

Musky Queen Scholarship Program Contract Details

The Musky Festival Scholarship Program has been a valued tradition of the Musky Festival in Hayward, Wisconsin since 1950. The program recognizes students who serve as ambassadors for the Musky Festival and the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce (HACC), while supporting their educational and leadership development.

Participants in the program are honored representatives of the Hayward community. As such, they are expected to uphold standards of conduct that reflect positively on the Musky Festival, the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce, and the community at large. The guidelines outlined below are designed to preserve the integrity of the program, reflect the values of HACC, increase public trust and visibility, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the scholarship program for future generations.

The Musky Festival Scholarship Program provides educational assistance to young people pursuing academic and career advancement. The program recognizes qualities such as honesty, good character, leadership, responsibility, sound judgment, and community involvement, and offers participants the opportunity to serve as positive role models for their peers.

A. Eligibility

- The contestant must be a student who will begin their sophomore, junior, or senior year at a Hayward-area high school in the September following the 2026 Musky Festival.
- The contestant will be ineligible to participate in program-related activities or appearances if they have received one or more failing grades in their most recent grading period (quarter or semester). This requirement aligns with Hayward Community School District co-curricular eligibility standards.
- The contestant must have a school attendance record in good standing.
- A contestant who is suspended from school will be ineligible to attend program-related events for the duration of the suspension.
- The contestant should have prior experience volunteering in the community, school, or faith-based organizations.
- The contestant must not have a pending felony charge and must not have been convicted of a felony.
- The contestant must demonstrate good character and personal responsibility.
- A contestant may participate in the program more than once until they receive the title of Musky Festival Queen. Once crowned Queen, they are no longer eligible to participate in future years.

B. Requirements for All Contestants, Court Members, and the Musky Festival Queen

- To be considered for participation, each contestant must submit the following: A completed profile, at least two letters of recommendation from non-family members, an original, one-page essay on leadership describing how the contestant would represent the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce and Musky Festival.
- Contestants must comply with the conduct and dress standards outlined in Section D while attending or participating in any event or appearance representing HACC or Musky Festival.
- All contestants are expected to attend all required program events, including meetings and designated festival activities prior to crowning.
(Review Schedule of Events)
- Members of the crowned Musky Festival Court (Queen, First Runner-Up, and Second Runner-Up) are required to attend events marked. (Review Schedule of Events)
- The crowned Musky Festival Queen is required to attend all events. (Review Schedule of Events)
- Contestants must respond to phone calls, text messages, or emails from the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce or designated committee representatives within 24 hours.

C. Public Appearances

- Contestants agree to be available for public appearances, interviews, promotional activities, photography, video recording, and related engagements during their year of service, as requested by the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce, in addition to scheduled events.
- Contestants may not represent the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce or Musky Festival at any event without prior approval from HACC.
- Once a commitment is accepted, the contestant is expected to attend the full duration of the event. If a commitment cannot be fulfilled, timely communication is required, and additional volunteer service may be assigned.
- Contestants are responsible for obtaining accurate details regarding their participation in scheduled events.
- The Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to revoke scholarship funds and/or titles if a contestant fails to fulfill public appearance obligations without reasonable cause.

D. Dress, Appearance, and Professional Presentation Standards

- Contestants are expected to present themselves in a professional, respectful, and community-appropriate manner at all times when representing the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce and Musky Festival.
- Official clothing and accessories provided by the Musky Festival Scholarship Program or the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce must be worn as directed and coordinated consistently during designated appearances. (Review Schedule of Events for Attire)
- When official clothing is not provided, attire should be neat, comfortable, and suitable for the specific event or setting, allowing contestants to participate confidently and safely. (Review Schedule of Events for Attire)
- Clothing, accessories, or messages that are offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate for a family-friendly community event are not permitted.
- Footwear appropriate to the activity and setting must be worn at all times.
- Appearance standards are intended to support inclusivity, dignity, and confidence for all participants, while maintaining a unified and positive public image for the program.

E. Conduct and Removal from the Musky Festival Court

- Contestants are expected to uphold high standards of personal conduct and to act in a manner that reflects positively on Musky Festival, the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce, and the community.
- A contestant may be removed from participation due to ineligibility or conduct concerns. Removal for conduct-related reasons is at the discretion of the HACC Board of Directors.
- Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to: a. Possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products. b. Behavior that undermines the integrity or reputation of the program, including: (1) Disorderly conduct as defined by state law. (2) Theft or vandalism. (3) Disruptive or inappropriate behavior at program events. (4) Disrespectful or harmful behavior toward authority figures, fellow contestants, volunteers, or members of the public. (5) Harassment, bullying, hazing, or discriminatory conduct. (6) School or athletic suspension. (7) Inappropriate or harmful use of social media or digital platforms that reflects on the program.
- If the Musky Festival Queen is unable to fulfill her duties or becomes ineligible, the First Runner-Up will assume the role. If the First Runner-Up is unable to do so, the Second Runner-Up will assume the role for the remainder of the term.

- Upon removal, the contestant must return all program materials, awards, and Musky Festival property within 24 hours.

F. Scholarships, Titles, Awards & Gifts

- The titles of Musky Festival Queen, First Runner-Up, Second Runner-Up, will be eligible for scholarship awards to be used at an accredited institution of higher education selected by the contestant, subject to the terms outlined below. 1. Musky Festival Queen: ~\$1,300 2. First Runner-Up: ~\$900 3. Second Runner-Up: ~\$700 a. Scholarship amounts will vary based on available funding, including donations and proceeds from Musky Festival button sales. b. The Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to adjust scholarship amounts annually and may award additional scholarships at its discretion.
- Participation gifts will be presented to all contestants at the Queen's Luncheon.
- Scholarship funds will be released only if the following conditions are met: a. The contestant has successfully completed their year of service and met all requirements outlined in Sections B and/or C. b. Within 40 months of high school graduation, the contestant has completed at least two semesters at an accredited institution of higher education. c. The contestant has submitted proof of continued enrollment. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution upon receipt of appropriate documentation.