



Miss  
**Edwardsburg**

**WELCOME TO THE MISS EDWARDSBURG  
YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!**

This handbook has been put together to help you and your family through your experience with The Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant. Please refer to this guide as often as necessary during your process. The last page of this booklet must be signed by both Parent and Contestant and turned in along with all other paperwork at the designated due date. The Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant has four different age groups: High School/College ages 17-21, Teen ages 14-16, Pre-Teen 10-13, Prince-Princess ages 6-9. Beginning in the 2010 pageant year the Miss Edwardsburg Pageant Program will no longer accept personal checks, only cash and money orders will be accepted. *Please keep in mind that this program is ran by volunteers for the sake of reaching our Edwardsburg youth with tools for a more confident tomorrow.*



# Miss Edwardsburg

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## **MISS EDWARDSBURG PAGEANT COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Pageant is a Scholarship and Recognition Pageant for our community's outstanding young men and women as well as a fellowship and social development experience. The Pageant is meant to accent the positive qualities among today's young woman and men and to foster and promote worthwhile ideals. The Pageant seeks to recognize the achievements of our community's youth and to bring the accomplishments of today's youth to the attention of our community, region and state.

The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Scholarship and Recognition Pageant searches for the complete well rounded young people and prides itself in providing a pageant competition that offers six distinct categories of judging in order to effectively achieve this goal. At the same time we offer a thoroughly objective and complete competition in terms of fairness to all candidates involved. The Blossomtime Festival attends our Pageant to instruct the judges through their paperwork and oversee the results of the judging throughout the pageant. The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Pageant is NOT a pageant solely based on physical appearance. Rather, candidates are judged on (1) the basis of service and achievement to school and community, (2) personal developments, (3) general awareness as determined by a written biography, (4) scholastic achievements, (5) judge's interview, (6) poise and personality projection in formal wear.

Other than to publicly recognize our outstanding youth and to singly select two individuals (one female and one male) as truly outstanding per age group the Pageant seeks to provide a unique and valuable experience to all involved. Of prime importance, of course is the fact that the candidates will be meeting, working and making friends with other outstanding youth from across Southwest Michigan. The social mixers, special celebration functions, productions number routines, pageant rehearsals, tour activities, friendly celebration and involvement in charity-oriented functions, all lead to a fine social development experience.

The Pageant's philosophy is, "There are only winners in the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Scholarship and Recognition Pageant. There are no losers." Every young person who participates will be enriched with new experiences, new friendships and a new awareness of her own potential. We are dedicated to recognizing and developing the outstanding qualities and leadership abilities possessed to these superior young people.



## THE PAGEANT PROGRAM

To become Miss Edwardsburg, Mr. Edwardsburg, Teen Princess, Teen Prince, Pre-Teen Princess, Pre-Teen Prince, Princess or Prince or their court of honor there is a fun competition.

**Miss Edwardsburg/ Mr. Edwardsburg contestants:** will learn a dance routine, this is based on the theme of the pageant for the current year, and it is not judged. However, it is only considered a first look for the judges to see your passion and energy for this unique journey. You will participate in a judge's luncheon, by doing this you will get to show off your etiquette skills in an informal setting. You will create and verbalize a communications segment on stage no more than 30-40 seconds in length, you will introduce yourself by name, state your contestant number, state the theme content, and a "closing" thank you. You may not sing more than ½ of your communication. You should display clear dictation, presentation, eye contact and confidence. The communication is judged. You will need to purchase a suit for your interview; which may be used for the communication segment as well. This suit must fit properly for your body type and be altered if necessary to fit properly. Ladies, you will need a formal gown for your formal wear presentation walk on stage. Show your poise, grace, and confidence in formal wear; this is a judged segment. It is best to wait until the dress for success workshop to purchase your wardrobe; there you will get help dressing for your body type. If you need to order a dress before this date please talk to the chairperson for guidance. Guys, you will need to rent a tux (for your formal wear presentation) from the pageant sponsored tux shop because they offer a large discount for us. Also, guys you will need to purchase a suit (matching dress pants, jacket, shirt, tie, matching shoes and socks) for your interview. All outfits will be approved by a designated Committee Member by a pre-determined deadline. Attire cannot be changed following approval unless the committee requests an adjustment. NO EXCEPTIONS! During interview eye contact, grooming, non-verbal communications are extremely important. Interviews are typically 5-8 minutes in length. In addition, it is important to display a genuine personality with a serving heart. *Give of yourself selflessly for the rewards are greater that you can imagine.* Caution: be sincere not staged, over rehearsed or in-genuine. Be yourself, relax, smile, and have fun.

**Teen Princess and Teen Prince Contestants:** will learn a dance routine, this is based on the theme of the pageant for the current year, and it is not judged. However, it is considered to be a first look to see your passion and energy for this unique journey. You will do a communication segment on stage, no more than 15-20 seconds, introduce yourself, state name and contestant number, state the theme content, and a "closing" thank you. Ladies, you will need to borrow or purchase a formal gown for your formal wear presentation. Show your poise, grace and confidence in formal wear. Please remember: formal wear should be a brighter color, because dark colors get lost in the navy and black curtains behind you on stage. It is also important to choose a gown that is age appropriate with no slits, plunging necklines or revealing low backs.

Guys you will need to rent a tux (for your formal wear presentation) from the pageant sponsored tux shop because they offer a large discount for us. You will do your interview in your opening number outfits. This way we can assure that each contestant is judged on their personality not on their clothing. During the interview eye contact, grooming, non-verbal communication are extremely important. Interviews are typically 5-8 minutes in length. In addition, it is important to display a genuine personality with a serving heart. *Give of yourself selflessly for the rewards are greater that you can imagine*. Caution: be sincere not staged, over rehearsed or in-genuine. Be yourself, relax, smile, and have fun. Guys, upon making the court you will need a suit (matching sport coat and pants) with two shirts and ties to rotate for calendar of events. Khaki shorts and pants, white polo shirt, white socks, new or clean white tennis shoes. No patterns or logos however, a small symbol is acceptable. Ladies, you will need to purchase a nice Sunday wear dress for some occasions. All clothing should be clean and neat upon arriving to events.

