



**2025 MISS RAILROAD DAYS  
QUEEN'S SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION**

**Sponsored by: Randy Wise of Durand**

If you have any questions regarding the application, rules and/or expectations for Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant, please contact Martha Owens at (810) 923-3308. (Please leave a message and your call will be returned)

## **Purpose of Miss Railroad Days and Attendant**

The purpose of Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant is to represent the Durand Community and the Durand Railroad Days Festival at various events throughout the area. Miss Railroad Days and/or her Attendant will participate in parades, receptions, luncheons, and similar activities. They may also promote the Railroad Days Festival through speaking at various community activities. Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant are at all times official ambassadors and are expected to act in a manner that reflects their title.

## **Qualifications**

1. Candidates must meet one of the qualifications below (will be verified):
  - a. Must currently attend Durand Area High School or
  - b. Must have graduated from Durand Area High School or
  - c. Must have a Durand mailing address
2. Candidates must be between 15-19 years of age on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
3. Candidates must have never been married, may not be pregnant nor have ever been pregnant, may not be engaged, and may not be cohabiting with a significant other. Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant must remain so for the duration of their reign.
4. Candidates may have never been a previous Miss Railroad Days or Attendant.
5. Candidates must be in good academic standing as determined by the Durand Railroad Days Royalty Committee (Royalty Committee). Circumstances surrounding a candidate being on academic probation must be discussed with the Royalty Committee.

## **Sponsorship**

Candidates must procure a sponsor who will accept the expense of the \$50 entry fee. The sponsor must be a local business. The entry fee is to be submitted with the application. Each sponsor will be acknowledged (at a minimum) in the Independent, Argus-Press, Durand NOW, and in the Crowning Ceremony programs. Sponsor checks should be made out to Railroad Days, Inc. If a candidate needs assistance in obtaining a sponsor, please contact a Royalty Committee member.

## **Photo Session**

Photos of contestants will be provided by BLC Just Be Photography on January 29th, 2025, by appointment (this is free). This session is mandatory for all contestants. The Railroad Days Royalty Committee will contact you to make arrangements.

## **Selection Process**

1. Contestants will participate in an interview on Tuesday, February 26th, 2025. Contestants should dress as if going to a job interview. This session is mandatory for all contestants. If a candidate is unable to attend the informal interview due to unforeseen circumstances, it will be at the discretion of the royalty committee and availability of judges that will determine whether the candidate will be allowed to reschedule and be eligible to participate in the Crowning Ceremony.
2. Contestants will prepare and give a speech at the Crowning Ceremony (the topic for the speech will be given at the interview).
3. Contestants will answer an impromptu question about themselves (based off the application) during the Crowning Ceremony.
4. The Railroad Days Festival is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items while participating in the

Crowning/Queen process.

5. During the interview or Crowning Ceremony, cell phones are not allowed. A cell phone may be kept in a contestant's purse but must be off. Unless there is an emergency, anyone witnessed texting or using their phone will have ten points subtracted from their overall score. This is to ensure fairness during the selection process. If there is an emergency, please speak with one of the Royalty Committee members first.

### **Requirements and Duties of the Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant**

1. Miss Railroad Days and/or her Attendant will be required to appear in various parades and community functions throughout the year representing their title and the community of Durand. However, the majority of these appearances will be made during May through August. These appearances will be scheduled by the Royalty Committee. This year's Railroad Days will be May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>.

2. At no time will the Miss Railroad Days and/or her attendant be allowed to have any guest(s) in their company while attending scheduled events.

3. If Miss Railroad Days and/or her Attendant does not attend or arrives late for a function without prior approval, she will forfeit her title and scholarship.

### **Appropriate Attire for Appearances**

Appropriate and proper attire is required at all times during an appearance by the Miss Railroad Days and/or her Attendant. The Royalty Committee will determine what type of attire is deemed appropriate for an appearance. If the Royalty Committee feels the outfit is not appropriate for the appearance, they may request that the outfit be changed. The Royalty Committee decision is final. Contestants are expected to provide their own business attire and formal wear.

1. Miss Railroad Days and/or her Attendant will be required to make some appearances in formal gowns. It is the responsibility of these young ladies to acquire an appropriate gown for these occasions. Please do not feel as though a dress must be purchased solely for these events. Most of the past queens and or attendants have worn their homecoming dress, prom dress, a dress worn in a wedding, or a dress borrowed from a friend.

2. Miss Railroad Days and/or her Attendant will be expected to wear school appropriate attire with the "official royalty" shirt (royalty shirt will be provided).

3. Miss Railroad Days and/or her Attendant may not alter their appearance once chosen. This includes visible body piercings, tattoos, or inappropriate hair color or styling (highlights are acceptable). Any visible body jewelry (not including earrings) must be removed and tattoos covered if chosen, even if these were acquired prior to the Crowning Ceremony.

