London Strawberry Festival

2015 Parents’ Contract

Getting Started

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| 1. | Full cooperation is expected at all times from the royalty member, her parents, all family members & anyone acting on royalty member's behalf.  Guidelines are not open for debate.  Be aware that no 2 years are alike & that revisions are made to the contracts. |
| 2. | Parents/family members need to be aware of the guidelines in the royalty & parent contracts and abide by them. Do not ask for or expect exceptions to be made.  Drama will not be tolerated and will result in your daughter’s suspension or removal from the court. |
| 3. | This contract is not all inclusive. Decisions of the Queens' director and/or the London Strawberry Festival Board are final. |
| 4. | At least 1 parent/legal guardian must attend contestants meeting with contestant prior to competition.  No adult other than parent/legal guardian will be accepted. Contestants must agree to royalty contract. Contestant's parents must agree to parents' contract and royalty contract before a contestant may participate in the pageant. There will be no exceptions to meeting attendance. |
| 5. | A meeting will be held with the royalty and their parents to acquaint them with expectations answer questions about travel, luncheon, etiquette, etc.   Attendance for entire meeting is **MANDATORY** for the royalty member and at least one parent/legal guardian.  Failure to attend will result in removal from the court.  Babies & their parents do not have to attend this meeting.  Due to photos, dinner, meeting & activities, this meeting will end around 10PM. |
| 6. | Notarized medical release, liability forms, contracts & all other paperwork must be returned to the Queen chairperson before any member of royalty will be permitted to attend festivals or events.  A copy will be provided to any chaperone traveling with a royalty other than own daughter.  We also request that other family members and adults traveling with royalty provide a health statement for travel emergency purposes, especially if they have any known medical conditions. |

Appearance/Dress Code

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| 7. | The queens' director has the right to refuse to let royalty participate in any parade, luncheon or event due to dress code violations/appearance, inappropriate behavior or illness. |
| 8. | Royalty members will need to have at least 1 formal. Cooler events require the purchase of a white cape, black slacks, and sweater (red for Queens; white or cream for attendants).  You will be given the cost of the cape & all capes will be ordered/made by the same person.  Money will be due by August 1.  If you do not have a cape, you will not be permitted to attend cool weather events, typically September through April.  Some capes are available to rent. |
| 9. | Adults & anyone traveling with the royalty, chaperoning, or driving in the parade must dress nicely.  No cut offs or short shorts are permitted.  Avoid clothes that are revealing in any way.  Avoid clothes with inappropriate sayings, profanity, or references to drugs or alcohol.  It is preferred that travel shirts be purchased and worn.  The queens' director has the right to refuse to let anyone, including adults & siblings participate in any parade, luncheon or event due to dress code violations/appearance, inappropriate behavior or illness. |

