



**Queen of the Chesapeake**

# **Pageant Handbook**

**Prepared by  
The Queen of the Chesapeake Committee**

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## **Pageant Qualifications:**

1. Contestant must be a Princess between the ages of 15-19 as of the day of the Queen of the Chesapeake Pageant.
2. Contestant must be related to a member of their sponsoring Yacht Club (i.e. daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece, cousin, or ward).
3. The sponsoring club must be in good standing with the Queen of the Chesapeake Program and Pageant Committee.
4. Contestants MUST attend pageant orientation on 18 Feb 2024 at Maryland Yacht Club. If unable to attend, contestant must request a make up orientation in writing to the Queen of the Chesapeake Committee at [QOTC@mdyc.org](mailto:QOTC@mdyc.org) No later than March 1st, 2024. If request is approved, an orientation will be scheduled.

## **Pageant Process:**

1. An application packet will be given to each Princess at the Pageant Orientation scheduled for February 18th, 2024 at Maryland Yacht Club. This will include the Opening Weekend Passport Book to record attendance at yacht club openings.
2. The completed application may be emailed or mailed to The Queen of the Chesapeake Committee. The pageant application fee of \$300.00 for participating contestants or \$150.00 for non-participating contestants must be mailed to the Queen of the Chesapeake Committee.

**Applications and fees must be received or postmarked no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**

Email to: [QOTC@mdyc.org](mailto:QOTC@mdyc.org)

Address: QOTC Committee  
1500 Fairview Beach Rd.  
Pasadena, MD 21122

3. Contestants will be judged on the following categories:

### **Interview Process: June 15th, 2024**

**Required Contestant Attire:** Professional wear with sash and tiara

#### **Scoring for Interview:**

- Achievements – 20%
- Interview – 25%

### **Pageant: June 22<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Required Contestant Attire:** Two long formal gowns to be selected by the Contestant. One white gown, and one your choice of color. The gown must be tasteful without low cuts in the front or back nor high slits in the front or sides. If a strapless is chosen, please ensure proper fit to prevent any discomfort or adjusting during presentation and while on stage.

#### **Scoring for the Pageant:**

- Poise/Presentation: - 20%
- Essay – 20%
- Openings Attended – 15%

Judges will not be members of any Yacht Club being represented by a Contestant or related to a Contestant. Judges will choose the Queen and the First Runner-Up.

4. **INTERVIEW DAY:** Contestants **only** must arrive at the Maryland Yacht Club by 8:30am on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> for interviews. a drawing will be conducted to determine the contestants' position order for the Pageant.
  - a. Contestants will also choose Miss Congeniality by secret ballot at this time.
  - b. Contestants will turn in Penny War Jars and funds on Interview Day.
  - c. Contestants will turn in Opening Weekend passports on Interview Day.
5. Dinner will be provided to Contestants following pageant rehearsal on Friday, June 21st at Maryland Yacht Club.
6. Contestants **must attend** Pageant Rehearsal at 5:00pm on Friday, June 21rd. Contestants must bring the shoes they are wearing on pageant day to rehearsal. Their escort's attendance is **highly recommended**.
7. Following Pageant Rehearsal, a Queen's Farewell Party will be held. All are invited. All princesses are expected to attend. No RSVP required.
8. **Pageant Competition Day:** Saturday, June 22th, 2024
  - a. Contestants **only** should arrive at Maryland Yacht Club's Clubhouse on Saturday, June 22<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am to start preparing for the pageant. Breakfast will be provided for participants.
  - b. Tent and Boat decorating contest. Participants families and/or club may set up and decorate 1 tent per participant. Tents may be no larger than 10'X10'. Each club will be designated an area behind the pageant seating area. Tents are organized alphabetically by club name. Judging begins at 10:30AM.
  - c. The 76th Queen of the Chesapeake and the 77th Queen of the Chesapeake contestants will conduct judging of tents and boats at 10:30 AM.
9. The Maryland Yacht Club Boardroom will be reserved for pageant contestant preparations. **Each contestant may bring one person to assist with preparations from 12:30 - 1:30 PM.** At 1:30 PM, only contestants, participating and non-participating, and committee members may remain in the boardroom. At this time, all others **MUST** leave.
10. At 2:15PM, all contestants, participating and non-participating, will present themselves for official pageant photos.
11. The Pageant will begin at **3:00PM on Saturday, June 22<sup>th</sup>** which includes:
  - Individual Contestant Introductions
  - Contestant reads her essay and answers 3 questions.
  - Miss Congeniality announced
  - Parade of Contestants
  - Final Question
  - 2023-2024 Queen's Farewell Speech
  - 1st Runner-Up announced and awarded
  - 2024-2025 77th Queen of the Chesapeake announced and crowned.
10. Following the Pageant, photographs will be taken of the Queen, Contestants, and all participating and non-participating Princesses. Past Queens, Princesses, and DRYL Queens and Princesses are invited for photos.
11. Traditional Poolside Ceremony and Queen's Cake Cutting  
**All are invited. Princesses are expected to attend.** No RSVP required.

