



Lebanon Strawberry Festival

2025 Senior Court Instructions

DUE BY NOVEMBER 1ST

Our History

The Strawberry Festival began in 1909, as a salute to the abundant berry fields in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Other than a brief hiatus during WWII, it has been a Lebanon-area tradition ever since. In 1984, the Lebanon Strawberry Festival became an independent non-profit corporation run entirely by volunteers. The Committee consists of various positions representing the events during the first full weekend in June, including our claim to fame--the "World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake", the Junior and Grand Parades, the Strawberry 5K Run, Carnival, Fireworks Display, Open Air Country Fair, Queen's Coronation and many other civic events. Our volunteers are very dedicated to the Lebanon community, and give a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the tradition of the Strawberry Festival continues for many generations to come.

Becoming a Senior Court Princess

The selection process consists of:

- Completion of the following application and submit online no later than 9:00PM November 1, 2024.
- Individual interview with a panel of judges to narrow down to the final candidates, to be held Sunday, **November 10, 2024** (interview times will be emailed out after the submission deadline)
- Questionnaire provided to final Candidates, to be returned by 9:00PM Friday, November 15, 2024.
- Informational meeting for final Candidates and their parent(s)/guardian(s), to be held on Sunday, November 17, 2024, addressing participation requirements and expectations
- Group Interview for final Candidates held on **November 17, 2024**
- Announcement of the 2025 Lebanon Strawberry Festival Senior Court

If you have any conflicts with any date listed please contact us by October 25, 2024.

Court members will be provided all necessary articles of clothing for official court appearances and events, including but not limited to: evening gown, day dress, shoes, festival t-shirt and sweatshirt, jeans and/or shorts, tiara, sash, and jewelry. Also provided will be professional photos, both individual and group, as well as any necessary food or lodging during appearances. Princesses may be asked to wear make-up and possibly off-the-shoulder dresses during appearances. Please take these possibilities into consideration before applying.

In acknowledgment of your efforts to represent Lebanon and the Strawberry Festival, scholarships will be awarded based on eligibility and judging during Coronation. All court members will be eligible to receive *a minimum of \$1,000 in scholarships* (including the McDaniel/Strawberrian Princess scholarship). The Queen will also receive an additional \$1,000 in scholarships. Total scholarship amounts change yearly based on donations and funding availability.

Applications are available for download at: www.lebanonstrawberryfest.com/senior-court.html. If you have questions please contact Andrea at 541-619-7061 or court@lebanonstrawberryfest.com.

**** INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED ****



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Court Selection Process

Applicant Qualifications:

- Attend Lebanon High School, East Linn Christian Academy, any Lebanon area private/charter school, or Home School with a Lebanon residence.
- Must be a senior in high school or have a senior ranking if home schooled.
- Must be at least 16 years old by January 1, 2025.
- Complete initial application and submit it before the stated deadline.

Selection Process:

1. Two-phase interview process:
 - a. All eligible candidates, having submitted a completed application prior to the deadline, **will be emailed their time slot for a brief interview** with a panel of three judges. Each judge will ask pre-determined questions of the candidate, with the possibility of follow up questions regarding her application.
 - b. **The top scoring applicants will be notified of their selection after all interviews are complete** and provided with a questionnaire to complete and return by 9:00PM Friday, November 15.
 - c. The candidates along with their parent(s) or guardian(s) will attend an informational meeting at the Gillott Home Team office on Sunday, November 17 at 1:00 pm, to cover all court requirements, family expectations, and answer any questions applicants may have regarding the experience of being a Strawberry Festival Princess. *In order to be eligible to continue with the interview process, at least one parent or guardian must be present at this meeting.*
 - d. A selection social will occur at the Gillott Home Team office on November 17 at 2:15 pm, and will serve as a group interview. This social will be very much like a “real” event the Court will be attending, and will help gauge each candidate's comfort and ease at socializing with community members. Candidates will attend the social without their parents or an escort. The social event is an opportunity for each applicant to socialize with members of the community and planning board, as well as interact with each other. Community members will be incorporating some questions into the interaction, trying to determine who will best represent Lebanon and the Strawberry Festival.
2. Announcement of top five candidates:
 - a. The top five candidates will be selected based on the highest cumulative scores across all judging criteria: first interview, application, questionnaire, and a group discussion of the community members and festival board members immediately following the social event.

Each candidate will be notified regarding her standing by phone following the selection social.



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Court Rules and Regulations

As a member of the Strawberry Festival Senior Court, you are one of Lebanon's Ambassadors and a role model to its youth. You will be envied by some and talked about by others. You will be representing Lebanon and your actions will be observed throughout the community. Therefore, the following rules and regulations will be enforced throughout the entire selection process and reign—ending at the following year's Queen's Coronation.

1. If conduct occurs which, in the opinion of the Strawberry Festival, reflects adversely on the Strawberry Festival or the City of Lebanon, dismissal will be at the sole discretion of the Festival Board of Directors. There will not be a public hearing.
2. Princesses will be expected to abide by all laws, not limited to those regulating drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products. In addition, unacceptable behavior that will not be tolerated by the Strawberry Festival includes:
 - a. Missing parades or scheduled events not associated with a family emergency or without prior written Board approval will result in elimination for consideration of Miss Congeniality or Queen's titles and scholarships, and could result in dismissal. Requests for being excused from any event must be in writing and forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval. The court member will receive a written response from the Board of Directors regarding the status of the request.
 - b. During your reign, attendance in any social environment that compromises behavior, involves alcohol and/or illegal drugs will be grounds for immediate dismissal.
 - c. Should any information concerning unacceptable past or current behavior come to the attention of the Board, this information could be used for dismissal of a princess.
 - d. In the event that the Board is made aware of a Princess' concealment of information regarding unacceptable or illegal behaviors of a fellow court member from Strawberry Festival/proper authorities, it will be considered grounds for her own dismissal.
3. You will attend all functions, fittings and rehearsals as arranged by the Board throughout your reign. Attendance by all five court members is required. This may include some Sunday appearances as well as an overnight trip. Though parents are encouraged to attend most official functions, they will not travel with the court, or stay overnight with the court and chaperones on trips.
4. All members of the court will ride with the Court Chaperones to and from parades and selected events. Travel will be coordinated with the Court Chaperones. A parent may provide transportation if deemed necessary and approved through the Court Chaperones, however, no Princess shall be permitted to ride with anyone other than their own parent or one of the Court Chaperones.
5. There will be some school missed over a six-month period. This includes luncheons and afternoon visits. Every effort will be made to keep this to a minimum. It will be the responsibility of each Princess to arrange to make-up any missed assignments, and maintain good academic standing.
6. The use of cell phones during all Strawberry Festival appearances will be limited to emergencies only.
7. Parents/legal guardians of the Court will be responsible for the preparation of the Court Float. There is a \$1,000 dollar budget provided by the Board of Directors. All preparation and planning is the sole responsibility of the Court parents. A trailer will be provided, and sponsors will be given first opportunity to provide towing vehicles.
8. The Lebanon Strawberry Festival reserves the right to withhold or garnish scholarship funds from a court member who exhibits unacceptable behavior not resulting in removal from the Court, or who does not attend all official court events as requested by the Board Chaperones without prior Board approval of the absence as listed above. This will include parades and events AFTER the Strawberry festival.