

FAIR QUEEN CONTEST

Submitted by Carol Turley - Zone 11 Roadrunner

Scott County has a local fair every August and Alpha Omega has held the fair queen contest for Over 20 years. This is our biggest money making project of the year, usually taking in over \$4,000. The money from the contest is used for scholarships for graduating senior girls and other local projects. Our fair queen chairman is an elected officer and serves as 2nd Vice President.

The rules for our contest are:

1. Must be a resident of Scott County or attend school in Scott County.
2. Ages 15 through 21, inclusive and single. Must be 15 by September 1, of the current year.
3. Voting will begin approximately two weeks prior to the start of the fair and will close at noon on crowning day.
4. Votes will be (.01) one cent each. The plurality vote method will be used to determine the winner.
5. Ballot boxes will be located in businesses in Scott County and only official ballot boxes will be picked up.
6. Two runners—up will be the Queen's attendants.
7. The Queen will be crowned the first night of the *fair*, by the previous year's Queen.
8. The Queen and attendants will preside over all fair events.
9. The proceeds will be used for scholarships and/or local projects.
10. Total proceeds will be announced at the Queen coronation.
11. Merchants and/or organizations will sponsor each girl.
12. Counting of votes will be done as in previous years.
- 13.** This contest is sponsored by Alpha Omega Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha.

We like to have about 12 girls to run for Fair Queen but have never turned down anyone wanting to run. The activities start off with a Coke Party or Cookout for the candidates about 6 weeks before the fair. This is to inform the girls of the rules and answer any questions. Two or three weeks after this, we usually have a swimming party. At this function the girls turn in the names of their escorts for the crowning ceremonies and decide what they want to wear — short or long dresses. The guys always dress in slacks with sports coat or a suit. They also decide if and what they want to do on Crazy Days. This second meeting is also a time for us to have a progress report from various committees such as the float committee who tells the girls what to wear on the float.

Crazy Days (Wednesday dollar day before fair starts on Monday) is a fun time. We block off a street near Main Street and set up a dunking booth, A schedule is worked out for the girls who want to work and the money that is taken in from this is divided between those who work. The candidates have a get together and make their own posters advertising this function. We, of course, assist the girls in this project. Following Crazy Days, we sometimes will take the girls out for pizza.

Radio interviews with each girl are set up with the local radio station. They are taped and aired the two weeks prior to the fair. We are even interviewed so this gives us a chance to talk about ESA.

The counting of votes starts about two weeks before the crowning. A schedule is made to count every 2 or 3 days. Each candidate is responsible for collecting the money in her individual containers and puts it in our metal lock box. We pick up the boxes on the afternoon of the

counting day, count the money, return the boxes to sponsors business and post the count in the window. The final collection is made at noon on the day of the crowning.

The Sunday before the fair we have a picnic for the girls, their parents, escorts, sponsors and our husbands. We carry in the food with the sorority furnishing the meat and drink. This is our way of saying “thanks”.

The following is a list of our committees and a brief description of their duties:

MERCHANTS & GIRLS — Contact possible candidates and merchants. Provide 2nd Vice President with list of names.

GIFTS & FLOWERS — Picks out crown and charm bracelet for the Queen, charm bracelets for attendants. Orders rose bouquet for Queen and long stem flowers for all the other girls. All other girls receive a charm.

POSTER — Arrange a display of a picture of each candidate, her name and sponsor.

PUBLICITY & PROGRAMS — Covers all activities in newspaper and radio and prints programs for coronation. Program include girl's name, age, parents, escort and sponsor.

FLOAT — Designs and builds float for candidates to ride on. The Queen and 2 Attendants ride on the Chamber of Commerce float.

BANNERS — Design and make the banners that are won by the girls, they have the name of her sponsor.

CONTAINERS — Prepare metal lock boxes that will be put in each sponsors business. Girls are responsible for their individual boxes.

WINDOW — Make arrangements to use a business' window space. Decorate it using the poster from poster committee, counting poster and a picture of last year's Fair Queen. Also decorate a window with the gifts given to the queen and candidates from the local businesses.

SEATING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS — Fix a special place in the grandstands for the Queen, attendants and their escorts.

SPEECH — Usually given by the 2nd Vice President or President. This is given the night of the crowning.

LITTLE MISS CONTESTS

Submitted by Verneene Forssberg

Epsilon Pi conducted “Little Miss Contests” in conjunction with the Miss Kansas activities in the Pratt area for years. It is a very simple process and nets around \$500 to \$600 typically.

1. Advertise the event a month out from the event and set up your voting areas.
2. Seek entries that are 5-years of age or under. A picture must be submitted to be placed on a voting jar. You will need to have as many pictures as you do voting jars.
3. Contact local merchants to set the jars for the voting to take place. Select locations where there is a high traffic area and ask the merchant to place the jars where people

can see them. If you place containers that people can see the money it will stimulate voting. Families and friends will see that their jar needs to be added to and that is where the money comes from.

4. Set an amount for each vote: It can be a penny a vote or five cents a vote - whatever you select advertise the contest rules so people know how to vote.
5. We gave each contestant gift certificates and crowns.
6. We had a float in the Miss Kansas Parade and had the mothers ride with their children.
7. We featured Little Miss Pratt in the local paper with her runners' up.

This money raiser can be held in conjunction with most any local community event (County Fairs, Octoberfests, City Sidewalk sales) and it is always popular with family and friends to feature their small child.