



2025 RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
ROYALTY CANDIDATE
RULES AND REGULATIONS
(1 of 8: keep for reference)

The Rhododendron Festival Scholarship is a program organized and managed by a group of volunteer community members looking to help make a difference in our community by working with a royalty court consisting of a King or Queen, 1 or 2 Prince(s) or Princess(es) depending on the number of candidates. The focus is on selecting those who will serve as ambassadors of the East Jefferson County area. The winner is selected through a candidacy process which includes training meetings, speaking appearances, obtaining monetary sponsorship, selling festival pins, and engagement in community service. The Queen/King will receive a \$2500 scholarship. The Princes/Princesses receive \$2000 each.

Applications for candidacy are open to all East Jefferson county students in **grades 10 through 12** and enrolled in any East Jefferson County public, alternative, private, and/or home school. The applicant must have a **2.0 GPA or above** and maintain throughout candidacy. A candidate may not be crowned if they have a failing grade in any subject or be truant in any class.

***Electronic applications are accepted, send completed application packet by email to:**
loriandbliss@msn.com

***Paper applications are accepted, send completed application packet by mail to:**
Rhody Festival
CC: Candidate Coordinator
PO Box 766
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Applications must be received **no later than midnight on November 30, 2024.**

A current transcript, available through the Counseling Office, and a current Skyward grade list **must** accompany the completed application.

A complete application packet shall include:

- 1 - application (page 4)
- 2 - brief **one**-page essay on why you want to be Rhody Royalty and what the Rhododendron Festival means to you personally.
- 3 - signed permission form (page 5)
- 4 - completed health statement (page 6)
- 5 - letter of recommendation from a teacher, employer **or** adult mentor (non-relative)
- 6 - current school transcript and current grade sheet **Please refrain from submitting photographs.**



The number of candidates will be limited to ten. Should the number of applicants exceed ten, a panel consisting of Festival Board members and Candidate Committee members will determine the final ten, based upon submitted applications, biographies, and personal interviews, if deemed necessary. The panel's decision will be final.

A candidate shall not have been or currently be married, pregnant or have a child prior to or while representing the Festival as a royalty candidate. If chosen as Rhododendron Festival Royalty, the aforementioned rules will apply until the following year's royalty court is crowned. Candidates or royalty who do not follow these rules will automatically and immediately be disqualified.

(2 of 8: keep for reference)

Drinking alcohol, smoking, use of non-prescription drugs or otherwise immoral and illegal conduct by candidates will result in automatic and immediate disqualification. Candidates are expected to maintain respectful and moral behavior at all times during their candidacy and potential reign.

Candidates are required to attend **all** weekly training sessions on **Monday** evenings from Dec 2nd 2024- Feb 3rd 2025 (excluding Monday December 23rd and Monday Dec 30th). Additional events where attendance is required include the Candidate's Tea, public speaking engagements (which is 30% of the overall judged score), publicity tour, Judges Interviews, rehearsal for Coronation, and Coronation itself.

Short public speeches are required of candidates at local service clubs during January and February. All of the above are mandatory attendance and an unexcused absence will result in immediate disqualification.

A mandatory meeting for all **parents/guardians and candidates** will be held on **Monday Dec 2, 2024** to familiarize families with their responsibilities and to answer any questions they may have. At this meeting, candidates and families will be asked to provide us with spring and summertime family vacation dates as well as any weekends where your schedule would conflict with parade travel. This will in no way reflect on a Candidate's chances of becoming Royalty. A tentative parade travel schedule will be available at this meeting. Members of the Candidacy Committee will act as chaperones at all public appearances; parents and guardians may not chaperone any of these events.