### **Rules and Regulations**

1. When attending an event or making an appearance, Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant are the official representatives of not only the Durand Railroad Days Festival but their community, and are expected to act in a manner compatible to their titles. When not in an "official capacity", Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant are still expected to act in a manner compatible with their titles. Remember, whether or not a crown or sash is on, people will still recognize and associate both young ladies with the community of Durand and the Durand Railroad Days Festival.

2. Any young lady who during her reign displays improper conduct that could damage the reputation of Durand Railroad Days, will forfeit her title and scholarship.

3. If chosen as Miss Railroad Days or her Attendant, each young lady further agrees not to allow the use of any photos of herself in her crown and or sash, by any other party for publicity or advertisement, without the consent of the Royalty Committee.

4. Miss Railroad Days will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and her attendant will receive a \$500 scholarship. Scholarship

money will be distributed at the conclusion of their reign (2026 Crowning Ceremony). The scholarships are provided by Randy Wise of Durand and Railroad Days, Inc.

5. The Miss Railroad Days and Attendant official festival photos are not permitted for any other use without express written consent of Royalty Committee.

6. If a candidate/Miss Railroad Days/Attendant has charges brought against her in a court of law while participating, she will be dismissed from participation. This includes, but is not limited to, felonies, misdemeanors, and truancy. Traffic citations will not be held against a candidate/Miss Railroad Days/Attendant.

7. The Royalty Committee will review all applications to determine that these guidelines have been met. The Royalty Committee reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the guidelines as stated. All decisions of the Royalty Committee are final. If an application is rejected, the candidate will be notified within two weeks of the application deadline.

### **Important information**

Contestants will meet with the Royalty Committee Representatives during their scheduled photo session to review expectations, explain how Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant are selected, the Crowning Ceremony and to answer any questions that contestants may have. Parents are invited but are not required to attend this meeting.

The Crowning Ceremony will be held Friday, March 7th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Durand Union Station. Contestants are asked to arrive by 6:00 p.m., dressed as if going to a job interview (no jeans). This will give the contestant time to prepare to for her formal wear change during the Crowning Ceremony.

Sunday, March 9th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., Miss Railroad Days and her Attendant will meet with the Royalty Committee to receive the required list of events, meet the Princess and Prince, and answer any further questions. Miss Railroad Days, her Attendant and their parent(s) will be required to sign a contract stating that they understand the rules, obligations, and commitments that are required and that they agree to abide by them.

**MISS RAILROAD DAYS 2025  
OFFICIAL QUEEN APPLICATION**

(Please type or print clearly)

**Candidate Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s) (and address if different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor Information**

Business Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate Employment**

Current place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Is your supervisor supportive of this opportunity (circle one) Yes No

**Candidate Education**

High School attended/attending \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle one if still attending)

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a summary telling us what your community means to you. Your summary will be used in the judging process.**

**Candidate Background** (you may continue writing on the back or attach another sheet if you need additional space)

List any volunteer/community activities you have participated in that were not school related.

List any school activities/hobbies you have participated in.

List any awards or accomplishments that are school related.

What do you hope the benefits would be if chosen as Miss Durand Railroad Days?

Please tell us your future plans.

Candidates, by signing this entry form, acknowledge their understanding of the Durand Railroad Days Queen rules and regulations, regarding both the Crowning Ceremony and the title itself. Candidates also acknowledge they have read through the application and understand the obligations of becoming a candidate and queen or attendant.

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the rules governing the Durand Railroad Days Queen.

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Candidate's Signature

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Date

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Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

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Date

The deadline for turning in your Queen application is **Saturday, January 18th, 2025**. When returning this application be sure to include your completed application, including your essay, and your \$50 entry fee paid by your sponsor. Mail or deliver to Railroad Days, Inc., Royalty Committee, c/o Martha Owens, 9981 Pittsburg Rd., Durand, MI 48429.

# Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. **COVID-19 is extremely contagious** and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

**Railroad Days, Inc.** has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the committee **cannot guarantee** that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, **attending the 2025 Durand Railroad Days and any and all associated events including but not limited to (parade, carnival, activity/event tents, royalty events, cookoffs, etc.) could increase your risk and your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19**

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By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending Durand Railroad Days and any and all associated events and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at aforementioned events may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, committee members, volunteers, and program participants and their families

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)'s attendance at the aforementioned events or participation in Durand Railroad Days programming ("Claims"). On my behalf, and on behalf of my children, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless Durand Railroad Days Inc, its volunteers, agents, and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of Durand Railroad Days Inc, its volunteers, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any Durand Railroad Days events or related programs.

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**Signature of Parent/Guardian or Candidate (18 or older)**

**Name of Candidate**

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**Print Name of Parent/Guardian**

**Date**

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**\*Durand Railroad Days Committee Use Only\***

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**Signature of Receiving Durand Railroad Days Committee Member**

**Date**