



Lebanon Strawberry Festival

Senior Court Application

Our History

The Strawberry Festival began in 1909, as a salute to the abundant berry fields in the Mid-Willamette Valley. The organizers consisted of prominent citizens and businessmen from Lebanon. Early events included a Rose Show, Parades, and of course Strawberry Royalty. As the Strawberry Festival continued to evolve, many changes occurred. In 1984 the Lebanon Strawberry Festival became an independent non-profit corporation. It is a two-tiered organization staffed entirely with volunteers and comprised of a Board of Directors responsible for the annual planning and presentation of the Festival, and an Association responsible for setting policies and general governance of the Festival.

The Board of Directors consists of 35 positions representing the various events highlighted 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 and One Mile Health Walk, 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 Princess

The Lebanon Strawberry Festival cordially invites you to participate as a candidate in the selection process for the Lebanon Strawberry Festival Senior Court.

The selection process consists of completing the following application, a two-step interview process to be held on Saturday, December 2nd to narrow to our top 10 candidates and a group interview to be held the afternoon of Sunday, December 17th, an additional questionnaire, and a parent/guardian meeting to understand the requirements and benefits that being a member of the Lebanon Strawberry Festival Court offers. Scholarships will be awarded based on eligibility and judging during Coronation. All court members will be eligible to receive the McDaniel/Strawberrian Princess scholarship in the amount of \$500. Additional scholarship amounts change yearly based on donations and funding availability, but minimum scholarship totals for eligible court members are in excess of \$700.

You will be asked to wear make-up and possibly off-the-shoulder dresses. Please take this into consideration before applying. The **applications must be returned no later than November 17, 2017** for consideration. You may leave them at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce or mail them to the Lebanon Strawberry Festival, P.O. Box 273, Lebanon, OR 97355. If applications are mailed, they must be postmarked no later than November 17, 2017. You will be notified of the time and place of your interview upon acceptance. If you have questions, please contact Jami Cate at 541-979-6986. You can also email your questions to info@lebanonstrawberryfestival.com

As a member of our Court, you will be provided with the following during your reign: Evening Gown, Day Dress, Festival T-Shirts, Jeans and/or Shorts, Tiara, Sash, Shoes, Jewelry, Professional Photos – Group and Individual, Necessary Food and Lodging.



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Court Selection Process

Application:

1. Selection of the candidates is made through an application process. Applications may be obtained from the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, Lebanon High School, and East Linn Christian Academy.

Applicant Qualifications:

- Attend school at Lebanon High School, East Linn Christian Academy, Lebanon Chapel, any Lebanon area charter school or Home Schooled 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, 2018.
- Complete initial application and return it before the deadline.

Selection Process:

1. Two-phase interview process:
 - a. Candidates will be scheduled for an interview with a review panel of three judges. Judges will be selected by the Board of Directors with a mix of Festival volunteers and community members. Each panel member will ask pre-determined questions of the candidate. Following this interview, the selection of the top 10 candidates will occur.
 - b. The top 10 candidates will be asked to complete an additional questionnaire to be returned to Festival organizers. The candidates and their parents or guardians will then meet at Santiam Place with Lebanon Strawberry Festival representatives on Sunday, December 17th at 1:30 to cover the application, court and family requirements and expectations, and answer all questions applicants may have. *In order to be eligible to continue with the interview process, at least one parent or guardian must be present at this meeting.*
 - c. A selection social will occur at Santiam Place on December 17th, at 3:45pm, and will serve as a group interview. Candidates are expected to attend the social without their parents or an escort. The social event is an opportunity for each applicant to socialize and meet members from the community, as well as the Board of Directors. Community members will be asking questions and trying to learn more about each candidate throughout the social in an effort to determine who will best represent Lebanon and the Strawberry Festival. The top 5 scoring candidates across all judging criteria will be notified within 3 days of the social event.
2. Announcement of top five candidates:
 - a. The top five candidates will be selected based on their first interview, their application, the questionnaire, and a group discussion of the community members and festival board members immediately following the social event. Each candidate will be notified either via phone, or email within 3 days of the social event.



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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. All princesses will be expected to abide by all laws pertaining to drugs and alcohol. The Lebanon Strawberry Festival also has strong behavior requirements. Unacceptable behavior that will not be tolerated includes:
 - a. Missing parades or scheduled events not associated with a family emergency or prior written Board approval will result in elimination for consideration of Miss Congeniality or Queen's titles and scholarships. 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.
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 and an overnight trip. Though parents are encouraged to attend official functions, they will not travel with the court, or stay overnight with the court and chaperones on trips that require overnight accommodations.
4. All members of the court will ride with members of the Board of Directors to and from parades and selected events. Travel will be coordinated with the Court Chaperone. A parent may provide transportation if absolutely necessary, however, no princess shall be permitted to ride with anyone other than their own parent.
5. There will be some school missed over a six-month period. This includes luncheons, afternoon visits and possibly a trip to the State Capitol. Every effort will be made to keep this to a minimum.
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 \$250 dollar budget provided by the Board of Directors. All preparation and planning is the sole responsibility of the Court parents.
8. The Lebanon Strawberry Festival reserves the right to withhold or garnish scholarship funds from a court member who does not attend all official court events as requested by the Board Chaperone without prior Board approval of the absence as listed above. This will include parades and events AFTER the Strawberry festival.



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Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: OR Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Cell Phone Number (if you have one): _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

School Attending: _____

Employer Name (if applicable): _____

Employer Address: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

*Submit 3 letters of reference from persons not related to you. Please be sure their name phone number, and the years that they have known you are included. All three letters must be turned in with your application to be considered for the Lebanon Strawberry Festival Court.

*Attach a current photo of yourself with the application. A wallet size photo will be fine.

***GPA:** Please attach an Official Oregon Transcript to application with School Authority signature.

**These items must be included with the application package for application to be complete. Incomplete application will not be considered.*

Release Authorization

We hereby authorize the Lebanon Strawberry Festival Board to obtain information necessary for verification of information for the selection process of the Lebanon Strawberry Festival Senior Court. This information may consist of student's school pictures, class schedules and verification of GPA and references included with application. This information will be kept as part of the Lebanon Strawberry Festival records.

Candidate Signature

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature



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List all involvement in school & community activities; include any honors or recognitions you have received. – attach another piece of paper if necessary.

Name of Organization

Years of Involvement

Honors Earned

What are your plans after graduation?

Attach a one-page essay explaining why you wish to be considered as a member of the Lebanon Strawberry Festival Court.

After reading and completing the application and understanding the Court Rules and Regulations, I agree to abide by the decisions of the Lebanon Strawberry Festival during my reign if I am selected. I further understand that this responsibility will take precedence over all other activities with the exception of family emergencies.

Applicant Signature

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature