



# Pageant & Talent Showdown Directors Guide

# Arkansas State Fair Pageants & Talent Leadership Team



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Questions? Concerns?  
Please reach out to our team.  
We are happy to assist.

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Hello County/District Director!

We appreciate your support of your local contestants and their advancement to the Arkansas State Fair. Use this as a guide if you need additional resources to help host an ASF affiliated pageant or talent show. While you are more than welcome to adapt any of these formats to your local fair pageant or talent show for continuity purposes, you know what is best for your county. We fully support your vision for your local competitions. This is simply a suggestion guide. Please refer to the ASF Pageant and Talent Showdown Contestant Guide as an additional resource for your contestants advancing. It includes a schedule and specific details to their specific competitions.

Our only requirement for local fairs/districts is to advance contestants that adhere to our rules once they are here, and represent their perspective age divisions for their competitions.

We look forward to having a fun atmosphere and providing an amazing experience for participants, families, fans, and everyone attending the Arkansas State Fair.

-Your Arkansas State Fair Leadership Team

## Where are the pageants and talent competitions located?

### Junior Miss and Miss Arkansas State Fair Pageants -Barton Coliseum

The Arkansas State Fairgrounds are located at 2600 Howard Street in Little Rock, AR. All contestants, families, and fans must enter into Barton Coliseum at Entrance 11.

Admission into Barton Coliseum is \$10 and free for kids under 3. Parking is free that weekend at the Arkansas State Fair.

### Youth Pageants, Talent Shows, and Ms. Pageants -The Arkansas Building

The Arkansas Building is located south of the midway and near the equestrian barn. The closest entrance, is Gate 11. Drive south on Schiller Street along the east side of the fence of the fairgrounds.

## Local County Directors -Who are they?

County and district directors across the state are the backbone of this organization. We appreciate your commitment to your local county and the Arkansas State Fair.

If you are interested in becoming a local pageant or talent director, get involved with your local county fair association. Most of these organizations are made entirely of volunteers that provide exciting opportunities for their communities to shine in the show ring, exhibit halls, and on the stage.

Directors -We appreciate your help in keeping the most accurate, up-to-date contact information on file with our office so that you and your communities are always in the loop about updates, events, royalty appearances, etc. Most of this communication is through email.

## Talent

If your county holds a talent competition and chooses to send contestants to the state level, please encourage them to submit their entry form online at [arkansasstatefair.com](http://arkansasstatefair.com), within 2 weeks of winning. We want to congratulate these contestants via social media on their success at the local level. The hard deadline for all entry forms is **September 22nd**.

For your contestants to be eligible for the Arkansas State Fair, they must be in these age categories: Youth Division 10-13, Junior Division: 14 - 17, and Senior Division contestants are 18- 23 years of age, by October 1st.

**You must also confirm that their performance is under 3 minutes.**

Moving forward, top scores in various talent categories will be recognized on stage. This is to encourage participants to enter any type of talent. However, cash prizes will only be awarded to the top scores in each respective category.

Each county or district is encouraged to send their top 3 scorers that competed at their county fair. These three acts will represent your county. If you do not have three contestants to advance, that is okay. If you have more contestants that would like to advance they can enter as a "contestant at large."

The Arkansas State Fair kids talent show (ages 5-9) is an open competition that does not require a preliminary win.

## Pageants

If your county holds a pageant and chooses to send contestants to the state level, please encourage them to submit their entry form online at [arkansasstatefair.com/pageants](http://arkansasstatefair.com/pageants), within 1 week of winning.

## Pageants continued...

We want to congratulate your new county queen on social media for their success at the local level. It is imperative that you submit a photo of your newly crowned queens (Junior and Miss together in the same photo) in the official Arkansas State Fair sash the same day to Ashton (501) 581-3887. This is to ensure that they are celebrated on social media and added to all digital slides that will be played at the state pageant.

The hard deadline for all entry forms is September 22nd if your pageant is before this date. If your pageant is after this date, the hard deadline is Sunday, September 28th.

