is in the best interest of the program.

8. All props must be officially approved by the Scholarship Director.

9. Participants will only be permitted on stage during her Stage Performance presentation. No other person can be part of the participant's presentation.

10. The participant's stage entrance and exit will be determined by program management.

11. The participant's lighting will be determined by program management. Participants are not to provide lighting specifications. Strobe lights, black lights, etc. are not permitted because they do not successfully operate on the outside Fair stage and because the stage lighting cannot be turned down.

12. All participants performing vocal solos, song/dance numbers, theatrical monologues, or speech MUST use a microphone provided by program management.

13. All presentations that involve reading, reciting, or explanation must be accompanied by a musical background. This helps the participant stay on time and always adds more depth to the presentation. (This does not necessarily apply to dramatic or theatrical monologues).

14. Vocal solos must be performed to an accompaniment track. Accompaniment tracks may have background voices (such as "aahh's" and "ooo's"). Soloists may not sing along with the recording of a professional vocalist. Lip-syncing is permissible, but will be announced as so.

15. Participant whose talent is sketching, painting, graphic art, commercial art, sculpting, sewing, cooking, or involves a product created prior to the on-stage presentation, must provide proof of authenticity and creation by the participant

signed by an individual outside of the participant's family who is qualified to verify authenticity (i.e. instructor, organization leader, community leader, etc.).

16. Instrumentalists must memorize musical selection. All musical instruments must be brought to the stage and provided by participants.

ADMIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Participation in the Miss Contra Costa Pageant requires accountability and commitment. Contestants are expected to submit all required paperwork and materials by posted deadlines and to be on time and prepared for all practices, rehearsals, meetings, and appearances.

Timely communication is required if a conflict arises. Meeting deadlines, punctuality, and professionalism are essential parts of the program and help prepare contestants for leadership roles. Failure to meet these expectations may impact a contestant's score in the admin responsibilities category.

FAIR PLATFORM

Each contestant is required to propose a Fair Platform Service Project that supports and promotes the Contra Costa County Fair.

Projects must be designed with a maximum budget of \$500. While projects may include elements such as beautifying the fairgrounds, fundraising efforts for the Fair, community service initiatives, or marketing and promotional concepts, contestants are encouraged to think creatively. The possibilities are intentionally broad, and innovative ideas that positively impact the Fair and the surrounding community are welcome.

Contestants will present their project through a visual poster display and a five (5) minute oral presentation. Following the presentation, the judging panel may ask one (1) to three (3) questions related to the project.

The selected winner will be expected to complete the approved project during her reign, working collaboratively with her entire court to plan, execute, and represent the project throughout the Fair year.

Projects will be evaluated on creativity, feasibility, community impact, presentation skills, teamwork, and alignment with the mission of the Contra Costa County Fair. This portion of the competition is worth 15% of the contestant's total score. All proposed projects must be approved by the CEO of the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds prior to implementation.

OPENING NUMBER

Participants will learn an opening production number to be performed the night of

the on-stage competition. The production number is **NOT JUDGED** and serves merely for the entertainment of the audience and to calm the nerves of the participants prior to the first phase of on-stage competition.

WARDROBE

ALL INTERVIEW AND ON-STAGE APPARREL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

A. Participants will need a professional, business outfit for the personality & communication phase of competition. Examples of appropriate interview outfits will be demonstrated at the Orientation.

B. Participants will need to provide shoes and appropriate bottoms to be worn for the opening production number of the on-stage showcase. Specific details on appropriate opening number attire will be provided at the Orientation.

C. Participants will need a formal dress that is floor length without excessive cleavage or leg slits. This will be used for the impromptu question phase of competition.

D. Talent wardrobe should represent the skill being presented. No midriff would be shown onstage.

All other wardrobe requirements will be discussed at the Orientation Meeting.

It is strongly suggested that you do not purchase any wardrobe items until after the orientation.

HAIR & MAKEUP

Although outer beauty is not a consideration in judges' scoring, it is important that participants are easy to see on stage. Stage lights require participants to use certain make-up so that facial features are visible to the audience. Participants may not provide their own personal backstage assistant. Age appropriate makeup suggestions will be given in rehearsals.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents will not be allowed to attend rehearsals except for the dress rehearsal. The fewer people at rehearsals the better opportunity for productivity. Parents will also not be allowed backstage both to ease the minds of all participants and due to a limited room. Program Management wishes to take as much burden off of parents as possible. The success of the participants in this program is dependent on supportive parents. It is encouraged that parents help participants practice and prepare at home on a daily basis.

TICKETS

Each participant and her parents will receive tickets to the Contra Costa Fair for Thursday (a total of 3 tickets per contestant). This will allow the participant and her

parents to get into the gates the night of her on-stage competition.

MISCELLANEOUS INFO PERTAINING TO MISS CONTRA COSTA

A. Participant may not attend functions or speak to the media as a representative of the Miss Contra Costa unless cleared and approved by Program Management.

B. Participants will work as one team, not as individuals.

C. Members of the Miss Contra Costa Program will uphold positive traits such as inclusivity, respect and good sportsmanship.

