



## **About the 2024 National Blueberry Festival Youth Program\***

The 2024 Pageant will be held Thursday, August 8th at 5:30PM, at our stage under the Huron Street Pavilion, downtown South Haven.

**A Mandatory practice and individual *interview* will take place August 7th from 6:00-8:30PM at Beeches Golf Club.**

An optional practice for this year's program will be held Thursday, August 1st from 6:00-7:30PM at Beeches Golf Club.

**Regardless of contest results- are welcomed and encouraged to join us as we lead the parade on August 10th.** Our youth program participants have the honor of leading the festival parade in a truly unique mode of transportation! The decision whether or not a parade will be held will be communicated via email prior to the first practice.

The Youth Pageant Ambassador Program is a wonderful leadership experience for local youth. It is a great chance to be brave, try something new, and meet friends. The pageant is held as part of the opening ceremony for the National Blueberry Festival, as it is here that representatives for the festival will be chosen.

The pageant aims to provide local youth between the ages of 6 and 12 years old the opportunity to participate in local festivals and holiday celebrations, to gain social skills, and to learn more about the community of South Haven and the industry that South Haven is known for - Blueberries.

The pageant committee encourages interested participants to come as they are, in their favorite outfit or sundress - fancy dresses just aren't practical for the hot summer weather, and to be ready for some serious FUN and learning!

**Cost** \$25.00/ child

### **Rules and Waiver**

**RULES AND INFORMATION for National Blueberry Festival Pageant:** All contestants must be at least 6 years old and not more than 12 years old by August 8, 2024. Contestants must continually reside with a parent or legal guardian and maintain a permanent residence within South Haven, Bangor, Bloomingdale, Breedsville, Covert, Glenn, Grand Junction, or Lacota. As of August 8, 2024, no other local, state, or national title shall be held if contestant becomes an ambassador for The National Blueberry Festival.

All entry fees are nonrefundable (unless the festival is canceled) and must be received no later than July 22, 2024.

The purpose of the National Blueberry Festival Pageant is to select representatives for the National Blueberry Festival. The National Blueberry Festival Pageant is a “natural” children’s pageant. For this setting and all events in the year to follow, contestants are expected to wear little to no make-up and modest, age-appropriate outfits. The National Blueberry Festival Pageant aims to provide local youth between the ages of 6 years old and 12 years old the opportunity to participate in local festivals and holiday celebrations, to gain social skills, and to learn more about the community of South Haven and the industry that South Haven is known for - blueberries!

The court members will be chosen by judges that will remain anonymous until the start of the pageant, and are chosen at the discretion of The National Blueberry Festival Pageant Director. The judges will evaluate, with equal value, the three categories of interview personality, on-stage presentation, and on-stage question.

Children ages 6 years old to 8 years old by August 8, 2024 will compete for the “Little Miss Blueberry Princess” or “Little Mister Blueberry Prince”. Children ages 9 years old to 12 years old by August 8, 2024 will compete for the “Little Miss Blueberry” or “Little Mister Blueberry”.

If your child has previously served as the title holder for Little Miss, Little Mister, Princess, your child is not eligible to participate in the pageant event again at that age category. Titleholders who have served as court members or runners up are eligible to participate in the pageant more than one year, however, repeat participants are not granted any sort of preference over participants running for their first time. **NEW FOR next year (2025) moving forward: Titleholders who have served as the title holder or court member for an age category will not be eligible to participate in the pageant event again at that age category.**

The Court of Honor for 2024 is set to be: Blueberry Princess, Blueberry Princess First Runner-Up, Blueberry Prince, Blueberry Prince First Runner-Up, Little Miss Blueberry, Little Miss Blueberry First Runner-Up, Little Mister Blueberry, and Little Mister Blueberry First Runner-Up.

Pageant participation is on a first-come-first-serve basis and is limited to the first ten applications received per category.

Should a group be located to host the parade, all pageant participants- regardless of contest results- are welcomed and encouraged to join us as we lead the parade on August 10th.

The court make up and positions may be altered or added by The National Blueberry Festival Pageant Director supported by the Festival Committee, at any time without prior warning to contestants. No monetary compensation will be given to any members of the Court of Honor.

## **PARENT/ LEGAL GUARDIAN RELEASE for National Blueberry Festival Pageant**

We, the parents/legal guardians of the contestant, hereby give our consent for the contestant to appear in the 2024 National Blueberry Festival Pageant, and to participate in all events planned by the Committee and Pageant Director.

We agree that photographs of our child may appear with or without their name for any lawful purpose, including such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and online content.

We do hereby release, unconditionally, and forever, any claim against The National Blueberry Festival, The National Blueberry Festival Pageant, its officers, directors, agents, volunteers, employees and corporate sponsors, and agree to hold them harmless as to any claim arising out of any participation in The National Blueberry Festival or its activities.

If our child is selected as part of The Court of Honor, we as parents/legal guardians agree to the following: The contestant will attend all events requested by the Committee even though they may conflict with the festival schedule. The contestant will not attend any events unless a written invitation is received by and approved by the Pageant Director. The contestant will be picked up at the designated end time of events or may lose the opportunity to participate in future events. From the date of selection, the contestant will not advertise, endorse, or in any way support any commercial product or make any personal appearances as a representative of the National Blueberry Festival Pageant Event without written consent of the Pageant Director.

We have read and understand the rules and information set forth in this document.

*\*The terms "Youth Program," "Youth Pageant," "Ambassador Program," and similar phrases are used interchangeably, and refer to a single program.*