

Contestant name: _____
Ms. Marion Popcorn Festival

MS. POPCORN INSTRUCTIONS:

Hello and welcome to the 35th annual Miss Marion Popcorn Festival Scholarship Program. We are so pleased to have you participate in this very special event. Not only are we awarding many wonderful scholarships and prizes, but the queen and her court will reign over the 35th annual Marion Popcorn Festival. The festival is a nationally known event and thousands will visit Marion to enjoy the free entertainment, great food, fun, arts and crafts, and many specialty events.

Contestants' numbers will be based on when entries are received:

First in – last on stage; last in – first on stage!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

You will be judged in four (4) categories:

Interview (40%)

A panel of judges will interview each contestant for a period of 10 minutes. These interviews are conducted the morning of the program. Please arrive for your interview to check in at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time. Interviews will be timed by an independent person in the interview room. Appropriate dress is what you would wear for a professional job interview. After your interview, you may leave the school but **MUST** return for the evening competition by no later than 5:00 PM in the dressing room. **NO ONE** may be with you during the interview times.

All interview questions will be based upon the Marion Popcorn Festival and the application information submitted by the contestant.

You will be notified by email of your scheduled interview time.

Beauty (20%, evening wear)

The dress for this category may be full length or street length formal wear.

Popcorn Wear (20%, a fun outfit that promotes the spirit of the Popcorn Festival)

This outfit can be any of your choice. Have fun with this category. It should be something that promotes the Popcorn Festival, popcorn and/or the theme – Poppin' Safari. There will be no description read regarding your outfit so it is important that the judges and audience can clearly see the relevance to popcorn and the festival. There are no props allowed in this category other than those you carry while modeling your outfit.

On Stage Question (20%)

Contestants will draw questions on stage and judging is based upon the contestant's ability to speak and answer the question appropriately without prior knowledge of the question. The questions will be general in nature.

Opening Number – this is NOT judged! Short evening dress and comfy shoes, you will be dancing in them, so no big heels. We don't want you to have to go out and buy something for this!!

Dress rehearsals – I would like to try something new this year and have a couple of rehearsals prior to our Friday night run-through. These will be used to learn the opening number and go over modeling for those that want to. No need to bring any outfits or anything, just you and comfy clothes. Dates, times, etc. TBD.

A mandatory dress rehearsal will be conducted at the school the evening of Friday, July 31st. This is MANDATORY and you must bring your clothing to this rehearsal, with the exception of your interview clothes. This rehearsal will begin at 5 PM.

PLEASE NOTE – THE CLOTHING YOU WEAR FOR THE REHEARSAL MUST BE THE SAME CLOTHING YOU WILL WEAR FOR THE COMPETITION ON SATURDAY, AUG. 1st....IF YOU CHANGE THE CLOTHING WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION FROM EITHER DIRECTOR, LYNN JAMISON OR MARIANNE CURRY, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO SCORE IN THAT CATEGORY OF THE JUDGING...NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We will be running through the entire program.

We ask that you select one person to be your “backstage mom”. Please make sure your person is over the age of 18. It CANNOT be your mother or a stepmother but could be a friend, sister, aunt, etc. We want parents in the audience to enjoy the show. The backstage person MUST BE A FEMALE. If you cannot find someone to serve as your backstage person, please let me know. You need to provide the name of that person to me, at your earliest convenience.

No one else will be allowed in the dressing room area at any time. NO EXCEPTIONS...if someone wants to send flowers or a gift backstage they are to give it to the ticket takers at the door and they will get the gift backstage. If you have someone else besides your backstage mom doing hair/makeup – please do this before you arrive.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

#1 – We are AGAIN awarding a “People’s Choice” cash award this year. All money you collect is to be turned in at the dress rehearsal on Friday, July 31st. The votes are all in money, dollars, change or any amount and the ONE contestant who receives the most money in their account will receive one-half of the TOTAL cash raised and the other half goes for the support of the Miss Popcorn Scholarship Program. The one winner in Ms. Popcorn will be announced that evening at the crowning. (There will be a separate winner in the Miss Popcorn group)

#2 – This year we are again including a Photogenic Category for judging. This category will have one winner and will receive a prize package, which may include a cash prize. This category will NOT be included in overall scoring and will have no impact on the totals for judging Ms. Popcorn and the runners-up. You may enter up to 3 photographs (they will be returned to you). They may be color or black and white or color and should be 5” by 7” or 8” by 10”. They

are to be unframed. The charge for one photo entered is \$10.00, for two photos \$15.00 and for three photos, \$20.00. The criteria for judging will be: quality of the photograph, clarity of the individual in the picture, pose, smile and personality. All photos will be returned to you. These photos and the fees are to be turned in at the dress rehearsal on Aug. 1st.

#3 – One more very important item – this year there will be no ties...all contestants will complete the quiz at the dress rehearsal on Friday, July 31st. All questions will come directly from the popcorn website which is: www.popcornfestival.com . These scores are only utilized in case of a category or placement tie. If there is a tie, the individual with the highest quiz score will break the tie. The website has been updated this year so pay close attention to it. The quiz does not count for any other portion of the judging.

#4 – NEW THIS YEAR! We are going to sell ads for the program.

\$50.00 – Whole Page Ad (8 ½ (long) x 5 ½ (wide)) including a photo.

\$35.00 – Half Page Ad (4" long x 5 ½" wide)

\$20.00 – Quarter Page Ad (3" long x 5 ½" wide)

\$10.00 – Shout out! (2" long x 5 ½" wide)

Remember, your backstage mom will have free admission to the pageant on Aug. 1st, which is why I need their names. All other persons will be required to purchase a ticket. All tickets are \$10. each for adults and \$5. for children 10 and under. Doors will not open until 6:30 PM, no exceptions. Also, you may NOT mark off reserved seats for people who are attending. The front two rows are reserved for the photographer, festival officials, returning queens, and interview judges who return to see the event.

Again, thank you and get ready for a very special event!

Miss/Ms. Director, Lynn Jamison, Director, Marianne Curry

Miss/Ms. Marion Popcorn Festival Scholarship Program