For your contestants to be eligible for the Arkansas State Fair, they must be in these age categories: Miss Arkansas State Fair contestants must be 18-23 years old and either a graduating high school senior, enrolled in post-secondary education, or non-pursuant of education by October 1st. Junior Miss Arkansas State Fair contestants must be 14-17 years of age regardless of what grade they are in. If you have a contestant that is 17 and a senior, and wants to compete in the senior division for a chance to win scholarships, they may do so. No one 18 and up can be in the Jr. Division. Junior and Miss contestants must be legal residents of that county or reside in the district they represent for at least 6 months.

In the event that your newly crowned queen is unable to attend the ASF, it is your responsibility to extend the opportunity to the 1st Runner Up. Again, we want every county and district to be represented.

Past ASF Queens are ineligible to compete again. ASF Jr Fair Queens may compete when they qualify for the Senior Fair Queen division.

Please encourage your contestants that do not win your local titles to compete at the district or open pageant.

If your current county Jr. Miss and Miss competed at the ASF competition, and were not crowned as a state winner, they are eligible to compete for their district or the open pageant title the following year.

The Arkansas State Fair youth pageant (13 and under) and Ms. divisions (24+) are open pageants that do not require a preliminary win. Check out the ASF Contestant Guide for more details.

Miss Arkansas State Fair (18-23) and Jr. Miss Arkansas State Fair (14-17) compete in private interview, evening gown. The top 20 compete in On Stage Conversation, and the top 10 compete in On Stage Question.

## Entry Forms

We highly suggest creating your paperwork online for your local pageant and talent competitions. If it is easy to enter your local competition, you will see an increase of participants. Using online formats like JotForm, Google Forms, etc. also allows you to capture online payments which is helpful for your fair association.

The Arkansas State Fair Pageants and Talent Competitions online entry forms can all be found on our website, [arkansasstatefair.com](http://arkansasstatefair.com)

## Official Crown, Sashes & Awards

All ASF affiliated pageants will receive a complimentary sash for their Junior Miss and Miss county queen that will represent your communities at the state level. This professional, uniform, beautiful sash is a highly coveted prize that all participants are proud to receive. It will be worn on stage at the state fair.

Your free, complementary, official Arkansas State Fair sashes for your Miss and Junior Miss county queen **MUST BE ORDERED ONLINE** at [arkansasstatefair.com/pageants](http://arkansasstatefair.com/pageants) **BY JUNE 1ST**. Otherwise, you will be required to purchase an official sash in order for your queens to compete at state. **DO NOT** embellish or alter the complimentary sashes.

While we encourage you to order matching sashes for your other age division winners, it is not mandatory. If you do decide to order matching sashes, they need to be ordered 6 weeks in advance from your event. The Arkansas State Fair also has official crowns for sale if interested.

Official Sash Vendor:  
Stitch & Snap (Michelle Meier)  
669-333-1810  
[sales@stitchandsnap.com](mailto:sales@stitchandsnap.com)

Official Crown Vendor:  
Alabama Wholesale Crown  
[rhinestonecrowns.com](http://rhinestonecrowns.com)  
407-319-4316  
[orders@rhinestonecrowns.com](mailto:orders@rhinestonecrowns.com)  
Ask for the "ASF County Crown"

## Judges

At your local pageant or talent show it is important to have a minimum of three judges who are nonresidents of your respective county. A person who is familiar with a contestant, has been their previous director or coach, is related to a contestant, is not allowed to judge.

Encourage your judges to keep their phones put away, and give their undivided attention to the contestants. We suggest that judges score contestants immediately following her competition in each division.

We suggest using whole number scores throughout the process to make it easy on your auditor. Should a judge need to change a score, the judge must mark through the score and enter a new one next to it. The judge must initial the change by the new score.

When judging interview, we suggest that your judges ask questions based off of their entry form and try to get to know the contestant better. Feel free to ask about their dreams and goals, general knowledge and involvement with the fair. Political questions are discouraged.