**Pre-Teen Princess, Pre-Teen Prince, Princess and Prince Contestants:** will learn a dance routine, this is based on the theme of the pageant for the current year, and it is not judged. However, it is considered to be a first look to see your passion and energy for this unique journey. You will do a communication segment on stage no more that 10-15 seconds, introduce yourself, say name and contestant number say the theme content, and a “closing” thank you. Show your poise, grace and confidence in formal wear. Ladies, you will need to borrow or purchase a formal gown for your formal wear presentation. Please remember: formal wear should be a brighter color, because dark colors get lost in the navy and black curtains behind you on stage. Avoid colors that wash out under bright lights (pastels). It is also important to choose a gown that is age appropriate with no slits, plunging necklines, or revealing low backs. Pre-teens and Princesses can struggle with finding dress styles that look like miniature dresses which older teens would buy. Please avoid this; judges are traditionally turned off by this approach. Guys you will need to rent a tux (for your formal wear presentation) from the pageant sponsored tux shop because they offer a large discount for us. You will do your interview in the opening number outfits. This decision was made to keep expenses down and help to assure that each contestant is judged on their personality not on their cloths. During interview eye contact, grooming, non-verbal communications are extremely important. Interviews will typically last 3-5 minutes in length. In addition, it is important to display a genuine personality with a serving heart. *Give of yourself selflessly for the rewards are greater that you can imagine*. Caution: be sincere not staged, over rehearsed or in-genuine. Be yourself, relax, smile, and have fun. Guys upon making the court you will need a suit with two shirts and ties to rotate for our calendar of events. Khaki shorts and pants, white polo shirt, white socks, new or clean white tennis shoes. No patterns or logos however, a small symbol is acceptable. Ladies; you will need to purchase a nice dressy Sunday wear dress for some occasions. All clothing should be clean and neat upon arriving to events. Absolutely, no make-up is allowed for our princesses, and only natural make-up is allowed for our young pre-teens.

Three judges are blessed with the difficult task of choosing the contestants that will be given the opportunity to serve our Community as a court member on pageant day. All court members are chosen by judges through secret ballots and the Blossomtime Festival scoring systems. The judges are not from our local community, and are not allowed any contact with contestants other than during the pageant process. The judges are not provided with a program unless they request it nor are they directly made aware of how much fundraising money that each

contestant has brought into the pageant program. The Entrepreneur Award is not given until Coronation, along with all the other titles. Crowns and banners are collected following the pageant after pictures are finished until the committee can verify that all court members fully understand the rules and guidelines for the upcoming year.

## TITLES TO BE WON

Each year based on enrollment and budget allowances the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will decide the number of court members for each level and determine if there will be an Entrepreneur, Miss Congeniality, and Mr. Nice Guy for each level. The High School contestants vote for Miss Congeniality and Mr. Nice Guy. This is a court for a typical year. **Please remember that this is not the court for every year, enrollment, budget and float space determines the size of our court(s).**

*Miss Edwardsburg:* Miss Edwardsburg, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-up, 4<sup>th</sup> Runner-up, Miss Congeniality

*Mr. Edwardsburg:* Mr. Edwardsburg, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up Mr. Nice Guy.

*Miss and Mr. Edwardsburg:* Entrepreneur

*Teen Princess:* Teen Princess, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, Miss Congeniality

*Teen Prince:* Teen Prince, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, Mr. Nice Guy

*Teen Princess & Prince:* Entrepreneur

*Pre-Teen Princess:* Princess, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, Miss Congeniality

*Pre-Teen Prince:* Prince, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, Mr. Nice Guy

*Pre-Teen:* Entrepreneur

*Princess:* Princess, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, Miss Congeniality

*Prince:* Prince, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up, Mr. Nice Guy

*Princess and Prince:* Entrepreneur

The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee is not involved in choosing who receives the opportunity to serve the community in such a wonderful way. **Please remember that this is not the court for every year, enrollment, budget allowance, and float space will determine the size of the court. If you are chosen Miss Edwardsburg, Mr. Edwardsburg or Mr. Edwardsburg 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up you will be required to participate in the Miss/ Mr. Blossomtime Pageant in March of the upcoming year.**

Please be aware in order to qualify to win the Entrepreneur Award the contestant must sell a \$500 minimum.

## Qualifications to Participate

The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant and events are conducted on a volunteer basis. Countless volunteers spend hours away from their family and jobs to make this possible for your family. Please remember this during the pageant process. The committee works hard to make this a fun experience for your family. Be supportive and kind to all volunteers at all times. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will review and deny applicants based on all of the factors listed in this section. Any application that is denied by the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee is not subject to reevaluation. All decisions are final.**

There are four different age groups involved in the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship

Pageant Program; High School/College Ages 17-21, Teen – Ages 14-16, Pre-Teen – Ages 10-13, and Princess-Prince – Ages 6-9.

All High School contestants (Guys and Girls) must become familiar with the history of Blossomtime. You could be asked questions about the history of Blossomtime and current events (local, national, and world-wide) on stage and in the interview process. Start practicing your answers and doing your homework now, by reading (local newspapers, USA Today, Newsweek, and any other publication pertaining to news). Throughout this handbook when the term High School is mentioned we are referring to the 17-21 year segment.

### **Exiting the Program**

If at anytime during the pageant planning process you leave the program either by your own choice or if you are asked by the committee to discontinue your participation or service; please be aware: Any fundraising efforts are collected on behalf of the community service program a.k.a. "Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant - NOT for your own personal funding or Sponsorship.

- You will not receive a refund of any entry money.
- You will not receive a refund of any costume fees.
- You will not receive a refund of any sponsor, Good Luck Ad, Ticket Sales, or Fundraiser money that has been turned into the program.

**THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!**

### **APPLICATIONS**

The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will review applications for enrollment into the program. This is an opportunity to serve and represent your community from pageant date to pageant date the following year. Participation in this program is not a right, it is a wonderful opportunity to serve and represent your community; and all applications will be reviewed and accepted based on Committee Guidelines which include but are not limited to: moral character, criminal convictions/legal proceedings of any kind, school detentions or suspensions, age, grades, and prior involvement in the program. However, there is no discrimination based on color, ethnic background, or religious preference. The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will contact you to let you know the status of your application through e-mail. **Any application that is denied by the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee is not subject to reevaluation. ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

### **PREVIOUS CONTESTANTS AND COURT MEMBERS**

It is a great honor when former contestants and court members return to compete in the program. However, there are requirements to resuming participation in the program. If parent/family and child would like to return to the program then former participation for BOTH parent/family and child will be considered prior to allowing a return to the program. The Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will review prior participation and if found non-compliant to the rules and regulations of the Miss Edwardsburg Program, you will not be allowed to return to the program. If you are a former court member you must have successfully completed your reign and followed the rules and regulations of the program, to participate in the program again.

**ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THE MISS EDWARDSBURG PAGEANT COMMITTEE ARE FINAL AND NOT UP FOR REVIEW.**

## **AGE REQUIREMENTS:**

High School/College: All contestants must be at least 17 years of age and not more than 21 years of age by Blossomtime Pageant Date in March of the following year. Example for the 2010 Pageant you must be 17-21 by Blossomtime Pageant Date in March 2010. You must provide The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Pageant Committee with a copy of your Birth Certificate to prove your age. The copy must have a seal authorizing the copy from the County Courthouse in which you were born.

Teen Contestants: All contestants must be 14-16 years of age by pageant date of the current year. Example: If you are 13 during sign ups and you turn 14 by the date of the pageant you are eligible to participate. If you are 16 turning 17 you must be 16 on the date of the pageant to participate as a Teen. You must provide The Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee with a copy of your Birth Certificate to prove your age.