# **Pageant Weekend Participant Awards:**

## **The Outgoing Queen will receive:**

- A bouquet of flowers

## **Miss Congeniality will receive:**

- Miss Congeniality plaque

## **First Runner-Up will receive:**

- First Runner-Up Trophy
- \$750 scholarship to be awarded when she furthers her education beyond high school. It is the responsibility of the First Runner-Up to notify the QOTC scholarship Team which college or technical school she will be attending. The Scholarship Committee will hold the Scholarship awarded amount for up to five (5) years after her graduation from high school.

## **The 77th Queen of the Chesapeake will receive:**

- Queen's Trophy
- Queen's Crown with Carry Case
- Queen's Sash
- Queen's Flag
- A bouquet of flowers
- A \$2,000 scholarship for which she will qualify for after her reign is complete. This will be awarded when she furthers her education beyond high school. It is the responsibility Outgoing Queen to notify the QOTC scholarship Team which college or technical school she will be attending. The Scholarship Committee will hold the Scholarship awarded amount for up to five (5) years after her graduation from high school.

## **Responsibilities of the Queen:**

1. The Queen represents all Chesapeake Bay Area Yacht Clubs, therefore; she should, at all times, be personable, polite, and respectful towards all people and at all events.
2. The Queen is expected to attend a reasonable number of invited yacht club affairs such as Opening Day Ceremonies, Commodores' Balls, and Social Events, Princess Crownings and Princess fundraisers.
3. The Queen is responsible for providing a RSVP for herself and all QOTC princesses for opening weekends.
4. The Queen is responsible for her RSVP only for attending Yacht Club Balls.
5. The Queen, herself, must respond to each invitation as directed whether she is accepting or politely declining. Should she be unable to attend, she is expected to send a written speech to be read by a representative of the hosting yacht club.
6. In the event that two affairs are held on the same day, it will be the Queen's choice as to which affair she will attend.
7. The Queen is expected to speak at every event she attends. All spectators will rise when she is introduced and will not be seated until they are instructed by the Queen.
8. It is the Queen's choice as to who will escort her as she is introduced at events. Escort must be chosen prior to the start of the event, and the Queen must thank her escort in her speech. The same individual should not escort the Queen at multiple events.
9. The Queen must contact a QOTC Team Member at least once each month. The purpose of the contact is for her to provide a list of her previous month's activities and to disclose her activities for the upcoming month as well as discuss any questions or concerns.
10. The Queen's participation is required for The Princess-In-Waiting Orientation, which will be scheduled in September/October. Her participation is also required for the Pageant Orientation occurring February/March. Her duties include assisting and preparing incoming Princesses for their year ahead. The orientations will be hosted by the Queen of the Chesapeake Committee.
11. The Queen is responsible for announcing her theme for the following pageant year at princess orientation, which will be scheduled in September/October.
12. The Queen, with the help of the QOTC Committee, is responsible for a Princess Luncheon to be held in March or April, traditionally held at Miles River Yacht Club. The Queen should invite Queen of the Chesapeake pageant and program participants, their mothers, and first ladies/first gents to the event.
13. The Queen is responsible for providing the QOTC committee a list of 3-4 proposed bonding event suggestions and dates to be held throughout her reign. Bonding events are funded through penny wars, therefore the amount raised the year before will be the determining factor for how many events and where they can be held. The QOTC will inform the Queen of her budget for all events. It is the responsibility of the Queen to find events within that amount. The Queen will ensure the proposed dates do not interfere with posted balls and openings.