## Score Sheets, Auditor Tools and Tabulation

At your pageant and talent competition, it is suggested to have two auditors tabulating. It is highly recommended that one auditor uses the computer tabulation program while the other uses a calculator/paper. Auditors can then check the results against each other.

If you need a tabulation program or judges forms please reach out to our office for further assistance. If for some reason you need to break a tie, your auditor must look back on the interview score. If that is not applicable, look at your on stage question score. Whoever has the highest score will take the top placement.

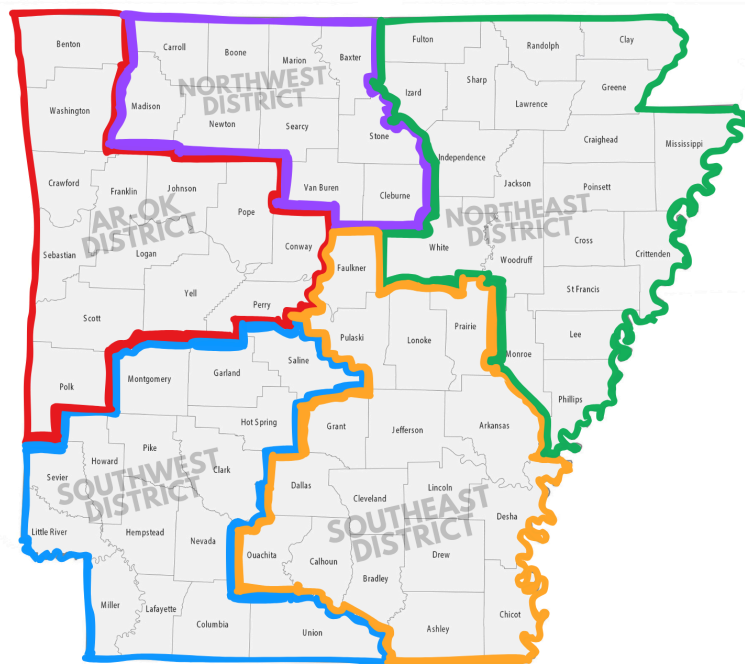
# Contracts

In the event you would like for your local winner to sign a contract, please reach out to our office. These are not necessary in most cases because your local title winners are excited to represent themselves at your fair and advance to the state fair. Encourage them to represent their title at local events and work with them on what makes sense with their schedule. Encourage them to write thank you cards to local sponsors and supporters of your pageant.

# General Info

Please refer to the **ASF Pageant and Talent Showdown Contestant Guide** for specific rules for contestants. If you need a physical copy we are happy to mail you one or you can view it online at [arkansasstatefair.com/pageants](http://arkansasstatefair.com/pageants). If you need additional assistance, please reach out to our office.

# District Pageants



Please encourage your Junior Miss and Miss contestants at the county level to compete at their district pageant if they are not crowned. This helps grow our program and support your district fair. This fun opportunity for your former contestants serves as another experience for them and will help them grow as a competitor. It also gives them a chance to represent your communities at the state level. Connect with your district fair pageant coordinator for more details or call Mary or Ashton for more information.

Map as of January, 2025

# Director's Final Checklist

- ❑ Secure your date and venue
- ❑ Notify the ASF Office (so we can promote & have it added to our preliminary schedule)
- ❑ Secure your volunteers, judges, emcee, returning royalty, & sound equipment/team
- ❑ Order Awards
- ❑ Advertise your competitions
- ❑ Print and prepare your judges/auditors tools
- ❑ Prepare and decorate your venue
- ❑ Notify your winners of the the process of advancing to the state fair
- ❑ Assist them in submitting their entry form if needed

There are many things behind the scenes that take place in order to have a successful pageant or talent show. If you are in need of assistance please reach out to our office. We are happy to help you! Your local pageant and talent show directly contributes to the success of the state pageant!