Pre-Teen: All contestants must be 10-13 years old by pageant date of the current year. Example: if you are 9 during sign ups and you turn 10 by the date of the pageant you are eligible to participate as a Pre-Teen. If you are 13 turning 14 you must be 13 on the date of the pageant to participate. You must provide The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee with a copy of your Birth Certificate to prove your age.

Princess & Prince: All contestants must be 6-9 years old by pageant date of the current year. Example: If you are 5 during sign ups and you turn 6 by the date of the pageant you are eligible to participate. If you are 9 turning 10 you must be 9 on the date of the pageant to participate. You must provide The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee with a copy of your Birth Certificate to prove your age.

## **RESIDENCY TEEN, PRE-TEEN, PRINCESS, AND PRINCE**

Contestants must be a permanent year round resident of the Edwardsburg Public School District. School of Choice participants at the Teen, Pre-Teen, and Princess-Prince levels are allowed to participate. If you are Home Schooled you are allowed to participate in the program, as long as you live in the Edwardsburg Public School District. If you are selected as a court member and choose to leave the district for any reason other than going to a college in another town you will not be able to remain a court member. If a question of your residency is brought to the attention of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee, you will be expected to provide up to date proof of residency that meets the expectations of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee.

## **RESIDENCY HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE**

To be eligible to compete in the Miss/ Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant contestants must be a resident of the city/village that she/he will represent.

If not living within the boundary of the city/village, participants must live within the school district within the community. School of Choice (i.e. if you go to a school outside the local school district you actually live in) is not a consideration in the determination of residency.

Residency, for the purposes of determining eligibility to participate in the Miss/ Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant, is the physical local where the contestant actually lives. In situations where contestants have dual residences, it is the residence where the contestant sleeps the majority of the time. You must remain in the district for your entire reign unless going to college out of town.

If a challenge to a contestant's/ court members residency status is raised, it is the



contestant's burden to substantiate her/ his claim of residency to the satisfaction of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Committee. Driver's licenses, property tax records and any other evidence to support residency may be presented to the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Committee for the contestant's consideration of their residency status. This residency guideline is a Blossomtime Festival, Inc. policy and MUST be followed accordingly.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

You must be enrolled in Edwardsburg High School or a Graduate of Edwardsburg High School. If you are enrolled in school you must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Home school students are allowed to participate in the program. If your GPA is lower than 2.0 there must be extenuating circumstances and the committee will need to receive documentation on the circumstances, and approve participation.

The qualifications to participate also include the section "Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg/ Blossomtime Rules and Regulations" these rules cover both pageant preparation and if you become a court member.

## **Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg/ Blossomtime Rules and Regulations**

Courtesies: Many volunteers work many hours to insure the success of "The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Pageant, Blossomtime Festival and its events. There may be times when you feel that we are being overprotective. We are responsible for the young people that participate in the events and we take this job very seriously. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Punctuality: Everything you do with Miss Edwardsburg is on a strict time schedule. Promptness is a must! If circumstances arise always call the event coordinator ASAP!

Thank you notes: Throughout the pageant process there are many people who will help you along the way either through sponsors or volunteering to make this program a success. It is essential to send each of them a thank you. This includes (but not limited to) all sponsors (this includes the purchase of good luck ads and fundraiser purchases), Volunteers, and Committee Members (we enjoy hearing from you too). Many sponsors donate gifts for court members. You will be told who the gifts came from and it is essential to send them thank you notes. Purchasing the postage and thank you cards is the responsibility of the contestant. To ensure that thank you cards are sent out to sponsors, the completed, addressed and stamped thank you cards are to be turned in when you arrive for your interview segment with the judges. It is not necessary to address and stamp committee member thank you cards.

Language: Absolutely NO FOUL LANGUAGE will be tolerated.

Attitude: **that is detrimental to the well being of the entire group will be addressed on a one to one basis. If behavior continues your participation in the program will be reevaluated.**

Respect: For all is expected or the individual will be sent home. This includes the committee, volunteers, other contestants, and families of other contestants. If a former contestant, current or former court member, or family member of a contestant or court member has been disrespectful to the committee, court members, volunteers, contestants, or family member's then future participation in the program will not be allowed. If you are a current court member and disrespect and/or attitude becomes an issue you may not be allowed to complete your reign. Please be aware of your non-verbal communication skills such as: eye rolling, whispering in your neighbors' ear, doing something after you were asked specifically not to, etc.

On stage props: Onstage props of any kind are not allowed. This will mean immediate disqualification by the judges. Do not address the emcee unless the emcee addresses you first.

**Inappropriate kissing and touching will not be tolerated.**

Chaperones: You must have an adult chaperone at every event if you are under the age of 17. For safety reasons no one is allowed to wear their crown and banner without a chaperone present, or when driving by yourself.

Criminal Behavior: There cannot be any criminal convictions on your record (back ground checks are used). Some common examples are drunk driving, reckless driving, minor in possession of alcohol (MIP), minor in consumption of alcohol (MIC), shoplifting, malicious destruction of property, possession of drugs, or assault. There cannot be any juvenile adjunctions in juvenile court for any similar offense. Signing this agreement means that you understand, any conviction or juvenile adjunctions will disqualify you from participating in the competition. Further more you have continuing duty to notify the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee immediately in the event that you are charged with a criminal offense or petitioned into juvenile court for a similar offense; this is from the date that you sign your application through the completion of your reign on the Miss/ Mr. Edwardsburg, Miss/ Mr. Blossomtime Courts on pageant date of the following year if you make the court. Pending a resolution of criminal charges the Committee may suspend and/or discontinue your participation in Miss/ Mr. Edwardsburg activities. If you receive any criminal convictions during your reign, this will result in forfeiting your title, prizes, and any scholarships.

Moral Character: You must at all times remain in good moral character; not just at rehearsals or when wearing your crown and banner. When you are participating in the pageant or when you become a court member you are considered a role model in the community and must act accordingly. Any inappropriate behavior reported to the Committee will be reviewed with you and/or your parent/ guardian, and your participation in the program will be reconsidered. The Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee reserves the right to approve all applicants and court members and to determine without question eligibility to participate in the Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant.

Pregnancy/Marriage: If you are a female you represent that you are not now married, have never been married, and have never conceived a child. If you are a male, you represent that you are not now married, never have been married, and have never fathered a child. In either case if these conditions change then you must notify the Miss Edwardsburg Pageant Committee immediately and this will affect your participation. You cannot co-habit with your boyfriend or girlfriend at any time from the date you sign your application to the time you complete your reign.

Alcohol or Illegal Substances: The use of alcohol or illegal substances by participants is strictly prohibited and will be grounds for immediate dismissal. No warnings will be given. Any violation during pageant preparation and through out your reign would be cause for immediate dismissal from the program. If there are any allegations brought to the attention of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee they will be reviewed and acted upon.