Candidates must seek sponsorships from businesses and/or individuals totaling \$1000. A portion of these funds are used to help pay for candidate expenses such as coronation gowns and candidacy travel. Sponsor donations are tax deductible businesses can use the expense as an advertising expense recognition will be given to all sponsors in the Coronation program. The Rhody Festival is a 501(c)(3) The Candidacy Committee will assist candidates with ideas and suggestions that will encourage sponsorship. Candidates should begin seeking sponsors as soon as they are notified by



phone that their Candidate Application has been accepted. The deadline for sponsorship payments will be **January 5, 2025**.

Candidates are required to sell Festival pins to not only to raise funds for the Festival, but to expand their contact with citizens of the Community. **Each candidate must sell pins totaling \$800 by February 7, 2025**. Pins are to be sold **by the candidate** and **not** friends or family members. Friends, male or female, shall **not** accompany candidates while selling pins. There will be an award for the candidate selling the most pins. Candidates may sell pins without a Festival chaperone and with or without fellow Candidates.

Unexcused absences from school classes will **not** be tolerated by the Festival Candidacy Committee. School offices will be notified in advance of all public appearances that conflict with the school day for pre-arranged, excused absences. The Committee is willing to work with employers to arrange for time off for public appearances when necessary. Candidates are expected to stay on top of studies and other school obligations. **Random grade and attendance checks with teachers and counselors will be required during candidacy.**

Friends romantically linked with candidates must remain in the background at all times and may not interfere with candidates, the Candidacy Committee or the Festival at any time.

(3 of 8: keep for reference)

A member of the **Royalty Court** who moves outside of Jefferson County during their reign will be responsible for providing transportation back to Port Townsend whenever needed to perform duties required of the Court.

All Royalty will be expected to attend approximately 12 parades and between 20-30 public appearances locally between March and December. If conflicts arise, please speak to a member of the Candidacy Committee as soon as possible.

If need be, a notice of disqualification shall be delivered, or mailed, or electronically delivered in writing to a candidate and parent/guardian and the Festival Board within 24 hours of an incident. A review board consisting of Festival Board members and Candidacy Committee members will meet within 48 hours of notice and will make a ruling based upon facts and information provided by the Committee and by the candidate and family. The decision of the panel will be final.

Throughout candidacy, every provision will be taken for each candidate's care and protection. We ask in return for complete cooperation with the members of the all-volunteer Candidacy Committee. Being timely and available for all meetings, public appearances, and training sessions is not only respectful and of utmost importance, but is also a requirement of candidacy and royalty.

Candidates will need to check email, voicemail and text messages regularly as this is how the Candidacy Training Committee will be providing information to all Candidates, as will a Facebook group dedicated to the candidates and everyone involved in the candidate/coronation process. Parents will not be added to this group. A phone-tree may be set up to assist in getting prompt, updated information to each Candidate in the timeliest manner.



The members of the Candidacy Committee are volunteers who will work with each candidate to enhance poise, public speaking abilities, attitude, self-pride, grooming and leadership skills. The Rhody experience is one that can provide personal growth and develop the confidence necessary to become an ambassador for Jefferson County and a role model for peers.

In order to attain these skills, a total commitment to candidacy is an absolute must. The Candidacy Committee realizes that candidates may be involved with extracurricular activities and jobs; however, it is **imperative that a commitment to candidacy be top priority.** The Candidacy Committee is available to speak with employers and extracurricular activities coaches/leaders should complications arise. Every effort will be made to prevent scheduling conflicts with school-related activities. However, it cannot be promised that scheduling will be changed. The candidacy calendar/schedule was written with the three public school calendars in mind.

Candidate outfits, sashes and meals are provided by the Festival. There is no requirement to purchase anything related to candidacy. The Festival established this policy in order to assure that candidates are judged on the quality of their appearance, poise and self-esteem and not on the ability to purchase expensive clothing. Candidates will be responsible for supplying their own shoes and undergarments. Personal spending money is, of course, optional.