Travel

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| 10. | Parents must be willing and able to travel with their son/daughter as he/she represents the London Strawberry Festival at many other state wide festivals. Royalty will be expected to participate in other promotional activities representing the London Strawberry Festival such as pageants, luncheons, parades, speaking engagements, interviews, expos, etc.  Most of these events/festivals will be on Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. May through October are very busy months.   There will also be some events in the winter, especially around the holidays. There are events that are restricted to specific court members, meaning not all members will be permitted to attend.  Royalty must have at least half of the travel requirements met by Jan. 1, keeping in mind all of the close events will be over by this time. |
| 11. | The Queen must participate in 30 events, including at least 15 luncheon & parade combinations. The Queen is expected to attend the luncheon, other planned events, participate in the parade, and speak on stage. The queen first & second attendants must attend 15 events.  The Jr. Queen must participate in 20 events, including at least 10 luncheon & parade combinations.  Most of these should be OFEA events, especially for the Queen.  Jr. & Miss courts may travel with other London Strawberry families on an occasional basis, however, the royalty on the Little & Young courts must travel with a parent/guardian or person specified by the parent.  There may only be 3 people (only 1 can be unrelated) specified by the parent for the Little/Young Court to travel with for the entire year.  If any problem or issue occurs during travel without parent, this privilege will be immediately revoked. Young Miss, Little Miss, Jr, Young & Little attendants are required to attend 7 events, and are encouraged to attend 1 luncheon & parade combination prior to October.  Court members are expected to participate in parades, not just attend luncheons or walk around.  Members may get credit for an event without participating in a parade by permission only. |
| 12. | Miss Shortcake is encouraged, but not required, to attend at least 3 of the following events:  any London parade, London Old Fashioned Christmas, London Arts Festival, London First Fridays, Ox Roast, West Jefferson Christmas, West Jefferson 4th of July, Plain City Steam Show, Plain City 4th of July or South Vienna Corn Festival.  Special permission from the Queens' director must be obtained to attend any other events. Shortcakes not attending at least 3 events will not get to do a window or attend luncheon.  Shortcakes riding on the float will be at the discretion of the Queens director. Shortcakes must travel with a parent/legal guardian. |
| 13. | Babies may participate in the following parades only: London Strawberry Festival, Ox Roast, West Jefferson 4th of July, Plain City Steam Show, Plain City 4th of July or South Vienna Corn Festival.  Babies must provide their own transportation & be driven by adult at least 21 years of age.  Due to safety concerns, they will not be permitted on the float.  Babies must be held at all times when in a parade by someone other than driver, who is at least 14 & is preferably related to the baby.  Special permission from the Queens' director must be obtained to attend any other event.  Babies will not be permitted to do window or attend luncheon. Babies may not wear a crown/tiara.  Baby and chaperone must be dressed nicely when in parade (no tank tops, bare stomachs, cut offs or clothes with holes or tobacco, alcohol, drugs slogans).  Do not put pins on a baby's sash due to safety concerns. Parents are encouraged to purchase & wear a travel shirt. |
| 14. | Photos are required as proof of attendance when queens' director is not in attendance.  The royalty member must be in the photo at a recognizable site (sign, stage, luncheon) while at the festival.  Photos will also be used for slide show.  Photo shopped photos are not acceptable.  All digital photos have imbedded date & editing info.  A travel log must be kept. |
| 15. | Parents must be willing to assist with transportation and driving during parades.  All drivers must be at least 21, provide a copy of a valid drivers' license & auto insurance to the Queen’s director.  Drivers pulling the float are responsible for making sure decorations, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, festival & OFEA signs are with the float before leaving for event.  Be sure that emergency items (insulin, sting kits, etc.) needed by an individual, are with the driver.  Some parades are very large & may take too long to locate parents in an emergency.  Drivers need to arrange a meeting spot with other parents after the parade & should have the parents’ cell numbers.  Non-court members & parents cannot be on the float or in the back of the truck /van.  If a court member needs close supervision of an adult in the back of vehicle, the court member should not be on the float. |
| 16. | The queens' director has the right to ban any adult from driving royalty in parade or chaperoning royalty at any event due to safety concerns, complaints from other directors or parents or inappropriate dress code or behavior of the adult around the royalty or at an event. |
| 17. | Parents of anyone riding on the float in an event are responsible for making sure royalty members have their name signs, are appropriately dressed with title and for helping with any float set up, tear down or decorating required for the event.  Do not "drop off & run”.  Royalty may be suspended from riding float. |
| 18. | Parents need to take turns providing a case of water and ice for the court at parades, especially when the float is being used. |
| 19. | Travel expenses (meals, gas/mileage, rooms, souvenirs, etc.) are the responsibility of your family. |
| 20. | Parents need to contact director at least 3 days prior to event, not last second, for location & event specifics. |
| 21. | Parents are expected to serve as chaperones at events.  There should be at least 1 adult chaperone at every event, regardless of the age of the court members.  There must be a paid chaperone in a luncheon if there is a court member in attendance that is on the Jr. Miss or younger courts.  Some festivals require at least 1 paid chaperone even for the Queen's court or for the queen's meal to be free. |
| 22. | Chaperones MUST PAY to attend luncheon, even if you do not eat, as most festivals have space limitations. You may wait outside & not pay as long as there is at least 1 chaperone inside the luncheon.  Sometimes organizers will invite unpaid chaperones into the luncheon.  In this situation, it is ok to go in. |
| 23. | All festival/event registrations and contact with other festivals/events must be made through the Queen's director.  Individual families are not permitted to submit registrations or contact other events directly. Registration and travel guidelines of hosting event must be followed.  No exceptions. |
| 24. | Events, meetings & deadlines are posted on the web site.  It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to check the site & meet the deadlines. The Queens’ director is not responsible for calling you or for reminding you of deadlines, meetings or events.  The Queens' director will rarely notify you directly of upcoming events. Occasionally e-mail, phone & printed lists may be used. If you miss the posted deadline, you will not be permitted to attend the luncheon or parade. **LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**  Check the web site weekly for updates, any changes and before leaving for an event or meeting. [www.londonstrawberryfestival.com](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\My%20Documents\Queens%202011-2012\)  Click Royalty schedules/deadlines. |
| 25. | Event fees always need to be paid in advance.  Checks or money orders made payable to the hosting event must be to the Queens' director by the set deadline. Do not expect the Queens’ director or festival to cover the fees for you.  Avoid paying by cash.  Registration fees are non-refundable after they have been mailed.  If a reservation is not submitted with a payment, it may be rejected by the hosting event; therefore it will not be done.  If the royalty member registered for the free meal is a no show, she will be billed for the cost of the meal.  If the Queen (free meal spot) is a no show at 2 events, she will be required to give a $25 deposit to the London Strawberry Festival before she will be permitted to register for future events. |
| 26. | All invitations received to another event/festival belong to the London Strawberry Festival and must be given to the Queens' director immediately.  Invitations are not to be kept for an individual. |
| 27. | The Strawberry Festival does not pay registration fees.  A few parades charge entry fees & therefore are not required to attend.  If court members wish to attend events requiring entry fees it is up to the parents to pay these fees.  Do not ask director or LSF to advance fees so plan ahead. |
| 28. | Awards (ribbons, cash, trophies or other items) from other events given to the festival will remain property of the London Strawberry Festival and must be given to the Queens' director immediately. Trophies/plaques may sometimes be given to the highest ranking court member in attendance.   Monetary awards will be applied to the Queens' program.  If an individual award (spirit, costume, congeniality, etc.) is presented, the royalty member may keep it but must notify the Queens' director. |
| 29. | All royalty, except babies & shortcakes that don’t travel, are required to purchase magnetic signs. These will be ordered by the Queens' director only. Payment must be made at the first meeting.  New signs will be ordered every year, even when a court member is repeating the same title.  This is to keep signs looking clean fresh and matching. |
| 30. | An active e-mail is required for communication with the queens’ director and/or board members.  If you do not have a computer, go to the library and set up a free account.  Check it at least twice weekly. |
| 31. | If your contact information changes, it is your responsibility to e-mail the corrected information to the queens director.  Do not relay this information verbally or by paper note.  If you do not get a reply, call the director. |
| 32. | Custody issues are not excuses for missed events or meetings.  Plan your competition/participation and schedule accordingly. The festival is not responsible for problems resulting from a change in custody or visitations. If there are custody issues in which a court member cannot be with a parent/relative or other person, a copy of the legal paperwork must be provided.  If there are people who are not to be around your child, detailed, notarized information must be provided.  If parents are split and both have custody/visitation, information regarding the royalty member will be shared with both families unless prohibited by the legal system.  If the prohibited person is also connected to the court through a different royalty member, you will need to remove your child from the court or accept the fact that the person may be around your child as royalty members and their families are required to work together as a team. |