Smoking: Smoking is prohibited during all Miss Edwardsburg and Blossomtime Festival functions and at all times while wearing your crown and banner and will be grounds for immediate dismissal. No warnings will be given. This is illegal for anyone under 18 therefore no Court Member should ever be in possession of any tobacco product at any time.

Cell phones, beepers and pagers: Cell phones, beepers and pagers are not allowed in the possession of participants when they are taking part in Miss/ Mr. Edwardsburg/Blossomtime events. Cell phones are for emergency use only. No texting is allowed while representing your community. Only one warning will be given.

Body piercing: Only one pair of earrings is allowed at any time for all Female Court Members. No earrings are allowed for Male Court Members. If you already have multiple piercing or facial piercing

they must be removed and remain removed at all times during your reign. Nose rings, tongue rings, lip rings, eye rings, cartilage rings or any other visible or facial piercing are not allowed at any time. You may not receive any further visible or facial piercing from application date through the completion of your reign providing you become a Court Member No warnings will be given.

Tattoos: All Court Members: Visible Tattoos are not allowed. If you already have tattoos they must be covered at all times. You may not receive any further tattoos from application date through the completion of your reign providing you become a Court Member NO WARNINGS.

Chewing gum: Gum chewing is **not allowed** during Miss Edwardsburg and Blossomtime events. No Warnings!

While representing your community: there will be no radios, headsets, laptops, or other electronic devices (unless cleared through chaperone).

All crowns, banners, pins, crown box: Unused portion of sponsorships, clothing purchased, etc. are the property of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee and are on loan to the Title Holder and can be requested back by the Committee at any time.

For privacy purposes, we cannot allow ANY Miss Edwardsburg pictures (even if you took it yourself) posted on ANY internet website.

Bold Colors in Hair: No bold colors or bold streaks of color are allowed in the hair. In addition all hair colors have to be a natural shade of color. For example: red can be a natural hair color but super bright red is not.

## PAPERWORK

The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee has paperwork that has to be turned in and deadlines that have to be met. Therefore we require that all of your paperwork be turned in prior to starting rehearsals, preferably at the Informational Meeting. Due to age restrictions, residential restrictions, and needing to be a student in good standing in school The Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee requires a copy of birth certificate, proof of address, and for High School Students a copy of current report card, listing current GPA. No progress reports will be accepted. These forms along with others must be turned in also before starting rehearsal. NO EXCEPTIONS.

There are items that The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will loan to each contestant to help with pageant preparation. The Committee will let you know when and if an item needs to be returned. If you don't have everything turned in by the deadline you will not be able to participate in the pageant. NO EXCEPTIONS!

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a very important part of the Miss Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Program. Your fundraising efforts support our program all year. The person who brings in the highest total in Sponsor, Good Luck Ad's, ticket sales, and fundraising money will win the Entrepreneur Award, and have a place on the Court of Honor if the committee approves the additional court member. Please keep in mind in order to be eligible to earn the Entrepreneur Award you must have a minimum \$500 in fundraising.

We have four different ways of fundraising:

Sponsorship: When an individual or company supports our program with a sponsorship the contestant will present us with the sponsor and information and if submitted properly by the deadline should be printed in our program. When a check is written from a company to sponsor our program multiple participating family members will need a check for each participant to

divide the sponsor credit equally. This will help keep our sponsorship information straight. If you receive a sponsor from someone other than a business, and the sponsor needs to write a check, have them write the check to the contestants parent and then the contestants parent will present us with cash or money order. Starting with the 2010 Pageant the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant will no longer accept personal checks for the total sponsor, only cash or money order will be accepted. **No exceptions due to previous hardships.**

*Ticket Sales:* Want to have your family and friends support the pageant program and help sell your way to the Entrepreneur Award? Ticket sales will help. You will be asked to sell a minimum number of tickets; this will be based on enrollment for the current year. Starting with the 2010 pageant Miss Edwardsburg will no longer accept personal checks for the total ticket sales, only cash or money orders will be accepted. **No exceptions due to previous hardships.**

*Good Luck Ads:* Want a family member friend or business to wish you luck and have it seen in print this is the way to do it. Sell your way to the Entrepreneur Award with Good Luck Ads. Turn in the Good Luck Ads just the way you want them and they will appear in our program on pageant night. Starting with the 2010 pageant Miss Edwardsburg will no longer accept personal checks for the total amount of Good Luck Ads only cash or money orders will be accepted. **No exceptions due to previous hardships.**

*Setting up your Good Luck Ad:* If you are sponsored by a business and they would like to see their business card in print please keep in mind that business cards may not be put in the smallest size ad, it is just too small. The middle size ad and larger ad are big enough. The business cards should be turned in with a full sheet of paper but not stapled to it, please use a paper clip. Staple marks in business cards will show up in printing and not look as nice. If a business writes a check for a sponsor it may not be split up into a good luck ad also. When a business writes a check it will need to be for the amount of one good luck ad only. This will help us keep our paperwork straight. When you are selling your GLA's please make sure you advise the pageant sponsor against putting too much information in one box; others will not be able to read it. If the pageant programs Good Luck Ads are turned in any other way than the requirements ask they will be returned for you to fix. No Good Luck Ads will be accepted past the deadline due to our strict printer deadline.

**Please note the following guidelines:**

1. Each contestant's ads will be grouped together in individual areas of the program listed by contestant number in an effort to help with accuracy; so work hard to sell those ads.
2. Every contestant/parent will be asked by a committee member to verify that there are no typos in the ad and that they are all accounted for before they go to print.
3. The Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will no longer be accepting checks due to difficulties in previous years resulting in a large loss to the program.
4. There are specific guidelines to turning in these program ads. Good Luck ads must be turned in typed; ads need to be separated by the dollar amount of the ads. These must be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman, and be handed in on a white sheet of 8 ½ x 11' paper. **No handwritten ads will be allowed.** There will not be any foul language or slang allowed in any of the ads.