14. The Queen is responsible for creating a monthly newsletter. The newsletter is to be sent to the QOTC committee for distribution . This is her chance to inform the Yacht Club Community of the activities, fundraising, outreach, bonding, and crowning events.
15. The Queen has the honor of wearing white to all events. This color distinguishes her from other participants. White floor length gowns are required to be worn to Commodores' Balls, as appropriate, and Yacht Club Openings.
16. The Queen is required to participate in the following year's Entire Pageant Weekend activities and in the 'Crowning' of the newly selected Queen.
17. If the Queen is unable to comply with all her responsibilities, she is required to contact the Queen of the Chesapeake Committee to discuss possible solutions. In extreme situations, the Queen of the Chesapeake Committee may request that she relinquish her title, crown, sash, and scholarship to the First Runner-up. The First Runner-up shall then be reigning Queen for the remainder of the year. If the First Runner-up is unable to perform the duties of the Queen, then the Committee has the responsibility of choosing the replacement to fulfill the Queen's duties for the remainder of the year. If the First Runner-Up or alternate assumes the position and duties of Queen of the Chesapeake prior to January 1, 2024, she will not be eligible to compete for Queen of the Chesapeake. If the First Runner-Up or alternate assumes the position and duties of the Queen of the Chesapeake on or after January 1, 2024, she will be eligible to compete for Queen of the Chesapeake.
18. The Queen is expected to abide by all rules set forth in the code of conduct for the Queen of the Chesapeake Program.

# **Queen of the Chesapeake Program:**

***Congratulations on representing your club as PRINCESS. Remember that being chosen as PRINCESS of your club is a great honor and you should feel proud! The PRINCESS is always the brightest point of a Yacht Club.***

Code of Conduct, Responsibilities and Protocol (aka QOTC ) for the Queen and the Princesses in the Court of the Queen of the Chesapeake:

The Queen of the Chesapeake Committee is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its Participants. We believe that it is important that the Queen of the Chesapeake and Club Princesses participating in the Queen of the Chesapeake Program (Queen's Court) should always show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others.

The Queen of the Chesapeake Program Participants are encouraged to be open at all times and to respectfully share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the Queen of the Chesapeake Program with the Committee.

The Queen of the Chesapeake Program aims to offer a positive experience in which our young women can learn and experience new things in a befitting environment.

By participating in the Queen of the Chesapeake's Court, a Participant has accepted the responsibility and honor of representing her Yacht Club in the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Community. This responsibility and honor include being a positive representative of her Yacht Club. This role comes with certain standards and responsibilities.

These standards and responsibilities are determined by her club, however, being a member of the Queen's court also has certain expectations. As a member of the Queen's Court, Participants are held to a high standard of conduct.

The QOTC Committee will help, support, and prepare Participants through communication, direction, and activities that help develop leadership skills.

# **Code of Conduct**

***Queen of the Chesapeake Program Participants are expected to abide by the following Code of Conduct:***

As a Member of the Queen's Court, all Participants **MUST**:

1. Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all regardless of ability, race, appearance, cultural background, religious beliefs, or sexual identity.
2. Refrain from any and all conduct that is obscene, indecent, or offensive. This includes but is not limited to the use of foul language or racial/sectarian references. This includes in person interactions as well as, but is not limited to, social media, messaging (electronic or otherwise), as well as traditional communications.
3. Respect opponents and practice good sportsmanship such as abstaining from cheating or making false accusations.
4. Refrain from behavior that is threatening, abusive, retaliatory, or is disruptive or obstructive.
5. Refrain from bullying in any form. This includes through social media. Bullying will not be tolerated and must be reported to a member of the Committee immediately.
6. Refrain from providing false statements or misleading information, including by omission, to or about the Queen of the Chesapeake Program, the Committee, or its Participants.
7. Never drink alcohol. Drinking alcohol is PROHIBITED for all people under the age of 21. If a Princess is offered alcohol by anyone, it should be reported to a Committee member immediately!
8. Never Smoke. The smoking of cigarettes, cigars, JUULing, the use of other e-cigarettes, marijuana or any other drug that is not prescribed is NOT PERMITTED.
9. Refrain from committing any offense that is prohibited by local, state, or federal law.
10. Social Media: Remember that anything you post can be viewed by anyone whether you delete it or not. Princesses are expected to follow the Code of Conduct as a guideline for their use of social media. Online safety is of paramount importance; Princesses should be careful in what they choose to post and what they choose to share. Remember to be positive, present your best self, and when in doubt, consult resources such as your school's online rules or a QOTC Committee member.
11. Respond in a timely fashion to communications. If the Queen or a Committee Member or an officer or their mate of a yacht club requests information, such as which events a Princess will or will not be able to attend, the Princess should strive to respond immediately, but within 48 to 72 hours if there are extenuating circumstances. The Queen and all Committee members should be provided this information via email.

