PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Division

December 16, 2025

Thank you for your interest in the Orangeburg Queen of Roses Scholarship Pageant on Saturday, March 7, at 3pm at Stevenson Auditorium, 979 Middleton Street in Orangeburg.

The City of Orangeburg requires that a *minimum of three* contestants compete for the title or the format of the pageant and scholarship amounts may be altered or cancelled.

Enclosed you will find an application, a rules and regulations sheet, and general information on how the Pageant is coordinated. Please complete the attached application and send it with your $40 entry fee and photograph (head and shoulders only) to:

Orangeburg Queen of Roses Scholarship Pageant
1099 Russell Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Applications and photos can also be emailed to meredith.garris@orangeburg.sc.us, and an invoice will be emailed to you for online payment.

The photograph may be used for publicity in The Times and Democrat, our social media, and the pageant program book. It may be color or black and white.

Deadline for applications, photographs, and talent music is Friday, February 27, 2026, at 5pm.
Refunds will not be issued after the deadline if you withdraw from the pageant.

Rehearsals will be held on Saturday, March 7, beginning at 11:30am. Rehearsal is mandatory for all queen contestants. All contestants will rehearse together first, then talent rehearsal will fall in contestant order so contestants will have time to change and prepare for interviews that begin at 1:30pm. Please note: rehearsal and interview times may be adjusted based on the number of contestants (meaning rehearsal and interviews could begin earlier if needed). If you cannot attend rehearsal, you will not be allowed to participate in the pageant - no exceptions.

If you have any questions, please contact me at meredith.garris@orangeburg.sc.us, 803-533-6020, or text 803-707-6766. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions!

Sincerely,

Meredith

Meredith M. Garris
City of Orangeburg Community Events Coordinator

Enclosures

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Orangeburg Queen of Roses Scholarship Pageant Application

Name _____
First Middle Last

Address _____
Street City/State Zip

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Contestant is the Daughter of _____

Names of Siblings _____

_____

School _____ Current Year _____

Area of Study/Major _____

Scholastic Honors _____

_____

_____

Community Involvement _____

_____

_____

Special Training/Activities You Enjoy _____

_____

_____

What Is Your Ambition In Life? _____

_____

_____

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The Person You Most Admire Is _____

Because _____

_____

_____

Favorite Words That Inspire You _____

_____

_____

Is There Anything Else You Would Like To Share? _____

_____

_____

Talent You Will Perform _____

Write Your Own Brief Introduction For Your Talent Performance _____

_____

_____

_____

Release

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and will abide by all Rules and Regulations of the Orangeburg Queen of Roses Pageant and that I am eligible to complete in accordance. I will be able to serve as Queen of Roses at the Festival of Roses on Saturday, May 2, from 10:00am-1:00pm and ride in the Christmas Parade the afternoon of Sunday, December 6, 2026. I understand that if there are fewer than three contestants registered for the pageant, the pageant format and scholarship amounts may be altered.

Contestant Signature _____ Date _____

*Parent Signature _____ Date _____

**Must be signed by a parent if the contestant is under 18 years of age.*

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Orangeburg Queen of Roses Rules and Regulations

1. Contestants must fill out the application and return it by Friday, February 27, by 5pm. It may be emailed to meredith.garris@orangeburg.sc.us or mailed to Orangeburg Queen of Roses Scholarship Pageant, 1099 Russell Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115, but ***it must be in hand or in Meredith's inbox by 5pm on Friday, February 27, 2026.***

2. A $40 Entry Fee must be paid at the time the application is submitted. Emailed applications will be sent an invoice for online payment. Refunds will not be issued after the deadline if you withdraw from the pageant. Participants must follow any safety ordinances and/or guidelines issued by the City of Orangeburg.

3. A photograph (head and shoulders only) must be submitted with the application or emailed to meredith.garris@orangeburg.sc.us.

4. Contestant must meet the eligibility requirements previously set by the City of Orangeburg of being 17-22 years old, never been married, a full-time college or university student no later than the 2027 fall semester, and either a resident of South Carolina or a full-time student at a South Carolina college or university. The reigning queen will not be allowed to compete the year following her reign. She may skip a year, and then, if still eligible, compete again. *Example: The 2026 Queen shall not compete in the 2027 Pageant but may compete in the 2028 Pageant if all eligibility requirements are met.*

5. The Orangeburg Queen of Roses will be allowed to hold other titles as long as it does not conflict with her obligations as Orangeburg Queen of Roses.

6. A minimum of three contestants are required or the format of the pageant and scholarship amounts may be altered.
   Orangeburg Queen of Roses shall receive a sash, crown, trophy, and $1,500 scholarship.
   First Runner-Up shall receive a trophy and $750 scholarship.
   Second Runner-Up shall receive a trophy and $500 scholarship.
   Talent Competition Winner shall receive a trophy and $500 scholarship.

7. All scholarships are paid directly to the school. To receive your scholarship, you must submit to the City of Orangeburg (1) a letter requesting your scholarship and (2) proof of enrollment at the school (bill, class schedule, etc.) along with (3) your student ID number. Those who place in the pageant may have the school confirm enrollment immediately following the pageant. 2026 scholarships that are not requested before September 30, 2027 will not be paid and money will revert back into the scholarship account.

8. Judging will be based on a scale from 1-10 in the following categories: Interview, Casual Wear, Talent, and Evening Gown/On Stage Question. The contestant with the highest overall score will be crowned Orangeburg Queen of Roses. The contestant with the second highest score will be named 1st Runner-Up, and the contestant with the third highest score will be named 2nd Runner-Up. The contestant with the highest talent score will be named the Talent Competition Winner.

9. Duties of the Orangeburg Queen of Roses include appearances at the Orangeburg Festival of Roses on May 2, 2026 (introducing herself and the Princesses of Roses) and riding on the Queen/Princess float in the Orangeburg Christmas Parade on Sunday afternoon, December 6.

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Guidelines for Phases of Competition
Orangeburg Queen of Roses Scholarship Pageant

***30% Pre-Pageant Interview*: a brief chance for contestants to introduce themselves to the judges prior to the Pageant**

1. Contestants should wear appropriate interview attire to meet the judges.
2. Questions will be based on your pageant application and may include questions regarding current events, pop culture, and trendy topics for the contestants' generation.

10% Casual Wear

1. Dresses, skirts, pants, capris, or shorts outfit of your choice. Something that expresses your individual personality and that you feel comfortable and confident in on stage. ***No athletic attire (sneakers, sports bras, etc.).***
2. You will walk out on stage, stop at the microphone, and give a brief introduction (your name, age, and hometown). Then, you will continue modeling and walking around the stage while your bio is being read by the emcee.

30% Talent

1. Performance time shall not exceed 3.5 minutes.
2. Singers: Your music can include backup singers, but it should not include the original artist singing. It must be an instrumental track or karaoke.
3. Dancers: Your track can include the original artist singing.
4. The emcee will need a written introduction for your performance, which is a part of your application. You will write this introduction yourself.
5. Email your .mp3 track to meredith.garris@orangeburg.sc.us by Friday, February 27.
6. Your choice of costume should be appropriate for your performance.

30% Evening Gown/On Stage Question

1. You may wear any formal length gown of your choice.
2. You will approach the emcee in your evening gown and pull a question from the stack. After answering your question, you will continue modeling your dress while the emcee reads more of your bio. Once finished, you will exit the stage.

Reminder

Judges are provided with a list of what is to be worn in each phase of competition. They may deduct points if you choose an outfit that is outside the stated guidelines.