Examples are as follows:

**\$15 Good Luck Ad**

Good Luck Shelby! Love Aunt Debbie

**\$25 Good Luck Ad**

Good Luck Ashley! We know you can do it! Love Mom & Dad

### **\$40 Good Luck Ad**

Good Luck Steve! You'll always be our wonderful little boy! We love you Mommy and Daddy!  
**THE MISS EDWARDSBURG YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT COMMITTEE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TYPOS IN YOUR AD WE PRINT THEM EXACTLY AS WE RECEIVE THEM.**

*Fundraiser:* Each year we encourage our contestants to participate in fundraiser sales. A portion of this sale will go toward your Entrepreneur totals. The fundraiser will go toward building the current year's float; participants will be asked to sell a minimum amount. This will be determined by enrollment of the current year. When the fundraiser information is handed out each contestant will be informed of the minimum number needed to sell. Starting with the 2010 pageant Miss/Mr Edwardsburg will no longer accept personal checks for the total fundraiser sales, only cash or money will be accepted. **No exceptions due to previous hardships.**

*Answers to common questions:*

1. Sponsor money cannot be separated into a Good Luck Ad also. All money turned in must be turned in must be either sponsor money or good luck money. i.e. if company x writes Miss Edwardsburg Pageant a check for \$100 for a sponsor then it is a sponsor and is not able to be split into a sponsor and a good luck ad, it cannot be split up into multiple good luck ads. If company x would like to have an ad in the program they can purchase one for the price of a Good Luck Ad. They must have another check written for the Sponsor.
2. If you have more than one contestant family member competing in the pageant you cannot put all contestant names in the good luck ad and have it go toward one contestant Entrepreneur Award totals it must be split between all contestants evenly. The other option would be to add up all of these "split ads" and divide the amount evenly between the contestants.
3. Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee can no longer accept personal checks. All monies given to the pageant has to be cash, money order, or business check. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.** You will be given a receipt for all money that is turned in.
4. We cannot allow Fundraiser Sales or Ticket Sales to count as minimum sponsor money.
5. Unfortunately we cannot print pictures in good luck ads. Sorry!!

The High School/College, Teen, Pre-Teen, and Prince-Princess contestants each have a different amount of minimum sponsor money that they must sell in order to participate in the program. The minimum sponsor money can only be sponsor money. The Minimum GLA money can only be GLA money.

## **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

Rehearsal is a very important part of the pageant preparation process. You will be provided with a list of rehearsal dates and times these are subject to change. You are expected to check your e-mail everyday including the day of rehearsal and before you leave for rehearsal to make sure there have not been any changes. We will update you as soon as we can to any changes that are made. Please be aware that as a committee we are working with several other people to make this pageant happen, sometimes things have to change at the last minute and are out of our control. Please use patience with us, we notify you of any changes ASAP.

*Arrival:* You should plan to be prompt to rehearsal because that is when you check in and turn in any fundraising monies. Participants must sign in at the table and pick up your name tag. You

should also plan on turning in all sponsor money at the beginning of rehearsal; you will not be able to turn in money after rehearsal begins.

Dress: Appropriate dress to rehearsal is dressy casual. Please no blue jeans at rehearsal unless otherwise stated by the committee.

Please be Respectful: During rehearsal you will need to work hard to learn your dance steps, walk and interview skills. You will be expected to work hard to learn these skills. Talking and being disrespectful during this time is not allowed. If this becomes a problem then you may be asked to leave rehearsal for the day and you will be responsible for what you need to learn. If the problem persists you could be dismissed from participating in the pageant program.

Pageant skills: Each year the pageant committee works hard to teach skills that you will need to confidently complete the pageant process. We try to have someone come in to teach you how to apply make up for the stage, proper make up for the interview, proper etiquette skills. This will help you in life and through the pageant process. Pre-Teen, Princess, and Prince Contestants do not participate in these workshops.

Practice at home: Even though we work hard during rehearsal to teach you everything that you need to learn; it is important to practice at home. These skills need to be practiced for a few minutes everyday at home.

## **PAGEANT PREPARATION**

Preparing for pageant is a very exciting and busy time. During this time the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee and its volunteers are working very hard to make this possible for you and your family to enjoy. Therefore the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee and its volunteers will appreciate your cooperation and dedication through this process.

- During Pageant Preparation there will be several rehearsals.
- During rehearsal you are expected to work hard and follow instructions.
- Check your e-mail everyday even on the day of rehearsals. Sometimes things have to change at the last minute that are out of the committees' control. Since e-mail is our only source of communication you must check your e-mail before you leave for rehearsal.

**IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MISS/MR EDWARDSBURG YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT COMMITTEE TO CALL YOU IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE US WITH AN E-MAIL ADDRESS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT UPDATES ON YOUR OWN. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU PROVIDE THE MISS/MR EDWARDSBURG YOUTH AND SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT COMMITTEE WITH AN E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

## **PAGEANT WARDROBE**

To help make your pageant experience go smoothly you should prepare the week before the pageant and double check the night before.

Please use this list as a guide to help you pack so that you don't forget anything.

Gown (in covered bag)	Glass slippers	suit (in covered bag)
Proper under garments	pantyhose (bring extra)	pumps for suit
Dance costumes	dance shoes	dance socks
Cosmetic bag	hair products	extra bobby pins
Personal hygiene products	plastic tote	

Please put your name, contestant number, and competition level on your tote. You don't

have to write on the tote a piece of paper taped on the tote will be sufficient. The tote will help keep you organized during the pageant production and give you space of your own.

Shoes: Glass slippers are required for High School and Teen Contestants. Glass Slippers are optional for Pre-Teen and Princess Contestants. Proper

## **FORMAL WEAR GUIDELINES**

All of the girls will need to wear a formal gown. The following are a group of guidelines to make the shopping process easier for you. When shopping please make sure that the dress is age appropriate for your child. Dress (wardrobe) approvals are done by a designated Committee Member on a designated date. There are not to be any changes to the dress (wardrobe) after final approval, unless specified by the Committee.

The dress doesn't have to be expensive: You are not judged on the style of dress that you wear. The dress must fit right for your body type and be age appropriate. There are plenty of beautiful dresses that don't cost a fortune to purchase.

Straps: All dresses must have either a sleeve or a strap for Pre-teens or Princesses No exceptions.

Length: High school and Teens your dress must be floor length. Floor length is recommended for the Pre-Teen and Princesses, if need be  $\frac{3}{4}$  length is acceptable.

Alterations: Even the most beautiful dress will not look right if it doesn't fit properly. If you don't know anyone who does clothing alterations please ask the committee for references.

Back of dress: The dress cannot be backless. If the dress has a lace up back there must be a piece of material under the lace called a panel sewn in the dress.

Young Men: All of the young men will need to wear a tux in the pageant. The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant committee has a tux shop that sponsors the young men of the program by giving them discounted tuxes. There will be a date designated that this will be taken care of. High School young men contestants will need to purchase a matching suit to wear during interview, (matching pants and jacket, shirt and tie - bright preferably, matching shoes and socks).

## **ABSENCE POLICY**

Everyone on the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Court and contestants are expected to attend all events as stated by the Committee. On occasion there may be times that you are unable to attend events. This policy will help you to deal with these occasions.

### **Excused Absences:**

A letter requesting an excused absence must be presented to the Miss Edwardsburg Committee/ Blossomtime office at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict. (Blossomtime only needs to be notified if you become a court member on the Blossomtime court.) The letter must be signed by 1. Community King/Queen or court member. 2. Her/His Parents 3. Community Chairperson. 4. The appropriate third party (coach, Doctor, etc.) After three excused absences, any further requests will be reviewed by the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Committee & or the Blossomtime Festival Board of Directors to determine if the participant is unable to fulfill his/her duties and whether removal from the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Pageant and or Miss/Mr. Blossomtime Court is in the best interest of the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Pageant and or Blossomtime Festival. There will not be any excused absences given during your Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg/ Blossomtime Pageant related events or rehearsals. As indicated by the committee.

