

2026 Musky Fest Queen's Scholarship Program Application & Contract

Deadline May 18, 2026. Please attach 2 References and Essay with your application.
Questions? Email robyn@haywardareachamber.com or call 715-634-8662

Applicant's Full Name

Email

Applicant's Phone Number

Parent/Guardian's(s) Name(s):

Please include both parents full names if applicable.

Parent/Guardian's(s) Phone Number:

Parent/Guardian's(s) Email:

Birth Date & Age:

Grade Entering for the 26-27 School Year:

School Attending:

T-Shirt Size:

Academic Achievements:

ex. Awards, Honors, etc.

School Involvement:

ex. Sports, Clubs, Extra-curricular activities

Community Involvement:

ex. Volunteering, Church (*list min. of three*)

Employment Experience:

Past and Present

Hobbies:

(*list min. of three*)

Plans/Goals for after High School:

Why would you like to be the next Musky Festival Queen?

What interested you in entering the Musky Festival Queen's Scholarship Program?

What attributes make you a great candidate?

If you are chosen as Queen, what goals do you hope to accomplish during your year of service?

Attach 2 Letters of Recommendation (non-family members)

Attach Essay (One page essay on leadership describing how you would represent the Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce and Musky Festival)

2026 Musky Festival Queen's Scholarship Program Contestant Contract

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.

2026-2027 Schedule of Events **Required for all 2026 Candidates*

APRIL 2026

Wednesday April 29th:

5:00-7:00pm - Queen's Scholarship Program Information Night @ The Social Kitchen & Cocktails

MAY 2026

Saturday May 16th:

10:00am-Noon - Coffee with the Queen's Scholarship Program @ Backroads Coffee

Monday May 18th:

Musky Queen Candidate Applications DUE TO COMMITTEE (Candidate Profiles, Contracts, and References)

JUNE 2026

***Sunday June 7th:**

TIME TBD - 2026 Queens/Candidate Pamper Day, Candidate Shirt & Buttons Hand Out @ Polished
5:00-6:00pm - 2026 Queens/Candidate Photos @ Downtown

MUSKY FEST CANDIDATE WEEK (Required for ALL Candidates)

***Wednesday June 24th:**

1:30-3:00pm - Women in Business Social with WWBIC @ WWBIC Office
4:00-6:00pm - Car Wash Fundraiser @ Don Johnson CDJR

***Thursday June 25th:**

11:30am-2pm - Judges Luncheon Interview @ TBD
4:00-5:30pm - Coronation Rehearsal @ The Park Center
6:00pm - Hotel Evening @ Holiday Inn (Pizza, Pool, Activities)

***Friday June 26th:**

11:30pm-1:30pm - Volunteering Downtown (Mini/Little Miss/Junior Crowning @ 12, Watermelon Eating Contest @ 12:30, Selling Buttons)
5:45pm-8:00pm - Coronation @ Park Theater (Begins @ 6:30pm)

***Saturday June 27th:**

8:00am-9:30am - Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast @ Fairgrounds
10am-1pm - Volunteering Downtown (Rod Lundberg Games @ 10, Dilly Bar Eating Contest @ 12)
Rest of Day - Selling Buttons Downtown/Enjoy Evening

***Sunday June 28th:**

12:30pm - Parade Line Up

1:00pm - Musky Festival Grand Parade
 - 2026 Court, Mini/Little Miss/Junior on Float
 - 2025 Queen in Vehicle
 - 2026 Candidates in Vehicle/On Trailer

***Date TBD:**

Time TBD - Downtown Outfit Shopping/Fitting Event for 2026 Court
 Post Crowning Parent Meeting

2026 QUEEN'S COURT EVENTS

**All 2026 Crowned Court Required, (M)= Indicates Optional Event for Mini/Little Miss/Junior Queens*

JULY 2026

Friday July 17th: Lumberjack World Championship
 TIME TBD: Volunteering

Saturday July 18th: Spooner Heart of the North Rodeo (M)
 Time TBD: Visiting Royalty Queen's Tea
 Time TBD: Heart of the North Parade

Sunday July 19th: Birchwood Bluegill Fest(M)
 TIME TBD: Parade

AUGUST 2026

Friday 14th: Sawyer County Fair
 Time TBD: Volunteering

Saturday August 15th: North Hudson Pepper Fest (M)
 Time TBD: Pepper Fest Grand Parade
 Time TBD: Royalty Spaghetti Eating Contest

SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday Sept 26th: Hayward Fall Fest
 Time TBD: Volunteering

OCTOBER 2026

Saturday Oct 3rd: Cranberry Fest (M)
 Time TBD: Parade

NOVEMBER 2026

Thursday Nov 5th: HACC Annual Membership Awards & Dinner
 5:00pm-8:00pm: Volunteering

[Sell holiday raffle tickets throughout the month]

DECEMBER 2026

Saturday Dec 5th: Light Your Engines Parade in Hayward (M)

FEBRUARY 2027

Thursday Feb 25th: Birke Giant Ski Race
4:30-7:00pm: Queen Volunteering

Fri/Sat Feb 26/27th: Time TBD Birke Volunteering/Awards Presentation
Time TBD: Queen Volunteering

Date TBD: Career Fair @ Hayward High School
Time TBD: Candidate Recruiting

APRIL & MAY 2027

Dates TBD: Informational Meetings for 2027 Candidates
Time TBD: Candidate Recruiting

JUNE 2027

Date TBD: Aquafest, Rice Lake (M)
Time TBD: Parade

Option to attend other 2027 Musky Fest Queen's Events (Schedule To Be Determined Spring 2027)

Event times and dates are subject to change. Please confirm with the Committee or Hayward Area Chamber prior to each appearance. Committee member or parent to chaperone each event. Additional events may be added following calendar distribution based on local appearance requests. If there are additional events the Court would like to attend outside of the schedule, please approve all appearances with the Committee prior.

Acknowledgement (check below)

- I have read and agree to the terms of the Musky Festival Queen Scholarship Program
- I acknowledge that I successfully meet all of the criteria stated in this Contract, including my commitment to abide by the rules and honor the obligations of the 2026 Musky Fest Queen Scholarship Program.

Contestant Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Current Date:
