

Musky Festival Queen's Scholarship Program FAQ

Q: What is the Musky Queen?

A: The Musky Queen is a young woman selected from a group of candidates during the Hayward Musky Festival Queen's Scholarship Program. A judges' luncheon takes place on Thursday of Musky Festival weekend, and the crowning ceremony is held Friday evening. One candidate is chosen as Queen, along with a First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up who serve as ambassadors for the Hayward area for one year by participating in parades, attending community events, and volunteering throughout the area.

Q: What is required to become a Musky Queen candidate?

A: Candidates begin by attending an informational meeting with a parent or guardian and completing an application which includes a written essay, two letters of recommendation, and signed contract. Candidates sell Musky Festival buttons, and participate in a photo shoot along with other events the week of Musky Festival.

Q: How is the Musky Queen selected?

A: The Musky Queen is selected by a panel of volunteer judges from the Hayward Area community. Judges evaluate candidates based on several factors, including their written essay, communication skills, confidence and attitude during interviews and on stage during coronation, interactions with others involved in the program, and their response to the impromptu question.

Q: What happens on the day of the crowning?

A: On Friday of Musky Festival, candidates assist with the presentation of the Mini, Little Miss, and Junior Musky Candidates in the afternoon and volunteer for the Watermelon Eating Contest. During the evening crowning ceremony, each candidate is introduced by a local emcee, demonstrates poise and confidence on stage, and answers an impromptu question.

Q: Are there awards other than Musky Queen?

A: Yes. In addition to the Musky Queen title, First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up are also recognized during the crowning ceremony.

Q: What scholarships or prizes are awarded?

A: The Musky Queen receives a \$1,300 scholarship, awarded after completing two semesters of post-secondary education and applied to the college of her choice.

The First Runner-Up receives an \$900 scholarship.

The Second Runner-Up receives a \$700 scholarship.

All other participants receive \$200 in scholarship funds.

The candidate who sells the most Musky Festival buttons receives a \$100 Chamber Bucks prize.

Q: What are the responsibilities of all candidates during Musky Festival weekend?

A: All candidates, regardless of who is crowned Queen, are expected to attend the judges' luncheon on Thursday, volunteer at least three hours downtown on Friday and/or Saturday, and ride on the Musky Festival float during the Grand Parade on Sunday afternoon.

Q: What are the responsibilities after the festival?

A: The Musky Queen Court consists of the Queen, First Runner-Up, and Second Runner-Up. All crowned candidates are expected to participate in parades throughout the year. Some public appearances and events are reserved for the Queen, while others may involve the full court. The specific list of appearances is outlined in the program schedule and may vary each year. The contract also details expectations and any penalties for missing required events.