Misc.

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| 33. | Parents of Royalty members give their consent for their son or daughter's photos to be used in publicity of the London Strawberry Festival.  Be aware many events are broadcast live on TV and/or radio. This includes, but is not limited, to use on the internet, newspapers, brochures/flyers/print media, magazines and TV.  Be aware that many events are broadcast live on TV or radio and have various photographers.  Festivals and most royalty related events are considered public venues and therefore photo release forms are NOT required for use by the photographer/individual.  Many photos will be posted on FACEBOOK & similar sites by directors, friends, royalty & family from our own and other events. |
| 34. | Fundraising is required. Parents must be willing to assist with Queen’s fundraisers.  If orders & money are collected, orders with the full payment, must be given to the Queen’s director or received in the London Strawberry Festival PO Box 434 by the due date for order to be placed.  Parents are required assist in the Shortcake tent and information booth. |
| 35. | All court parents/guardians, and volunteers 18 & over will be required to submit their social security number to the City of London for a felony warrant & sexual offender background check.  All parents, court members, and volunteers must abide by regulations imposed by laws/ordnances/government. |
| 36. | All parents and interested adults are expected to assist with the festival operations during the royalty member's year of reign and are invited to attend the LSF Board meetings. |
| 37. | Permission must be obtained from the LSF board of directors before contacting anyone about donations or sponsorships. |
| 38. | Do not make or have buttons or other items made using any other festival or event name or logo. |
| 39. | You must get permission from the board of directors before using the LSF name or logo on any items.  A copyright &/or trademark is held on both. |
| 40. | Failure to follow these guidelines by any family member or anyone acting on the royalty member's behalf, will result in the royalty member losing her/his title. |
| 41. | Royalty member must provide her social security number to the Queens’ director in order to receive scholarship.  Girls failing to provide their social security number will forfeit her scholarship.  Checks will be available 2 weeks following the festival for pick up by the court member.  This is to ensure that all duties are complete & all festival items are returned to the festival.  Royalty member or parent/guardian must pick up and sign for receipt of scholarship no later than August 31 or monetary award will be forfeited.  Babies & shortcakes do not receive savings bonds/scholarships. |
| 42. | The Queen’s parents will be given a parents pass-down book.  Parents are responsible for making updates in it and turning it over to the new Queen's parents at the end of their daughter’s reign.  An electronic copy of additions made must be given to the queens director by e-mail, cd or flash drive before scholarship will be presented. |
| 43. | Each royalty member, except babies or shortcakes not attending luncheon, must contribute a minimum of 3 items for luncheon door prizes and an item for each gift bag. Items do not have to be expensive.  Individually wrapped candy is fine.  Plan for 250 gift bags.  Shortcakes that have traveled & wish to attend luncheon must contribute door prizes but are not required to contribute to the gift bags. |
| 44. | Parents & family members need to assist with our luncheon.  Duties include guest check in, selling of charms and buttons, set up, preparation & serving of meal and clean up.  This does not apply to baby parents. |
| 45. | If a check is returned for any item or event, you will not be permitted to register for any other event, including our own luncheon & parade, until the check has been covered and all associated fees have been paid.  No other checks will be accepted; money orders will be required. |
| 46. | No one from a royalty family may compete/participate in events or future competitions until all fees incurred during the current or past years have been paid in full and all required items have been returned in good condition. |