Since each Candidate is an ambassador for Jefferson County and the Rhododendron Festival, it is expected that they represent family, school, friends and the community with the highest code of conduct and attitude. Knowledge of the Rhododendron Festival and of Port Townsend and Jefferson County is a must for the successful promotion of each. Information and history will be provided to each candidate and it is strongly suggested that each candidate familiarize themselves with these facts.

(4 of 8: keep for reference)

The duties of the all-volunteer Candidacy Committee require them to be available to attend to each candidate's needs; to answer questions; to provide the skills of good ambassadorship; and ultimately, prepare each candidate for Coronation and a potential position in Festival Royalty. Please do not ever hesitate to ask for their help or opinion. Remember that candidacy will broaden your horizons and will help prepare you for life as an adult. You will find the experience rewarding and gratifying and you will make wonderful, lifetime friendships.

Remember, you will be a winner simply because of your participation regardless of whether or not you are chosen as Rhododendron Festival Royalty!



(5

**RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL
ROYALTY CANDIDATE APPLICATION**

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____ G.P.A. _____

EMAIL _____ YOUR CELL PHONE _____ TXT? Y N

HOME PHONE _____ PARENT CELL PHONE _____ TXT? Y N

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

LENGTH OF YOUR RESIDENCY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY _____

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT _____ POSITION _____

HEIGHT _____ EYE COLOR _____ HAIR COLOR _____

DRESS SIZE _____ PANT SIZE _____ SHIRT SIZE _____ (for candidate outfit)

Other family members:

School Activities:

Community Activities:

Interests/Hobbies:



(6 Future Plans:

Add any comments, using additional sheets, that you feel will help us get to know you.

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE & PARENTAL PERMISSION/MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

I have read all the rules and regulations pertaining to the Rhododendron Festival Royalty Program and agree to abide by them at all times. I understand that this application may be judged by a panel if more than 10 candidates apply and that the decision of the panel is final. All the information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Candidate Name: _____

My child has my permission to become a Rhododendron Festival Royalty Candidate. I have read the rules and regulations pertaining to the Rhododendron Festival Royalty Program, and understand them. I understand that my child will be with a candidacy committee member at all times. I authorize the chaperone to arrange for any emergency medical treatment necessary while my child is under their supervision. As the undersigned, I further agree to release and hold harmless the Rhododendron Festival Board and their agents from any and all liability for injury or illness that may occur to my child during Candidacy. I hereby grant my permission for my child to travel to all out of town events and appearances during the period of Candidacy.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

Print witness name, phone number and relationship:

(7

Please provide the following information and/or a photocopy of both sides of medical insurance ID.



Physician Name: _____

Physician Phone: _____

Insurance Carrier: _____

ID #: _____

Subscriber Name: _____

HEALTH HISTORY/MEDICAL WAIVER

NAME _____ AGE _____ SEX _____ Date of Birth _____

ADDRESS _____

Person to notify in emergency _____

Address _____ Phone _____

MEDICAL WAIVER

I, _____, attest that the participant is in good health and fully able to participate in all activities (unless otherwise noted on this form), and hereby waive the requirement for medical exam and authorize to participate without a current examination.

As the undersigned, I further agree to release and hold harmless the Rhododendron Festival Board and their agents, from any and all liability for injury or illness that may occur to said participant or to the undersigned as a result of any medical condition known or unknown which a medical examination would disclose.

DATED _____ SIGNATURE _____

Parent/Guardian

I understand that health related information will only be disclosed to a medical provider through the Candidate Committee (including chaperones) for the purposes of seeking medical treatment if necessary.

Does the person named above have a condition that would prevent them from being able to fully participate as a Rhododendron Festival candidate or a member of Royalty? ___Y ___N

If so, please describe the accommodation(s) needed to allow full participation:



(8

Allergies (insect stings, asthma, medications, food, animals, etc.):

Prescription medications (May supply this information in a separate, sealed envelope to be used by a medical provider if necessary.)

Explain any other applicable health history using a separate sheet of paper.

PHYSICIAN

NAME _____ PHONE _____