# **Traditional Guidelines for Princess Attire:**

A Princess represents her whole club. Her behavior and presentation reflect on not only herself, but her club and all its members.

1. A Princess should wear her tiara and sash, presented to her by her club, at all events.
12. For your own club Ball and Opening:
  - a. You are to wear a white ball gown. This is the only time you are to wear white other than for the pageant.
  - b. You may wear a dress shoe with heels to balls. No flip-flops or “crocs” style shoes.
3. For other clubs’ Balls:
  - a. You will normally wear a full-length gown to a ball, but you should dress according to the dress code established by the host club.
  - b. You may wear a dress shoe with heels to balls. No flip-flops or “crocs” style shoes.
4. For all ball gowns:
  - a. Dresses may be strapless as long as they fit properly.
  - b. Dresses may be backless, but should not be cut below the navel.
  - c. Dresses may not be two-piece that show midriff.
  - d. Dresses may not have a slit that exceeds mid-thigh, in other words, no higher than 6 inches above your knees.
  - e. Dresses may not be cut below the bust line.
  - f. Undergarments should not be visible.
  - g. As white dresses are reserved for the Queen and the Princess of a club (Princess may wear a white gown at her own club’s events), if the dress is more than 25% white it should not be worn.
5. When attending an Opening:
  - a. A Princess should wear a nice sundress or dressy slacks. Leggings and jeans are not appropriate. Dresses are to be no higher than 6 inches above your knees, and not see-through. When wearing a sundress, she should consider wearing shorts underneath to preserve modesty in case of wind.
  - b. Although a Princess may wear a dress shoe with heels to balls, flat shoes are to be worn at openings. Often the terrain is uneven, rocky, and unsuitable for heels. A Princess does not wear flip flops or “crocs” style shoes when representing her club
  - c. Princesses will be given a purple skort, t-shirt, and polo representing her participation in the program. If authorized by home club, she may choose to wear this outfit at any time opening weekend except for the opening ceremony where she is required to wear day dress. According to committee standards, she is not required to wear a sash and crown with this outfit, however her home club will determine if that is authorized for her.
6. If a Princess is invited to an event and is uncertain of dress protocol, she should reach out to a member of the Committee for guidance.

# **Guidelines for princess etiquette**

Etiquette refers to proper behavior during attendance at events. You are an official representative of your club and the QOTC Program. Events provide you with the opportunity to get acquainted with other Princesses and members of the yacht club community, and the communities in which your clubs operate. Learning and engaging in proper behavior is one purpose, and benefit, of the QOTC Program.

1. Pay polite attention to speakers during ceremonies. Sit up straight and direct your attention toward the speaker.
2. A Princess does not chew gum when representing her club, especially at openings and balls.
3. Outside food must be consumed off event premises. Allergies should be communicated to the home club commodore and the Committee in advance of attending an event.
4. Refrain from cell phone use during ceremonies and presentations. Discreet use of cellphones for the purpose of taking photos is allowed at other times. A Princess is attending these events to represent her club. This is also an opportunity for her to get acquainted with the other Princesses and members of the yacht club community.
5. ALWAYS be respectful during the Pledge of Allegiance, the prayer, the National Anthem, and the entire ceremony. No talking or whispering.
6. ALWAYS include all Princesses in activities. Do not pair off with individuals or form cliques. Be there to support one another.
7. Participation in events includes remaining at the event. Do not retreat for extended periods to bathrooms or boats.
8. When being escorted by her Commodore or the ranking officer of the club, a Princess is on the left. The Princess is on the right when the officer's mate is on the left. If she is being escorted by someone not representing her club, she is on the right. The Queen of the Chesapeake is always on the right. The only possible exception is during the Pageant.

