

Miss Kosciusko County Fair Queen Scholarship Pageant

"My crown is in my heart, not on my head; Not decked with diamonds and Indian Stones, nor to be seen. My crown is called "Content." A crown it is that seldom kings enjoy". – William Shakespeare

Aiding Youth through the Fair Queen Scholarship Pageant

Presented by:

*Nikki Hurley, Lake City Bank
Angie Hostetler, National City Bank*

Did you know that the cost of college tuition has risen between 5.5% and 7.7% at four year institutions in the last year, according to the College Board?

The average cost of a four-year degree from a private college, for tuition only, is \$86,492. The average cost of a four-year degree from a public college, for tuition only, is \$15,016.

We found these statistics to be absolutely astonishing. So, for our White Paper Project, we decided to raise scholarship funds for the Miss Kosciusko County Fair Queen Scholarship Pageant.

The Scholarship Pageant has proven to be a very valuable learning experience for high school girls over the past several years, even if they did not receive a scholarship.

It is our expectation that you will come away from this presentation with knowledge of a very valuable, yet little known, resource for sophomore, junior and senior high school girls wanting to further their education.

Nikki has been involved with this particular pageant for three years and pageants in general for nine years. She has learned first hand how valuable the experience is for the participants.

Angie has a daughter who is a senior in high school and knows how helpful scholarship funds will be in furthering her education.

The astounding costs are often difficult for most people. This is why we feel so strongly about raising scholarship funds.

To raise these funds a letter was written, detailing the rising cost of education and explained what the Miss Kosciusko County Fair Queen Scholarship Pageant is, to several area businesses.

Enclosed in the letter was a card for them to indicate the dollar amount they would like to contribute and an envelope for them to return the card in. We then followed up with a telephone call to those who had not responded by the requested date. Our goal when we began this project was to raise \$3,950.00. To date, we have raised \$2,650.00. As you can see, we still have some work ahead of us.

It is important to note that 100% of the funds raised goes towards scholarships. To ensure that the scholarship recipients use these funds to further their education, a check is written to both the recipient and their college of choice. *If they are not enrolled in college at that time, the funds are then invested in a CD until they are enrolled in a specific college.* At that time, the CD is liquidated and a check is written to the scholarship recipient and their college.

Scholarships are invaluable in helping the girls further their education; however, so is the experience they will gain from participating in this program.

The focus of this program is not on beauty. One of our participants from last year, who did not win a scholarship, stated, "I chose to compete for the new experience and the possibility of winning a scholarship. I have to say though that I truly gained more self-confidence and met some wonderful young women in the process. I won more than I ever could have by being queen". Also one of our former winners stated that she has received several compliments from prospective employers on her interview skills, including her professionalism and ease of communication. She also states that the Scholarship Pageant has improved her as a person and helped her prepare for life.

Our mission is to teach girls valuable skills they will use for the rest of their lives while providing scholarships to help further their education. We teach and then practice interview, presentation, speaking, people and professional dressing skills.

To see this mission come to fruition, two workshops are set up with an optional third being offered. At the first workshop, we teach interviewing techniques. Including proper ways to sit, stand, greet and answer questions. We also cover the importance of eye contact and how someone's first impression of you is made within the first seven seconds of meeting them. Obviously, a big part of your first impression is made by their attire. So we also discuss how to dress professionally to make a very positive first impression.

During the second workshop, we practice the interviewing skills that are learned during the first workshop to ensure that the girls fully understood the material that we covered and are able to implement it. Additionally, we teach voice projection and public speaking skills. Including ways to present themselves in front of an audience to appear more calm, cool and relaxed.

During the Scholarship Pageant, the participants are given the opportunity to use their interview skills in front of three out of county judges and share a bit about themselves with them. After the conclusion of the interviews, the girls have dinner with the judges and fair board members. This is very similar to what you and I would refer to as a business dinner. Thus, giving them experience in conducting themselves in a professional manner while in a dining atmosphere. With an audience of approximately one hundred people, the girls then display their new found presentation and public speaking skills during the actual pageant itself.

Fifty percent of the participant's score is based on the interview with a panel of judges. They are judged on their ability to converse, personality, poise and appropriateness of attire. The remaining 50% of the total score is derived from their self-presentation and public speaking skills in front of the audience.

