

# Candidate Selection Process Suggestions

## Lilac Festival Royalty

Candidate selection process for participation in the Lilac Festival Royalty program is at the discretion of each school. There is no mandatory method for selecting a candidate. This document is presented to provide each school with assistance in choosing a method or to assist with fine-tuning a method. This document is not intended to alter those candidate selection processes that are running smoothly but is intended for those desiring assistance and guidelines in creating a successful program. The following methods are in no particular order.

To be eligible to run for Lilac Royalty a candidate must:

- Have an accumulative GPA of 3.0 or better at the end of her Junior year of high school
- Be a full-time high school Senior, female student enrolled at a Spokane County School
- Be a member of the graduating High School class
- Be a Spokane County Resident
- Not or never have been married, divorced or had a marriage annulled
- Be childless
- Never have been convicted of a crime,
- Not hold another crown or title (cannot be Miss Rodeo for example)
- Demonstrate community involvement
- Demonstrate good attendance record
- Have a good citizenship record

\*\*\*\*Also the prospective candidates must be fully aware that Lilac Royal Court members, while being granted many honors, have many obligations and responsibilities. These include visiting retirement homes, schools and other community events weekdays after 3:30 PM from February through May. Most crucial in consideration is the **mandatory** involvement in multiple daytime and evening activities throughout the Spokane Lilac Festival the third week in May including the weekend. Consequently, if participation in a spring sport could represent significant conflict and must be carefully evaluated by the candidate and the sponsoring school remembering that spring sport championships often occur during festival week. Candidates need the above information in the beginning of the selection process to aid them in making an informed decision on their willingness to commit to the time involvement.

### **METHOD #1**

\*Obtain a list of all Senior girls with an accumulative GPA of 3.0 from the counseling center of the school (be sure to include all girls participating in Running Start and those who are home schooled).

\*Present that list (without showing the GPA) to the school teachers/staff with a request that each teacher/staff member select (by underlining, circling, or checking) a maximum of 15 possible candidates. Make this completely optional because in a large school the staff may not know the Senior girls.

\*Tally those selections to arrive at the top 15. Invite those girls to a meeting to explain the Lilac candidate procedures and what the responsibilities would be if they became a member of the Lilac Royalty. Give them a few days and a deadline date to decide if they would like to participate.

\*Present the final names names to the Senior class to select (by underlining, circling, or checking) a maximum of 5 possible candidates.

\*Tally those selections and present the top 5 names to the staff with the request that they rate the 5 candidates one through five, with five (the most points) being the person they would select as the candidate. The girl with the highest score would be the candidate to be presented to the Lilac Festival. OR request that each staff member select one name out of the five. Thus the girl with the most votes would be the candidate to be presented to the Lilac Festival.

## **METHOD #2**

\*Obtain a list of all Senior girls with an accumulative GPA of 3.0 from the counseling center of the school (be sure to include all girls participating in Running Start and those who are home schooled).

\*Invite those girls to a meeting to explain the Lilac candidate procedures and what the responsibilities would be if they became a member of Lilac Royalty. Give them a few days and a deadline date to decide if they would like to participate.

\*Select a panel of non-partisan judges to interview each girl in a timed (ten minutes is usually good) session. Using the same set of questions for each girl and the enclosed scoring form could prove to be very helpful, but is not mandatory.

\*Tally the scores and the girl with the highest score is the candidate to be presented to the Lilac Festival.

## **METHOD #3**

In smaller schools, inform all the Senior girls with an accumulative GPA of 3.0 of the of the requirements and responsibilities (be sure to include all girls participating in Running Start and who are home schooled). They could be given the opportunity to participate or not participate. If more than one of the girls is interested, they could be interviewed by the School Board, or the selection process in Method #1 or #2 could be used.

## **METHOD #4**

Distribute a Lilac regulations and responsibilities page and an application form to all Senior girls or announced as available to all Senior girls (be sure all home schooled girls and Running Start girls are included in this notification). The applications should be submitted to the proper authority by a specific deadline. Once all of the applications are turned in it can be determined which method of selection will be used. See previous methods.

## **METHOD #5**

This method is the stage production method used for many years by Lilac Festival.

\*Determine which girls are to participate in the stage production through the staff/Senior class vote or the application method, both mentioned above.

\*Narrow down the possible candidates to between 4 to 8 participants. Give them a few weeks to prepare a speech. A specific speech topic can be given or they may speak on any topic. In Lilac judging the topic or content of the speech isn't as important as the presentation of the speech and the participant's stage demeanor, although the speech does need meaning and continuity. Speeches should limited to no more than 3 minutes.

\*Select a panel of non-partisan judges. Give them a copy of each girl's bios so they can plan specific questions to ask during the interview process. If they recognize one of the girl's names as a person they know or whose parents they know they should disqualify themselves as a judge.

\*Approximately 1½ to 2 hours before the time of the stage production have a small reception for the judges, the girls, and the parents so the judges have a chance to make sure they do not know any participant or her family. If a judge does know a participant or even one of their parents he/she should disqualify him/herself. This eliminates accusations of prejudice. The judges and girls should stay in the reception area a maximum of 10 minutes before being taken out for the interview process.

\*Allow enough time before the stage production to hold an interview process, having each candidate individually interview with the judges for a predetermined amount of time.

\*Have two holding rooms. All girls start in a pre-judging room and after they are interviewed they do not have contact with those girls again and are put in a post-judging room.

\*Once all interviews are completed allow a few minutes for the girls and judges to have a freshen-up break.

\*Start the stage production with introductions of girls, judges, dignitaries, etc.

\*Have each girl give her prepared memorized speech.

\*Excuse all girls from the stage. Holding the group in a soundproof room off-stage, bring each girl back individually to answer one of two impromptu questions typed on one piece of paper.

\*Excuse the judges to tally their votes and determine a winner. Give them a limited time of about 10 –15 minutes.

\*While the judges are deliberating:

- give the audience an intermission
- show a slide show of pictures of the girls as they grew up (this takes a lot of preparation)
- provide entertainment (choir, band, pianist, etc.)

The first two seem to be the most popular.

\*When the judges return, get the audience's attention and wait until they are settled. Re-introduce the girls.

\*If there is a farewell or thank you speech from a past candidate, do it at this time.

\*"Thank you" to supporters, workers, and donors at this time.

\*Announcement of winner!

### **METHOD #6**

A Senior girl meeting the afore mentioned criteria who has been chosen Homecoming Queen, Senior Class President, Student Body President, or such a position could be named as the candidate for the school.

\*\*\*\*The options for selecting a candidate are not limited to these methods. Each school has the opportunity to create the method that best applies to the situation.