



Franklin County Watermelon Festival Beauty Pageant
Saturday, July 18, 2026 | Russellville City Schools Auditorium
Admission is \$5.00 (cash only)
Pageant begins at 10:00 AM



General Information and Rules

- Entry fee - \$50.00 and includes: Beauty Pageant, Photogenic, Best Dress, Best Hair, Best Smile & Pageant tee. To be judged in the Photogenic Category, ONE photo is to accompany your application by the deadline. **No Refunds after application is submitted!**
- Application, fee, and photo deadline is **Thursday, June 18, 2026**. There are **NO exceptions to the deadline**.
- Only ONE female per contestant is allowed in the back dressing room areas. Only ONE female is allowed to escort on stage or stay in the wings of those in the 5–6-year-old category and under. If you would like to watch the pageant, you will need to purchase a ticket in the lobby for entry. Please be aware that **NO MEN OR YOUNG BOYS** are allowed backstage, nor in holding rooms, nor as escorts for contestants. This includes fathers, brothers, boyfriends, and hair & makeup artists.
- Each contestant will receive a 2026 Pageant tee and a participation certificate. Each age division will have a Queen, 1st runner up, 2nd runner up, Most Photogenic, Best Dress, Best Hair, and Best Smile. The queen in each age division will receive a crown.
- Judging will be by out-of-town judges. The judges' decisions are FINAL.
- Each contestant should wear an age-appropriate dress. ****Pageant wear will be permitted for girls 10 years and over. **Girls 9 years and under will NOT be permitted to wear pageant wear.**
- Check-In will be backstage of the Russellville City Schools Auditorium on Saturday, July 18th, see below for your age divisions. **Lineup is 15 minutes prior to stage time; BE DRESSED & READY UPON ARRIVAL!** **Dress areas will be limited. We will NOT hold your group and delay the pageant.**

*****Age Categories & Updated Pageant Schedule is attached below*****

Schedule may be altered according to number of entries

THERE WILL NOT BE A SCHEDULED REHEARSAL FOR THIS EVENT! SEE OUTLINE BELOW.

Submission of the Pageant Application confirms:

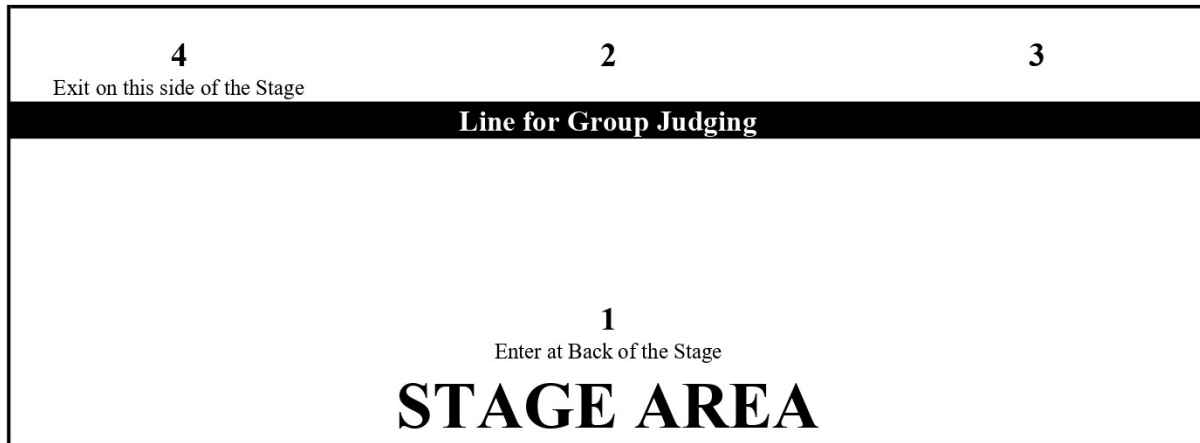
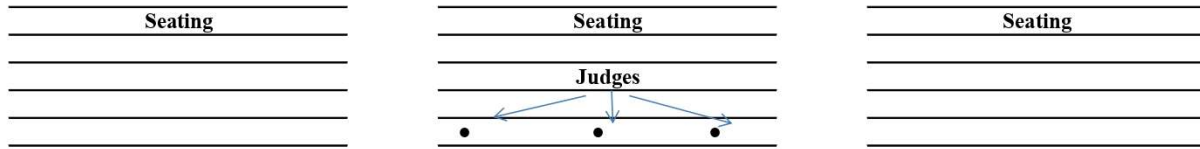
I understand that all decisions by the judges are **final**. I will not hold the Director, Staff, City of Russellville, Russellville City Schools, The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, or anyone associated with the Watermelon Festival responsible for any injury, lost items or damages occurring before, during or after the pageant. ***I understand that NO changes will be made to the application once submitted!***

If selected as The Watermelon Queen (18–21-year-old category), applicant confirms they are a current primary resident of Franklin County and agree to provide proof of residency. If applicant is not a primary resident of Franklin County, she will **not** be eligible for the title of The Watermelon Queen. Applicant also confirms that she is not married, does not plan to be married during her reign, is not a mother, and does not plan to bare children during her reign as Miss Watermelon Queen. If selected, she must attend the following year's pageant to crown the new Queens along with riding in the Franklin County Chamber Christmas Parade in Russellville and attend the Watermelon Festival duties assigned by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, please contact the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at 256.332.1760 or director@franklincountychamber.org

Queens will be presented at the Watermelon Festival Opening Ceremony on August 14th, located at the Stage. The Watermelon Festival Queen (Age 18-21) will also be responsible for cutting the first watermelon at the Opening Ceremony, awarding prizes at the Watermelon Festival, riding in the Franklin County Chamber Christmas Parade on Thursday, December 3, 2026, and crowning at the 2027 Watermelon Pageant.

Franklin County Watermelon Pageant
RCS Auditorium Layout



Line indicates final group judging (before &/or after individual judging)

2025 Pageant Schedule | July 19, 2025

*****2026 Pageant Schedule is subject to change based on the final number of entries. Please use this 2025 Schedule as a reference and keep an eye on our social media for updates*****

10:00 AM **Welcome & Introduction**

10:10 AM 0-5 months

10:20 AM 6-11 months

10:30 AM 12-15 months

10:40 AM 16-18 months

Crown

11:00 AM 19-23 months

11:15 AM 2 years

11:30 AM 3 years (Jan-May)

11:45 AM 3 years (June-Dec)

Crown & Intermission

12:15 PM 4-5 years

12:30 PM 6 years

12:45 PM 7 years

1:00 PM 8-9 years

Crown

1:20 PM 10-12 years

1:30 PM 13-15 years

1:40 PM 16-17 years

1:50 PM 18-21 years

Crown

Lineup is 15 minutes prior to stage time...be dressed and ready to go on stage. We will NOT hold your group because you are late.