

Miss Hardee County
Eligibility Rules

1. Must be a student of Hardee Senior High or a student residing in Hardee County enrolled in a private or home school at the end of her junior year. Each contestant must be of good moral character and have a 2.0 on a 4.0 grade scale and for those enrolled in a private or home school must have a 60% or higher on the Total Battery or total composite on a recently administered test. Each contestant must be at least seventeen years of age.
2. After the initial meeting and deadline period to be established prior to the Christmas break, the number of senior participants is to be determined. If the number of competing seniors falls below ten, the pageant will be opened to juniors qualifying according to credits and GPA.
3. A junior, who wins the pageant earning the title of Miss Hardee County, will be ineligible to participate in the pageant the following year; however, any junior member of the court may elect to participate the following year.
4. Be willing to meet with people and have an interest in Hardee County and be knowledgeable regarding its industries and community activities.
5. Agree, if selected, to be available for personal appearances during the year she holds the title of Miss Hardee County.
6. Understand that the Miss Hardee County Committee must sanction all appearances.
7. Agree, if selected, to enter no other pageants without the approval of the Miss Hardee County Committee.
8. Display a positive attitude regarding Hardee County and do all in her power to promote a positive image of Hardee County.
9. If an outgoing queen would like to participate in the opening portion of the pageant they must have their attire approved by the committee. This will eliminate the possibility of any wardrobe malfunction.
10. Contestants must be single and have never been married. If selected as Miss Hardee County, the contestant must agree to remain single during the year of her reign. Should the winning candidate marry, the crown will be relinquished to the first runner-up and agree if requested to return all prizes.
11. Contestants must never have had a criminal record. Contestants must have no children or never have been pregnant. This must also be the case during her reign as Miss Hardee County or again, she will be asked to relinquish the crown.
12. Each contestant must have a sponsor willing to pay a \$50.00 contestant fee. If the contestant is unable to find a sponsor the committee will assist her.
13. Each contestant must have an entry form filled out properly and signed by all parties. This form and the contestant information form will be turned in at the specified date on the MHS calendar.
14. Upon the receipt of the official entry forms, each contestant must abide by the rules of the Miss Hardee County Contest.
15. Judging will be based on poise, personality, and overall appearance in swimsuit, casual wear and evening gown. Interview will consist of poise, personality, sense of humor, knowledge of current events and Hardee County, as well as the ability to carry on a conversation. The judges will select:
 - Miss Hardee County
 - 1st runner-up, 2nd runner-up
 - 3rd runner-up, 4th runner-upThe contestants will select Miss Congeniality. Miss internet Photogenic and Miss Photogenic will be selected by out of county judges and is sponsored by a local photographer.
16. Individual contestants will be judged on the following.
 - Meeting deadlines for forms and clothing as well as cooperation and attendance and participation as practices.
 - Casual Wear, Evening Gown, Bathing Suit, Interview

17. Contestants should attend all practices. The committee accepts that many contestants will be involved in extra-curricular activities and sports. These are excused absences. Contestants who are employed must submit a work schedule at the first practice and may not miss more than a total of three practices without points being deducted. The practice prior to the pageant is mandatory unless a district or regional sporting activity and/or contest prevents the contestant from attending.
18. On the evening of the pageant, no one who has not been approved by the pageant committee is allowed backstage. Parents may assist in dropping off clothes and supplies; however they may not stay backstage during the competition.
19. The Miss Hardee County committee will be the screening committee to determine a candidate's eligibility. Each contestant agrees to this with the signing of the entry form. The Miss Hardee County committee has the right to modify and interpret the rules and regulations.
20. Each contestant should choose appropriate clothing for the stage. NO midriffs can show at any time. Hemlines should be no more than four inches above the top of the knee and slits may be no more than six inches above the top of the knee. The cut of the neckline may be no lower than where the natural bust line would be measured. Absolutely no curvature of the breast may show on the inside or outside the bust up under the arm.
21. Any contestant participating in the pageant may not have any offensive pictures or use offensive language on any social networking page. If a picture/language is presented it will be brought up before the Fair Board and that contestant may not be allowed to participate in the pageant.
22. A pre-pageant score will be calculated into the final score and will impact the final outcome. This score will be calculated as a percentage, but will be determined by the following point system:
 - Each contestant will be awarded one point for attending each practice. Attendance will be taken at 3:45. Points will not be awarded to those who are tardy. Your attendance affects every contestant.
 - Leaving early unless for an athletic or school sponsored event will result in a point being subtracted.
 - Each contestant will be awarded three points for meeting clothes deadlines and being approved.
 - Contestants changing an approved outfit after the deadline will have five points deducted from her score.
 - Each contestant will be awarded three points for turning in paper work and sponsor fee on the deadline indicated on the MHC Calendar.
 - Contestants and/or parents displaying poor attitudes towards their peers or the committee will have three points deducted from their score on each occasion that such behavior is evident. This deduction will be at the determination of the pageant chairperson and the contestant will be informed that such a deduction has been made.

The contestants, parents, and sponsors acknowledge these rules by signing the entry form and agree that they will abide by the terms stated.

The Hardee County Fair Association and the Miss Hardee County Committee reserve the right to cancel the Miss Hardee County Pageant anytime without prior notice.

SCORING

Judge scoring will be as follows:	Interview	30 possible points per judge
	Bathing Suit	15 possible points per judge
	Casual Wear	15 possible points per judge
	Evening Gown	20 possible points per judge
	Top Ten Questions	20 possible points per judge

Pre Pageant Score: 35 possible points per contestant added to total judge's score.

Total points will determine the Top Five contestants.

Final Question ranking is based on overall impression of each judge.

Queen and Runner-ups are then determined.