

Miss Down Home Festival Pageant

An official event of the Down Home Festival presented by the City of Bessemer City



Down Home Festival 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Centennial Park Stage along Virginia Avenue
Downtown Bessemer City

Contestant Check-In ~ 12:00 p.m.
Pageant Begins ~ 12:30 p.m.

QUEENS

0-23 MONTHS - BITSY	7-9 YEARS - LITTLE
24-47 MONTHS - MINIATURE	10-13 YEARS - YOUNG
4-6 YEARS - TINY	14-18 YEARS - TEEN

We are presenting embroidered sashes for the queens!

- **BEAUTY** (required category): Contestants wear a springtime dress or outfit (no pageant dress). Entry fee for Beauty is \$50.00.
- **PHOTOGENIC** (optional category): Submit only one photo, no larger than 8x10. Color or black and white. No frame. Write contestant's name on back of photo. Bring photo with you to turn in at check-in on pageant day. Entry fee for Photogenic is \$10.00.
- **OVERALL MAJESTIC TITLE:** To be in the running for the Majestic title, a contestant must compete in Beauty and Photogenic and collect at least \$75.00 in Signatures. *(See next page for Signatures information)*
- **AWARDS:** Every contestant receives a tiara and prize. In each age category, the winner receives a queen's tiara and embroidered sash and the runners-up receive a princess tiara. The overall majestic winner receives a special tiara and embroidered sash. The overall photogenic winner will be chosen by a People's Choice vote. The photogenic finalists receive a tiara and the overall photogenic winner receives a special tiara and sash.
- **ENTRY FEE:** You should submit your entry fee by using the Venmo app (@littlemissgastonia) or by paying cash at check-in on pageant day. We are no longer accepting checks or money orders. See the bottom of the contestant application for the Venmo QR code and to indicate how you will submit the entry fee.

*** Proceeds from this pageant will be used to support scholarships and programs in our community.*

If a contestant gets five people to enter, her entry fee (Beauty and Photogenic) is paid in full.
Feel free to make copies of this application and distribute. Encourage your friends to enter.

**** No refunds given for last-minute cancellations ****

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION AND ENTRY FEE: Wednesday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. No entries accepted at check-in on pageant day. We reserve the right to reject any application for any reason. We are not responsible for damage to tiaras/sashes/prizes after they are awarded.

• **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION:** Please scan or take a picture of your application and e-mail it to us: littlemissgastoniapageant@gmail.com. If you cannot send the application electronically, send us your contestant's name and age and bring the application with you to turn in at check-in on pageant day.

*** Do not mail the application as we are no longer maintaining a P.O. Box mailing address. ***

Miss Down Home Festival Pageant 2026

CONTESTANT APPLICATION (Please complete the application and return to us by e-mail. Write in black or blue ink.)

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

PARENTS _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

SPONSORED BY _____

ONE INTERESTING FACT ABOUT CONTESTANT _____

AGE ON DAY OF PAGEANT _____ GROUP ENTERED _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

I give my permission for _____ to participate in the 2026 Miss Down Home Festival Pageant. I agree to follow all of the rules and regulations and further agree not to hold the City of Bessemer City and others involved in sponsoring this pageant responsible for any loss, injury, or illness. I also understand that all judges' decisions are final and that poor sportsmanship by a contestant or relative may result in the disqualification of the contestant. I agree to pick up ballots/photos from the auditor after the pageant. The pageant organizers/sponsors are not responsible for anything left after the pageant.

Signature _____ Date _____

** SPECIAL TIARA AWARDED FOR **

Overall Majestic Winner ▪ Overall Photogenic Winner ▪ Most Signatures ▪ First Application Received

REFERRED BY _____

How did you learn about this pageant? _____

Check all that apply: Beauty - \$50.00 _____ Photogenic - \$10.00 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED - \$ _____

I am paying the entry fee: _____ Check here if you are paying on the Venmo app (@littlemissgastonia)

_____ Check here if you are bringing the entry fee in cash to the pageant

We are no longer accepting checks or money orders for the entry fee.



venmo

**** SIGNATURES **** Signatures form is attached. Signatures are \$1.00 each. All contestants with \$75.00 or more in signatures receive a special crown pin. The contestant with the most signatures wins a tiara. Turn in signature form and signature money at check-in on pageant day.

QUESTIONS? Call (704) 678-3290 or e-mail: littlemissgastoniapageant@gmail.com

Connect with us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/littlemissgastoniapageant