Infractions or violations can occur through multiple means of communications that include, but are not limited to social media technologies such as Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, texting, chatrooms, Tumblr, Twitter, etc.

Any violations of the Code of Conduct should be reported to a QOTC Committee member immediately. The offending Princess's Commodore will be informed of violations by the QOTC Committee. Misconduct will be evaluated by the Committee and may result in dismissal from the Queen of the Chesapeake Program. As a result, the offending Princess will be unable to participate in the Queen of the Chesapeake activities, nor compete in the pageant.

All decisions of the Queen of the Chesapeake Committee are final.

# **Pageant Weekend:**

## **Thursday:**

Princesses start arriving and may place their dresses and items in the boardroom. 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm

## **Friday:**

Princesses start arriving and may place their dresses and items in the boardroom. 3:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Pageant run through 5:00 pm

Queen Hailey's Farewell Party 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

## **Saturday:**

Family/Club's will decorate tents. 7:30 am - 10:30 am

Princesses arrive at Maryland Yacht Club Boardroom for breakfast and preparation for pageant 9:30 am

Breakfast will be available for families and outside guests (Purchase on the Maryland Yacht Club Patio) 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Princesses and Queen will judge boats and tents 10:30 am

Pageant starts 3:00 pm

Pool splash following the pageant

Cake cutting ceremony following the pool splash

## DOCKING

Slip fees from June 21st to June 23rd are waived for:

- Current Queen of the Chesapeake
- Each boat bringing a Contestant in the 2024 QOTC Pageant
- The Ranking Officer for each attending Club
- Temporary Daytime Event Dockage

Please use the discount code **QOTC2024** at checkout.

For all other attendees, use code **SPECIALEVENT2024** for 75% OFF WEEKEND DOCKAGE

Electric charges (Fri.-Sun.) -

- \$10.00 for 30A
- \$15.00 for 50A per day(per line)

<https://mdyc.org/transients>



## APPAREL

Queen's shirts are available for purchase at:

<https://chesapeakedistribution.com>

Each contestant will receive one complimentary Pageant shirt.



Last day for purchase: **May 25th, 2024**



## **Queen of the Chesapeake Program Ads (Kedge Ads):**

The Queen's Kedge is the official program of the Queen of the Chesapeake Pageant. Contestants' bios and portraits are included.

Ads purchased for publication in the Queen's Kedge support the QOTC Program and Pageant, Including printing and distribution.

Please encourage your family, friends, and fellow club members to support you by submitting an ad.

\$25 - 1/4 Page Full Color Ad (2.75 in wide X 4.25 in tall)

\$35 - 1/2 Page Full Color Ad (5.5 in wide x 4.25 in tall)

\$60 - 1 Page Full Color Ad (5.5 in wide X 8.5 in tall)

**\$10 Queen of the Chesapeake Patron (your name & club will be recognized)**

***Deadline is May 25, 2024***

Details regarding creation and submission of ads, as well as payment can be found at:

**<https://mdyc.org/event-5464688>**

Program Ads (Kedge) Contact: PC Jon Budar-Danoff



# **Queen of the Chesapeake Committee**

*As the 2024 Queen of the Chesapeake Committee is working to continue the 77 year tradition of this pageant, I am proud to present the committee that is made up of members of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Community. Without their dedication to the program and the community, this pageant wouldn't be possible.*

*Thank you,*

*Queen of the Chesapeake Committee*

## **Committee Chairman**

**[QOTC@mdyc.org](mailto:QOTC@mdyc.org)**

**Tobbi Justice**

***Maryland Yacht Club***

## **Program and Pageant Team Members**

**Vicki Pritchett - Bodkin Yacht Club**

**Jeannie Elliott - Bush River Yacht Club**

**Melissa Spicknall - Crescent Yacht Club**

**Debbie Cook - Crescent Yacht Club**

**Suenette Pope - Eastern Yacht Club**

**Lee Budar-Danoff - Maryland Yacht Club**

**Susan Hermann - Maryland Yacht Club**

**Kate Cramblett - Miles River Yacht Club**

**Karen Davis - White Rocks Yacht Club**