

2026 LAUREL FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTESTANT RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Candidate must be a Junior (Grade 11) or Senior (Grade 12) residing in the Town of Winchester or City of Winsted. Students may attend any high school including: The Gilbert School, Northwestern Regional District #7, Charter Explorations School, Oliver Wolcott Tech, any of the Magnet High Schools as well as those who are homeschooled.
2. The deadline to hand in paperwork is May 9, 2026.
3. Candidate must be single, without children, never married, and never convicted of a crime.
4. Laurel Queen, Laurel King and Runners Up cannot marry, become pregnant or be convicted of a crime during their reign.
5. Former Laurel Queens/Laurel Kings are not eligible to participate.
6. It is at the complete discretion of the Laurel City Commission to review the candidates' eligibility.
7. Candidates must agree to abide by all the rules and regulations now in effect or announced thereafter.
8. The Scholarship Program will be conducted under the rules established by the Laurel City Commission and a candidate agrees that the time, manner, and method of judging shall be solely within the discretion of the Laurel City Commission and the decision of the judges will be final.
9. If a candidate wears a corsage or carries a bouquet at any time during the weekend, it must be made of LAUREL only.
10. Cars and floats used in the parade may be decorated. If using flowers to decorate, must be Laurel only.
11. Parents, friends, and relatives of the candidate must purchase tickets to the Laurel Ball. The contestant does not need to pay for his or her ticket.
12. No refunds to sponsors or event ticket purchases will be made unless the Laurel Festival is cancelled. •
13. If named Laurel Queen or King, you must be on time for all appearances. Appearances will be coordinated through the Laurel City Commission and the Laurel Queen and King are responsible for providing current phone number(s), mailing address, and email address to the Commission.
14. The candidates must be present for ALL Laurel Festival events: Judges Interview, Laurel Ball, Parade, and Crowning Ceremony. The Laurel City Commission must approve in advance any exceptions.
15. The candidate must wear a formal floor or tea length gown/dress pants, shirt and tie (Jacket optional) to the Laurel Ball as well as the Parade and Crowning Ceremony.
16. The candidate should dress "business casual" for the judges' interview (i.e. casual dresses, pants, capris, blouses, crew neck or v neck shirts).
17. Notification concerning the time schedule of the judges' interviews will be distributed prior to the festival weekend.
18. Drinking alcoholic beverages during any of the Laurel Festival events is strictly prohibited regardless of the age of the candidate.

19. It is strongly suggested that the contestants, Laurel Queen, and Laurel King refrain from smoking and/or vaping during any of the Laurel Festival events.
20. Public display of affection is prohibited during any of the Laurel Festival events.
21. Should there be a problem of any kind during the festival or related events, the candidates are to go directly to the Laurel City Commission. Any unbecoming conduct by a candidate or any disregard for the rules and regulations could result in immediate dismissal from further competition without a refund to the sponsor or event ticket purchases.
22. If named Laurel Queen/King and for some reason, the title is revoked, the Laurel Queen/King will have to return all prizes such as but not limited to crown, sash, cape, and scholarship.
23. In the event the Laurel Queen or Laurel King title is revoked or given up, the First Runner-Up (if he or she still meets the eligibility criterion) will be named Laurel King/Queen.
24. Laurel King and Queen will keep their crown, sash, and any other prizes at the end of their reign. The cape should be given to the new Laurel Queen and new Laurel King at the crowning ceremony.
25. The cape is the responsibility of the Laurel Queen and Laurel King during their reign. Prior to the next Laurel Festival when a new Laurel King and Queen will be crowned, the cape must be professionally cleaned. If anything should happen to the cape during his or her reign as Laurel King or Queen, the Laurel City Commission must be notified immediately.

For additional information, please contact the Laurel City Commission:

**Laurel Commission
Town of Winchester
338 Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098**

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