### **Unexcused Absences:**

Unexcused Absences will be reported to and dealt with by the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg pageant and or Blossomtime Festival Board of Directors (if you are a Blossomtime court member only). After two unexcused absences you will be reported to and dealt with the Miss Edwardsburg Pageant Committee to see if your continued involvement is in the best interest of the organization. Any unused prizes, sponsorships, scholarships will be reviewed for consideration by the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee as your guidelines have not been met accordingly to receive the above items. All situations will be handled on a case by case basis as deemed necessary by the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee during your current and/or remaining reign in the existing year. For all involved clear information/ the above information must be handled immediately for all parties to be able to support each other. All communication must be in writing or e-mail not phones calls to committee members.

When we are building our float court members/parents must attend three hours of scheduled work time each week. Scheduled work times usually from 1-4 or 3-6 on Sunday's. If a court member is *occasionally* unable to attend a float work day and would like to send a parent in her/his place that is fine. However, to receive your scholarship, the parent cannot replace the court member on float work days. If the court member is working then they must submit a signed work schedule by your employer. Also, we have given a substantial amount of time to request the time off for the six week float project and court members should work on other days of the week to honor their commitment to our program if at all possible. (If workday minimums are not met, the court member has not met community service expectations needed for a scholarship to be awarded; in all fairness to the whole group involved). These policies are in place so that to be fair for all involved.

## **DRESS CODE**

As a representative, you are a role model; your appearance at events is critical. Every event will have a dress code.

Princess and Court of Honor: You are not allowed to wear make up to any event. This includes pageant day. If you show up wearing makeup you will be asked to remove it; if the request is refused then you will not be allowed to participate in the event. In addition, no bold nail colors will be allowed

Pre-teen and Court of Honor- It is preferred that Pre-Teens do not wear any make up. However, if the parent agrees the Pre-Teen may wear light make up. For example: light power, light colored lip gloss. ABSOLUTLY NO: foundation and powder, eyeliner, eye shadow, dark colored lipstick or gloss, dark blush is allowed during Pageant preparation, Pageant Day, or Court Member event. If too much make up is worn you will be asked to remove; if the request is refused then you will not be allowed to participate in the event. In addition, no bold nail colors are allowed.

Pageant preparation: No Jeans, shorts, tennis shoes, (unless it is part of your costume or otherwise stated by the committee). Dress pants and dress shirt preferred.

Skirts: May be no more than 2" above the middle of the kneecap—measured from the waist.

**\*Failure to comply with this rule will result in not being able to participate in function.**

Miss Edwardsburg/Blossomtime Suit definition: A two piece bright colored suit that includes a coat and skirt that match in color and fabric. A "dress" and jacket combination will not be



acceptable.

Slips: Are required unless the skirt or dress is lined.

Hose: Are always required. Nude (sheer toe)

One piece swim suits Only swimsuit style is acceptable.

Shoes: Pumps are appropriate. No open toed/sling backed dress shoes. No sandals, slides, thongs, or Mary Jane type shoes. Clear plastic pageant shoes may be worn *only* with pageant gowns.

Pant suits: (matching jacket and pants) may be worn to **specified events only**.

Crowns and Banners: Always wear your crown and banner to every event (except float building).

Make-up: (like that worn for interviews) For High School and Teens is a must for all events.

Nails: should be uniform in length, clean and polished in an appropriate color (fresh polish, no chips or broken nails).

Bras: (including those sewn into gowns) should be worn at all times

Float attire: Miss Edwardsburg and her court wear formal gowns, hose, heels, crown, and banner. Mr. Edwardsburg and his court wear suits or a coat, shirt and tie, dress slacks and shoes.

No ponytail holders or hairclips: (unless wearing an approved decorative one) hair must be fixed at all functions, no wet hair, no straight hair. Hair must be neat and queen—like. Straight hair or bobby-pinned hair is not appropriate.

Mr. Edwardsburg and Courts:

Make sure that your clothes are clean and pressed. Clean shaven, and no earrings, no makeup.

Float attire: Suit, tie, dress shirt, dress pants, dress shoes.

Tour week: Suit, tie, dress shirt, dress pants, dress shoes.

No athletic shoes: Are allowed with the above.

Suits and sports coats: Are preferable for Mr. Edwardsburg and Court members.

No Speedos or thongs: Are allowed for Blossomtime or Miss/Mr Edwardsburg related events.

Crown and Banner: Wear it unless instructed not to.

Any exceptions of the above dress code will be addressed in the section pertaining to specific events.

ALL COURT MEMBERS:

No bare midriffs will be allowed. **Crowns and banners are NOT to be worn with jeans or shorts.** You can not wear your crown and banner without approval from the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee. (This means you may not make a personal appearance for example: attending a restaurant in sweats or jeans in crown and banner.)

THERE WILL BE NO WARNINGS REGARDING DRESS CODE.

THESE THINGS SIMPLY WILL **NOT** BE WORN. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

## COMPLAINTS

From time to time you may have a complaint about a committee member or volunteer. There is a process that must be followed regarding any complaint. Please do not turn to other people/parents/fellow participants in the community or other court members to discuss your concerns. Politely go to that person privately and discuss your concerns. If you feel that the situation has not been resolved please put your complaint in writing to the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg/Blossomtime Chairperson for review and your situation will be addressed at an appropriate time outside of rehearsals. Rehearsals are set aside for the youth and their pageant preparation.

## PRESS

Miss/Mr Edwardsburg or any member of the court of Honor (including Teens, Pre-Teens, Princesses and Princes) (or anyone representing the court member i.e. parents, family, or friends etc.) may not at any time or under any circumstances, give written or verbal interviews with any media representative regarding any aspect of the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Pageant, Committee and/or Blossomtime activities. It is clearly understood that the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee Chairperson or authorized Committee Member will handle all media communication. **(No Exceptions)**

## AFTER YOU BECOME A COURT MEMBER

If you are crowned a member of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Court of Honor you will have a commitment for about a one year period. At all times when wearing your crown and banner you will need to be chaperoned by a Parent/Guardian or Pageant Committee member. You will be expected to attend certain events as deemed necessary by the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee. These events are listed at the end of this handbook, and include Blossomtime activities and Miss Edwardsburg activities.

If you are chosen as Miss Edwardsburg, Mr. Edwardsburg, Mr. Edwardsburg 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up you will get to represent our community at the Miss/Mr. Blossomtime Pageant in March of the upcoming year. This will require a commitment on your part to prepare for the pageant. The Chairperson will guide you through the preparation process.

