



First I would like to say welcome. Our pageant and festival are so happy to have you as one of our contestants for our annual Tomato Festival Pageant. Our pageant committee and I hope you have the best experience. We are all here to answer any questions we can and help make the weekend a success for everyone. The official deadline to have all paperwork, headshot, and entry fees turned in is April 4th.. No applications will be accepted after this deadline. Below is an itinerary of events and a checklist of things you'll need. If you have any further questions please email Alexis Wilson at [anwilson102297@gmail.com](mailto:anwilson102297@gmail.com). Or text/call (504) 463-6808

Best Wishes & Good Luck!

## **Contestant Checklist:**

**April 4th deadline for applications, headshots, all fees !**

### **Monday April 7th:**

- 6:00pm **MANDATORY** contestant & parent meeting

- Self-addressed stamped envelope to receive a copy of the scores
- Bring heels you'll be wearing on stage. Girls will be given the option to practice.
- Any questions or concerns. Being a Tomato Queen is a huge year long commitment. Please ask us whatever questions you may have.

**April 26th :**

**8:45AM:** check in for interviews in Middle School building (Junior, Teen, & Miss contestants)

**JUNIOR CONTESTANTS**

Junior contestants will participate in a 5 minute interview with our panel of judges. . This is new for our juniors as of 2025. Girls will strictly be asked about themselves, things off of their application, and just basics festival questions.

Juniors attire for interview is Sunday best dress.

Makeup should be light and natural.

**TEEN CONTESTANTS**

Teen contestants will participate in a 7 minute interview with our panel of judges.

Attire will be Interview skirt Suit/interview appropriate dress, shoes & accessories (skirt – no pants; natural shoes or matching suit, natural makeup & hair away from the face.)

**MISS CONTESTANTS**

MISS contestants will participate in a 9 minute interview with our panel of judges.

Attire will be Interview skirt Suit/interview appropriate dress, shoes & accessories (skirt – no pants; natural shoes or matching suit, natural makeup & hair away from the face.)

Each contestant is allowed 1 guest with them for interviews. Please arrive dressed and ready for check in promptly at 8:45AM. Interviews will begin at 9AM in contestant number order and by each division.

**6:30 PM:** Contestants check in for the pageant.

There will be a space provided for contestants before and during the pageant. Feel free to use this

space for hair and makeup along with getting dressed.

This room will open at 3:30pm the day of pageant. We are limited to one room for all contestants. No more than 1 makeup person, 1 hair person, & 1 guest is allowed in contestant rooms before and during pageant.

You are more than welcomed to get ready off of the festival grounds but must report to pageant check in dressed and ready for 6:30pm

Pageant pack list !

Bobby pins, safety pins, makeup, hairspray & double stick tape  
shoes & accessories.

Evening Gown

Contestant numbers

Extension cords for hair tools

The new queen will need a sun dress or maxi dress and comfortable shoes to change into.

**The New Tomato Queens will:**

- Receive the official Tomato Queen Crown and Banner (Miss will receive train, mantle and scepter as well)
- Be presented on stage at the Festival ASAP after crowning if the timing of bands allows
- Sunday, April 27th, 2025 new queens will attend morning mass, will sign official contracts after mass, and stay for the remaining of the festival

**Judging Categories:**

- **Interview : 50 points**
  - contestants will be judged by a panel of judges. (Junior: 5 minutes Teen: 7 minutes & Miss: 9 minutes)

Interview is the only time you are allowed to converse with the judges. We would like the judges to be able to focus on the contestant as an individual, how she carries herself, her answers, her knowledge of the area, the festival, and creole tomatoes. All contestants are asked to stay until every contestant is finished with their interviews. Then you will introduce yourself on the main festival stage if time allows (this introduction will not be judged). Please remember an interview is just a conversation so relax, breathe and smile!

**PAGEANT**

- **Stage Introduction: 25 points**

Contestants will start the pageant on stage after a parade of Queens and constants. Each girl will do a short intro/jingle.

Create a jingle introducing yourself and inviting everyone to the Tomato Festival. This is something our Queens use throughout their reigns to invite everyone during their travels to our festival. Jingles may be no longer than 90 seconds.

- Creativity
- Personality
- How well she depicts the Tomato Festival
- Speaking skills
- Confidence in front of a crowd

• **Evening Gown – 25 points**

- Stage personality
- Elegance & Grace
- Hair/makeup
- Attire
- Overall appearance

Evening gown should be floor length formal and appropriate for the event hosted by a catholic organization. It should also be age appropriate for the contestant. Makeup is appropriate for every contestant and hair is to your liking. During evening gown the girls will model on stage while their application/bio is read aloud by our MC.

• **On Stage Question – 15 points (Miss Contestants Only)**

- Delivery of Answer
- Stage Presence
- Content of Answer

Contestant will receive a list of possible questions after the interview. During the pageant after formalwear, the contestant will walk to the emcee. She will read the question twice, give you the paper so you can read the question and then the emcee will read it one more time aloud. The contestant will then answer the question and have a time limit of one and a half minutes to answer. Contestants do not have to use the entire time to answer.

**Additional Awards:**

- People's Choice. This is voted on by the audience. You can cast a vote for your favorite contestant at the pageant for just \$1 a vote. So tell everyone coming to bring their dollars to support their girl!

#### Miss Congeniality

- Contestants will vote amongst themselves to elect a winner based on personality
- Evening Gown Fashion
- Judges will choose the contestant with the most fashionable choice in evening gown
- Interview Fashion
- Judges will choose the contestant with the most fashionable choice in interview wear
- Photogenic
- Judges will choose the contestant with the most photogenic picture

#### Sponsorship award

- The contestant who raises the most money in sponsorships will receive this award.

### Sponsorships

- Each contestant will be given the option to turn in sponsorships. This is optional.
- Our pageant makes program books that will display all contestant sponsorships as an add on their own page.
- There will be a separate form that will be sent out for all sponsorships.

#### Director's Comments !

Each contestant should dress appropriately for her age and to represent a Catholic school/church organization that is Our Lady of Prompt Succor School & Church. Ear piercings will be the only piercings allowed while competing to be /reigning as a Tomato Queen. All tattoos if any must be covered and out of sight. Keep in mind your age and what you are competing to represent.

We can not wait to meet each of you and cheer you on throughout the weekend. Although only three ladies will walk away with the crowns, we are so proud of each of you. Competing is a win in itself. It takes a lot of confidence and bravery to step out and try something new. We encourage everyone to never stop trying and come back if this is something you have your heart set on.