D. Participants will not be in the company of, or speak to, a judge or group of judges except at those functions where contestants are scheduled to exchange conversation with judges.

E. All participants of the Miss Contra Costa Program are not allowed to co-habit, marry or become pregnant beginning with the pageant orientation process to the time of passing the 'Title' (approximately 14 months). Any individual found to be co-habiting, married, or pregnant during the program would immediately be disqualified from the program.

F. Miss Contra Costa will be given many opportunities to assist in the community and at the Fair after the scholarship competition is completed. Participation in community events is expected.

G. Social Media will be monitored by the Scholarship Director.

AWARDS

- a. Each participant will receive an award recognizing the area of competition in which she received her highest score in the crowning ceremony
- b. A friendship will be awarded to the contestant that showed the most consideration and friendliness voted on by their peers

JUDGING

- a. Each area of competition will be judged by a panel of judges consisting of no less than three (3) judges per panel. The judges will be selected by Contra Costa Fair Management and will include local community leaders, regional professionals and State representatives.
- b. Participants/Parents will not purposefully or knowingly search out, inquire, be in the company of, or speak to fair management, a judge or group of judges except at those functions where participants/parents are scheduled to exchange conversation with judges. Failure to comply will result in automatic disqualification of the participant.

- c. The results and decisions of the pageant/scholarship judges and or fair management are final and not open for discussion. An electronic tabulation system which compiles all judge scores.
- d. The Fair Management will make every effort to see that a judge does not judge the same competition more than two consecutive years.
- e. In case of a tie, the participant with the highest score in the Personality Interview area of competition will be selected to receive the title of Miss Teen Yuba-Sutter. If a tie score still exists, then the participant with the highest score in Communication Skills will receive the title.
- f. No scorecards will be photocopied or distributed. No participant will be given information about another participant's scoring. Individual scores may be requested from the Fair office after the competition of the Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program Director may give participants suggestions on improvements in specific areas of the program after the night of the on-stage competition, but judges' individual scores will remain confidential.

MISS CONTRA COSTA

- A. The participant receiving the highest total of points in all Five categories of competition will be crowned the 2026- 2027 Miss Contra Costa. She will receive the traditional Miss Contra Costa crown, crownbox & sash to wear at various community events. She will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship at the conclusion of her reign.
- B. The Miss Contra Costa will be expected to represent the other members of the Contra Costa Fair Program and serve as a role model to young people of all ages in the Contra Costa community. She will be expected to attend all community events and several functions except when school or illness deter otherwise. Miss Contra Costa will be expected to be punctual for all scheduled appearances and/or events. The Miss Contra Costa Scholarship Program management will be responsible for the Miss Contra Costa calendar. Groups interested in Miss Contra Costa's presence at their event must get permission from the Fair.
- C. The newly crowned Miss Contra Costa will attend an orientation with the Contra Costa Fair CEO and Contra Costa Scholarship Program Director, to learn about her duties and expectations.
- D. She will also serve as a companion and role model to the newly crowned Mini-Miss Contra Costa.
- E. If the Miss Contra Costa marries during her year in reign, then the Miss Contra Costa Scholarship Program management will forfeit her title and in such an event a qualified runner-up will be declared the Miss Contra Costa and be required to abide by these same rules.

F. If Miss Contra Costa forfeits her title a qualified runner-up will be declared the Miss Contra Costa and be required to abide by these same rules.

G. Miss Contra Costa will be expected to aid in rehearsals and program night of the 2027 Scholarship Program

H. The scholarship will be given at the competition of their reign, May 2027.

I. The Miss Contra Costa Scholarship Program management has the right to take away the title of Miss Contra Costa for any reason deemed necessary in preserving the name of the Scholarship Program. The Contra Costa Scholarship Program management reserves the right to make exceptions for any of the above Regulations.

1st RUNNER-UP

a. The participant with the 2nd highest point total will be crowned Miss Contra Costa 1st Runner-Up. The Miss Contra Costa 1st Runner-Up will be asked to fulfill the roles and duties of Miss Contra Costa in the case that the prior titleholder becomes ineligible or unable to fulfill her duties.

b. The 1st Runner-Up must not violate the guidelines set forth to remain eligible should she be asked to assume the duties of Miss Contra Costa.

**Official Miss Contra Costa
Scholarship Program Registration Form**

Participant's Legal Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

How long has the participant resided in Contra Costa County? _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Goals/Interests: _____

Talent to be performed on stage: _____

Name of song, if applicable: _____

Participant's Sponsor(s): _____

Permission is hereby given to the Miss Contra Costa Scholarship Program Management to utilize the information contained herein in any way they see fit without recourse from me, my heirs, or immediate family. Participant hereby releases the Miss Contra Costa Scholarship Program, its directors, agents, and employees, from claims of any kind or nature arising out of damage of person or property occasioned by or in connection with any portion of participant's participation. I understand that by participating in the scholarship program that my photograph may be taken. My signature on this form authorizes the Fair Association to use said photographs for promotional and public releases.

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Please return to Contra Costa County Fair Office at 1201 W. 10th Antioch, CA 94509 or email to Misscontracosta@ccfair.org