As you can see, this is not a beauty pageant. It is a program that enhances and teaches life and professional skills that they will use for the rest of their lives in interviewing, speaking and presenting.

In conclusion, our goal today was for you to go away with the knowledge of what a valuable resource the Miss Kosciusko County Fair Queen Scholarship Pageant is, not only for scholarship funds, but also for enhancing the lives of our youth.

It was a great opportunity for us to research and see these goals come to fruition. In conclusion, we have two challenges for you. The first challenge is for each of you to pick up a handout in the back and discuss this program with one girl who you feel would benefit from it. The second challenge is for you to attend the Scholarship Pageant on June 21st, at 7:30 p.m. in the Shrine Building at the fair grounds. This will enable you to see first hand the benefits the girls gain from this pageant.

We look forward to answering any questions you may have and remember to help spread the word about this valuable program for our youth.

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Our Mission

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Testimonials

"The Miss Kosciusko Fair Queen Scholarship pageant has provided me with skills I have used everywhere in life. On several job interviews, the employers have complimented me on my skills involved with professionalism and my ease of communicating. I have helped other people prepare for the real world by using my skills I have learned through the Fair Queen Pageant. I have also informed several people of the benefits they will receive by enrolling in the pageant. Whether you win or not, you always walk away with so many life benefiting skills! The pageant has improved me as a person and helped me prepare for life." -*Alyssa Bott, 2001 Miss Kosciusko County Fair Queen*

"I chose to compete for the new experience and the possibility of winning a scholarship. I have to say though that I truly gained more self-confidence and met some wonderful young women! I won more than I ever could have by being queen." -*Elissa Haywood, 2001 Contestant*

Scholarships & Prizes

Scholarships* and Prizes will be awarded to:

Queen	\$1,000 scholarship
1 st Runner-Up	\$750 scholarship
2 nd Runner-Up	\$500 scholarship
3 rd Runner-Up	\$250 scholarship
Miss Congeniality	\$200 scholarship

** Scholarship amounts are tentative at this time and are subject to change. It is very likely that some of these amounts will increase.*

All participants receive participation gifts*.

**It is possible that all participants may receive a small scholarship as well.*

2002 Calendar of Events

All events are held in the Shrine Building at the Kosciusko County Fair Grounds.

May

May 15 at 7:00 PM – Informational Meeting

May 29 – Application Deadline (Fair Office closes at 4 PM)

(continued on back)



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June

June 5 at 6:30 PM - Workshop I & Contestant Photos Taken

June 12 at 6:30 PM -- Workshop II

June 20 at 6:30 PM – Pageant Rehearsal

June 21 at 7:30 PM – Pageant

June 30 – Fair Parade (all contestants)

July

July 1-6 – Fair Week

August

August 16-18 – State Fair Queen Pageant in Indianapolis

November

November 9 – State Festivals Queen Pageant – French Lick

Duties

Queen

- ◆ Be a hostess for the fair
- ◆ Attend designated events during the fair
- ◆ Compete in the Indiana State Fair Queen Pageant
- ◆ Attend other County Pageants as a representative for the fair (if possible)
- ◆ Participate in local parades
- ◆ Compete in the Indiana State Festivals Queen Pageant (if available)
- ◆ Perform a holiday community service with the Court
- ◆ Assist the pageant committee with the following year's pageant
- ◆ Write thank you notes to designated people
- ◆ Deliver Certificates of Appreciation to Scholarship Sponsors

Court

- ◆ 1st runner-up will assume the Queen's duties if she is unable to fulfill them
- ◆ Attend designated events during the fair
- ◆ Attend other County Pageants as a representative for the fair with the Queen (if possible)
- ◆ Participate in local parades with the Queen (if desired)
- ◆ Perform a holiday community service with the Queen

Additional Information

We invite you to attend our Informational Meeting on May 15, 2002 at 7:00 PM in the Shrine Building at the Fairgrounds for additional information or you may check out our web site at <http://www.fp.kconline.com/fairqueen> or contact:

Nikki Hurley, Director
(574) 267-6144 ext. 6307 (work)
(574) 566-9969 (home)
cnhurley@kconline.com

Angie Hostetler, Scholarships & P. R.
(574) 658-4151 (work)
(574) 658-9219 (home)

This is a tremendous opportunity, not only to earn scholarship money, but also to learn and enhance skills that will prove to be invaluable though out life.