## AWARDS AND GIFTS

Most awards are given out at the end of your reign. All Scholarships are awarded upon the successful completion of your reign; this will be decided upon by the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee. In order to claim the scholarship you must notify the college or university (admissions office) where you are enrolled. Ask them to send a letter to our P.O. Box stating that you have been admitted and are currently enrolled as a student for the current term. Included in the letter should also be a name and address of who and where to send the scholarship dollars. Awards will be granted after the successful completion of your reign and all information is received. **Please contact us well before your next semester tuition is due.** You will have 2 years after the completion of your reign to collect your scholarship otherwise it is returned to the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Funds. When you receive a gift you will be informed of whom or which business gave the gift, so you can send thank you cards for these gifts.

## APPROVAL OF APPEARANCES

- A. The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will approve all appearances for the courts each year. If there are requests for the same day/time or any special cases the Committee will decide which event to attend.
- B. Miss Edwardsburg Royalty shall not promote any commercial products, stores, events, etc. without the prior approval of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee.
- C. Blossomtime events will have precedence over other requests.
- D. Certain events that Miss Edwardsburg/Blossomtime have participated in for a number of years can provide a wide scope of local exposure and may take precedence over other

requests.

E. Every effort will be made to support as many community events as possible.

## **TRANSPORTATION ADDENDUM**

Depending on the location of the event, the Edwardsburg Administration Building (parking area in front of the parked buses) is the central meeting place. Court members that are licensed drivers may drive to the meeting place or event. Please understand that even though you are driving yourself all pageant rules are in effect, including (but not limited to) No Smoking, Drinking Alcohol, Chewing Gum, or having additional riders in your car unless previously authorized. We insist that crowns and banners are not worn when driving alone or alone with other court members; only in the presence of a committee authorized chaperone. Please be advised that The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will not be responsible for transporting any court member to any event. It is the responsibility of the participant and the parent/guardian to arrange for all transportation for their court member. If in the event that your child and/or their parent is transported by a court member, committee member, or a court member parent; the parent must write a letter of consent and release the driver, owner of the vehicle of all liability.

## **BUILDING THE FLOAT**

Every year beginning in late January (Planning meetings) through the end of April at least one parent and each court member will be required to attend float planning meeting(s) or work on the float, for a minimum of three hours every Sunday. The Float Coordinators may decide to have extra work days toward the end to finish up some last minute details. This is not an optional event and everyone will be held to our attendance policy. Refusal to show up to work on the float will result in dismissal from the program. This is not considered play time, however it is a fun time filled with memories created each day you are there to work on the float; if this becomes a problem there will be disciplinary action.

## **EXITING THE PROGRAM**

After Pageant Process: Please know that if you leave the program after the pageant process and before the end of your reign either by your choice or by request of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee please be aware:

- The crown and banner that you received when you won are property of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Program. If you leave the program before the end of your reign, you must return your crown and banner immediately upon request from the Committee.
- All scholarships are given at the end of your reign. If High School/College Court members don't complete the reign for ANY reason you will not receive your scholarship.
- All prizes that were not given at the time of exit from the program will not be given.
- All prizes that have already been received by the court member at the time of exit from the program *are to be returned to the program immediately* upon request of the Committee.
- You will not receive a refund of any Entry Money, Background check fees, costume fees Sponsor, Good Luck Ad, Ticket Sales, or Fundraiser money that has been turned into the program.

## **THERE ARE ABSOLUTLY NO EXPECTATIONS TO THIS RULE.**

Completion of your Reign: To complete your reign you must fully participate in the following years' pageant. You may be excused from participating in a few extenuating circumstances, including being a contestant in the pageant.

## **PREVIOUS CONTESTANTS AND COURT MEMBERS**

It is a great honor when former contestants and court members return to compete in the program. However, there are requirements to resuming participation in the program. If a parent and/or child would like to return to the program former participation for BOTH parent and child will be considered prior to allowing a return to the program. The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee will review prior participation and if found non-compliant to the rules and regulations of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Program a vote for denial of the application would take place. If you are a former court member you must have successfully completed your reign with full cooperation to participate in the program again.

## **BLOSSOMTIME ACTIVITIES**

As a representative of the Community of Edwardsburg you will be required to attend certain Blossomtime Activities. The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee is not responsible to provide transportation to and from these events. There are Blossomtime activities that are attended by the Queen and King only and some events that all courts can/or will attend as mandatory or optional events.

Miss/Mr. Blossomtime Pageant: The Queen, King and 1<sup>st</sup> runner up to the King will participate in this pageant. Therefore you should plan to attend to support your local representatives. Attendance will be mandatory for the High School Court and the Teen courts. We do expect that everyone else (on the preliminary courts) will try to attend at least one night.

Coronation Ball: The ball is held to present the current Southwest Michigan Royalty and celebrate together. This is a formal dinner dance. You may bring an escort, your family, or other friends. This is a mandatory event for all courts. Queens will need an adult male escort (usually a dad) for their royal introduction. All Court group photos are taken at this event for a fee per Blossomtime Festival Inc. Please make sure you are looking your very best.

Shrine Tour: This event is for Blossomtime Court members only. Held in April – Chartered Bus

Farm Tour: This event is for Queens and Mr. Blossomtime and his court only - Held in April.

Lansing tour: Miss Blossomtime and all Community Queens, Mr. Blossomtime and his court will attend this event and be guests of our area legislators. Held in April – Chartered Bus.

Tour Week: This event is for all Blossomtime Queens and Mr. Blossomtime and his court. This is a hotel stay beginning last Sunday in April and ending on the following Wednesday evening.

Blessing of the Blossoms: This is the official opening (non-denominational religious ceremony) of the Blossomtime festival. The event is held at 2 p.m. on a Sunday at the Southwest Michigan Research & Extension Center. Queens, Kings, Miss Teen Blossomtime and Buds are required to bring a **bouquet of fruit blossoms tied with a ribbon** to this event. This is a Mandatory event.

Mayor's Banquet: Held on Tuesday evening during good will tour week. The Community Mayor/Village Council Members, Queens, Miss Blossomtime and her court, Mr. Blossomtime and his court and all Blossomtime Chairpersons will need to attend this event.

Youth Parade: The Bud Prince and Princess are Grand Marshals in this parade. This is the final

event of Tour Week. All Blossomtime Royalty, Miss Teen Blossomtime and her Royalty will participate. All courts are invited to participate in the parade as a group, however it is not mandatory.

Pre Parade Pasta Party: This is mandatory for the Blossomtime Courts. Community Queens are encouraged to attend.

Run/walk for the Buds: This is a 5K Run and Walk. Begins in St. Joseph and follow the parade route to Benton Harbor and back. This event is held on Grand Floral Parade Day in May. Entry forms are available at the YMCA or the festival office.

Grand Floral Parade: This is the first parade of the year, and is always held the first Saturday in May—Rain or shine. This is a mandatory event for all courts.

Blossomtime Fashion show: This is a mandatory event for the Queen and her court. Optional event for the Teen court members/Parents.

## MISS EDWARDSBURG ACTIVITIES

Each year Miss Edwardsburg Courts will make a number of appearances at the local level along with the Blossomtime events. You will receive information as the year progresses about these events. Some of these events are not mandatory for all courts.

