

2026 Gibson County Sweetheart

As of 3/31/2026

Questions: Jacinda Huguen - text: 812-779-6154 or email: jthughen@gmail.com

Call Out Meeting: Sunday, May 17th 2:00 PM Toyota Events Center

Must register online: <https://forms.gle/SGGht4s2u9jzvHTQA>

Age Requirements

- Each contestant must be at least 13 years of age and cannot have reached their 17th birthday on or before June 1st, 2026. Ages 13-16 as of 6/1/26 (You can turn 17 AFTER 6/1/26)

Sponsor/Entry Fee: \$75

- Checks payable to Gibson County Fair. **Due to the Fair Office or Jacinda by May 31st.**
- Any outstanding balance with the Gibson County Fairgrounds must be paid prior to signing up.

Photos: Sunday, June 7th

- Contestants will receive complimentary, professional headshots. Photos will be outside.
- Sunday best attire. No strapless or deep neck tops/dresses. Jumpsuits are acceptable. Entry fees must be submitted to participate.

Contracts - Due May 31st

Bios - Due Sunday, June 14th

- The bio sheet is like your resume. The judges will receive a copy of this.

Schedule

- A detailed schedule will be provided at the call out and emailed after you have registered online.
- **Practice meetings are closed to the public. Parents can speak with the Pageant Director/Committee the last 15 minutes of each practice.**
- Dress Rehearsals: 6/23, 6/25, 6/26
 - **Dress Rehearsals are closed to the public. Parents can help drop off items but must be offsite by 5:10 pm.**
- Pageant: Saturday, June 27th at 7:00 PM @ PCHS
 - Interviews begin mid morning. Sweethearts will interview first.
 - Dinner with the judges at 4:00 pm on pageant day. Contestants are responsible for their own transportation to the restaurant. The Queen Committee will provide transportation from the restaurant to the pageant. Attire is Sunday Best or Business Casual.

Awards & Prizes

- Contestants who place will receive a personalized tote, sash, and crown.
- The number of placings on the Sweetheart's Court is TBD pending number of contestants.

Expectations - 2026 Gibson County Fair July 4th - 11th

- You are expected to be present for the entire fair week if you are selected as Gibson County Sweetheart or a court member.
- New for 2026 - The fair opens on July 4th. There will be a parade that the Queen's court participates in at noon. Afternoon and evening activities will be at the fairgrounds as well.
- Sweetheart & court responsibilities are typically evening only, except for Kiddie Day. Please make arrangements with your employer and extracurriculars.

Indiana State Festivals Association Princess Pageant

The newly crowned Sweetheart will represent the Gibson County Fair in the ISFA Princess Pageant in November 2026, subject to age eligibility. Should she not meet the criteria, an alternate will be appointed by the Queen Committee.

Pageant Format

Contestants will be scored based on their ability to converse, public speaking, poise, personality, and the judges' overall impression. This aligns with the Miss Indiana State Fair Queen Program.

Preliminary Judging (morning):

Interview 50 percent of scoring

Attire: Business Casual or Sunday Best. Dress, pants & blouse, skirt & blouse. No blazers, suit jackets, or jumpsuits. Cardigans are acceptable. Sleeveless tops and dresses are acceptable. Straps must be at least 2 inches wide.

Each contestant will have one (1), three-minute interview with each of the three judges individually. Therefore, each contestant will give three separate interviews (9 collective minutes total), answering impromptu questions asked by each judge. **Interviews are private and not open to the public.**

One parent/guardian can be backstage in the morning.

On Stage Judging:

Introductions

Attire: Must wear denim jeans (ankle length or longer) with pageant t-shirt. All contestants will wear the same t-shirt. You can accessorize how you wish.

Personality Outfit 20 percent of scoring

Attire: Outfit chosen by the contestant that showcases her personality.

Ideas are on a first come first served basis. Minimal props allowed. No additional music. Contestants will write a description of their outfit for the emcee to read during the pageant.

Formal Wear 20 percent of scoring

Attire: Formal Gown. Gowns must have a floor-length hemline (hi-low allowed). Excessive splits (more than 2" above the knee), low-cut bodices, or otherwise inappropriate designs may be penalized by the judges.

On Stage Impromptu Response 10 percent of scoring

Each contestant will be presented with a word during the formal wear competition for an impromptu response. Whether they choose to define the word, share a related personal story, or discuss their first impressions, they are encouraged to showcase their unique perspective.