Expectations & Behavior

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| 47. | The queens' director has the right to refuse to let royalty, chaperone or family member  participate in any parade, luncheon or event due to dress code violations/appearance, inappropriate behavior, attitude or illness. |
| 48. | There will be 4-5 mandatory parent meetings during the year.  The first meeting will be the week following crowning.  There will be one in the fall, one in Jan. or Feb., one in the spring, & one just before the Strawberry Festival. Meetings will be scheduled as needed.  Emergency meetings may also be called. Dates and times will be posted on the website under royalty schedules & deadlines. A missed mandatory meeting will require a mandatory appearance before the London Strawberry Festival board.  The board will hear the royalty member then determine if member will be placed on probation for the remainder of the reign or lose title.  Royalty member will have title suspended until the board meets.  Use of title during suspension or failure to appear before the board will result in automatic loss of title. A second missed mandatory meeting will result in immediate, automatic loss of title. |
| 49. | The Contestant Meeting and New Royalty will require at least 1 parent or legal guardian.  No other adult may stand in for the parent/guardian.  No exceptions. In the event the parent/legal guardian cannot attend other mandatory meetings/events written permission may be given for a specified adult to attend in place of the parent/guardian.  This permission must be signed by the parent/legal guardian and given to the director **prior** to the mandatory meeting/event. |
| 50. | Adults must refrain from belittling/criticizing a court member, even jokingly.  Adults must be respectful to everyone involved and realize that their child is not above others. |
| 51. | Any court member, regardless of age, who is arguing, pouting, whining or crying will be required to remove title and leave the event without attendance credit.  Adults causing disruptions or arguing will be asked to leave and may be removed if necessary. |
| 52. | Any actions or statements (verbal, printed or posted, including internet) that are detrimental to the London Strawberry Festival made by family or anyone acting on the royalty member's behalf will not be tolerated and will result in loss of title. |
| 53. | The use of profanity, inappropriate ethnic/racial jokes/slurs is prohibited when escorting royalty or representing the London Strawberry Festival in anyway. |
| 54. | The use of profanity, inappropriate ethnic/racial jokes/slurs is prohibited at any board or royalty meeting and when communicating with any board member either in person or by written/electronic forms. |
| 55. | Problems/conflicts between royalty members, families and adults should be left at home and only discussed with the Queens' director if a private resolution cannot be reached.  Gossip is to be avoided.  Inappropriate comments, gestures, or profanity to any member of the board, court or others while at event either as a court parent or chaperone will not be tolerated & will require appearance before the board.  This may result in removal of son/daughter from the court or banning of the adult or royalty member at events. **DRAMA WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** |
| 56. | Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent/guardian to ensure that all festival & travel obligations are met. |
| 57. | The judgment of the Queens' director is final in any and all conflicts involving the Queens' program. Rules/guidelines are not open for debate & apply to everyone. |
| 58. | This contract is not all inclusive. Decisions of the Queens' director are final. |
| 59. | No two years are ever the same.  Guidelines have changed from previous years.  Do not expect things to be the same as in the past. |

Royalty parents will receive an official copy that must be signed and notarized at the royalty meeting.