Visit Cass County Council on Aging: This is a mandatory event for the High School Court members. This event usually takes place during a school day. This is an excused absence and will not count against your attendance record if the school receives prior notice. You and your parent are responsible for writing a Letter of Absence and delivering it to the school prior to the date of the event. Please get any homework in advance if possible per the schools request.

Read at the local Elementary School: This event is mandatory for all court members. You will attend the Primary school and the Eagle Lake School (1/2 days at each school) and read to the students. This too will occur during the school day. This will be an excused absence that will not count against your attendance record with the school's prior approval. You and your parent are responsible for writing a Letter of Absence and delivering it into the school prior to the date of the event to make them aware of the activity. Please get any homework in advance if possible per the schools request. Please bring money for lunch at a local restaurant in between Schools.

Deliver flowers to Nursing Homes: Usually this event is held on the weekend (usually on the Saturday) before Easter and Mother's Day two courts will go to each date as decided by the committee. This is a special time for the patients who enjoy our kids and it is a special event for the court members to grow and learn from.

Participate in local Relay for Life Program: The Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant will actively participate in Relay for Life. This will be a mandatory event for all court members. Court members/Parents will be responsible for getting sponsors to donate to relay. We also hope to hold a fundraising event to help reach our donation goals. More information will come as the event nears.

Attend Local Memorial Day activities: This is the courts day to shine. This is a mandatory event for all court members. You should plan on being busy most of your day. The day will kick off with a parade, and end with the court being present during the Memorial Day Activities. Each year the village reps and the chamber of Commerce have requested that we stay until 2:30pm. More information will come as the event nears. Please request the day off and don't ask for an early departure time. Parents we need your help with the float wrap up and the festival booth set-up and take down. **Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.**

Build Float: This is a mandatory event for all courts. Each court member and a parent will need

to be at the float worksite for a minimum of 3 hours every Sunday for approximately a 6 week period. The dates will be given as the time draws near.

Attend following year pageant: Unless you are participating in the pageant (as a contestant) you must attend and participate in the pageant rehearsals at the end of your reign. If possible, you will get to crown your successor and participate in a final dance with your court. If existing court members do not participate in this event willingly and with full cooperation than they will not have completed the reign and risk losing scholarship funds and or the ability to participate in our community service Pageant program in the future. **Unless previously approved in writing by the committee for an out of town court member in college.**

It is the responsibility of the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee to protect the integrity of the pageant, and fairness to contestants, queen/ king, and court of honor. Any decisions made reflect that responsibility. We must be honest with each other throughout this year in order to build the relationship that's needed for this year to be a success and enjoyable for everyone involved. The Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee is an organization based entirely on volunteers. We work very hard to make this an enjoyable experience for your family and hope you do the same for us. We will respect each of you and expect the same respect be given to us. Please be advised, that by signing our contract you are also agreeing to indemnify and hold harmless the Miss/Mr Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee, and all volunteers, from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, losses, liabilities, cost, damages and expenses, including but not limited to reasonable legal and attorneys fees and expenses incurred by the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee and all volunteers which arise out of, or are related or incidental to the Miss/Mr. Edwardsburg Youth and Scholarship Pageant Committee.

## HISTORY OF THE BLOSSOMTIME FESTIVAL IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN 1906 – 2010

Host Communities: Benton Harbor and St. Joseph

As early as 1891 local area business interests took a pro active role in attracting visitors to Southwestern Michigan with their promotion in the Chicago market. With the Graham and Morton Steamship Company offering special rates, hundreds of visitors made the lake crossing by boat to enjoy the orchard tours.

Influenced by a growing agricultural industry, in 1906 Rev. W.J. Cady of the First Congregational Church in Benton Harbor was the first to urge his parishioners to drive through the orchards and view the fruit blossoms. Cady termed them “symbols of life renewed” and his sermon is credited with the birth of the Blossomtime Festival.

The Southwest corner of Michigan has long been regarded as a premier fruit growing region by consumers, manufacturers and chefs. The rich sandy loam soil, moderate spring temperature from the close proximity to Lake Michigan and the tempering effect on summer by the lake contribute to produce fruit and vegetables of exceptional cosmetic appearance and superior taste. The area has long been known for flavorful peaches, sweet Niagara grapes, a wide variety of apples, melons, vine ripened tomatoes and tart cherries. This diversity continues to expand into even more vegetable crops along with a recent surge in specialty wine grapes with local wineries producing selections for every taste.

In 1923, a local fruit processor, Fred L. Granger, and the Reverend Joshua O. Randall conceived the idea of a floral parade to promote the expanding local business. They secured assistance from the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and the Exchange Club. Initially, the publicity consisted of the circulation of a decorated truck around Chicago’s “loop” inviting people to come to southwest Michigan. The first Grand Floral Parade was held on a Wednesday afternoon. The second parade was held on May 14, 1924. It included 30 floats, two marching bands and hundreds of private automobiles, which made a tour of the new “Blossom lanes” of Southwest Michigan.

Also in 1924, Catherine Burell of Benton Harbor was chosen by newspaper ballots to reign as the first Blossomtime Queen. In subsequent years communities began to hold their out contests selecting queens to represent them in a collective pageant for the title of Miss Blossomtime. In 2009, 24 communities held preliminary contests and Jessica Lenardson of St. Joseph was named the 77<sup>th</sup> Miss Blossomtime. Zach Devereaux of Buchanan was named the 13<sup>th</sup> Mr. Blossomtime. The 2010 Miss Blossomtime and Mr. Blossomtime Pageants will be held March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

The festival temporarily ceased in 1943 with the advent of World War II. In 1951 the St. Joseph and Benton Harbor Chamber of Commerce created Blossomtime, Inc., a non-profit organization of some 75 members governed by a board of directors. The first post-war parade in 1952 attracted approximately 105,000 spectators who viewed 56 units.

The festival today is a volunteer organization governed by a 25-board of directors, a full time Executive Director and a part time assistant. In 2001 they added a non-profit corporation called the Blossomtime Scholarship Fund which will award over \$10,500 in scholarships this year.

Held on the first Saturday in May, the Grand Floral Parade now last some two hours and boasts over 125 units including floats, bands, clowns, costumed characters, antique cars and tractors and many other special units including the famed Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team celebrating their 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive appearance leading the parade. Participants and spectators come from all over the Midwest. The parade now hosts 250,000 spectators annually. It is telecast live regionally by WNDU Television the NBC affiliate from South Bend, IN, and is broadcast by WSJM radio of Benton Harbor, and receives coverage by many newspapers and magazines.

*The Blossomtime Festival is the oldest and largest multi-Community festival in the state of Michigan.*

*This year marks its "104 Celebration" 1906-2010 with a fun filled week of wholesome family entertainment.*

*Hope you get to join with us in celebrating our beautiful Southwestern Michigan.*