



## 👋 Welcome, 2026 Texas Watermelon Queen Contestants!

**Posted: July 30, 2025**

Dear Contestants,

We're excited to welcome you to the upcoming **Texas Watermelon Queen Pageant**—a cherished tradition that celebrates not only the watermelon industry but the leadership, professionalism, and enthusiasm of young women like you. Below is a detailed overview of what to expect during this exciting event.

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### 📅 Pageant Schedule & Requirements

#### Friday, November 7, 2025 – Annual Auction & Dinner

- **Location:** Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX
- **Arrival Deadline: Before 2:30 PM**
- **Mandatory Contestant Meeting: 3:00 PM** (details on meeting location will follow)

That evening, you will be introduced during our **Annual Auction & Dinner**. The dress code is casual—jeans or cute pants are recommended. Each contestant will be provided with a TWA t-shirt to wear and will assist with the auction, so please wear **comfortable shoes** for this portion of the evening. This is a non-judged portion of the contest, but the judges will still observe contestants.

#### 🎉 Convention Theme: *Fiesta Sandia*

This year we're celebrating the vibrant culture of the Alamo City and the colorful spirit of watermelon!

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#### Saturday, November 8, 2025 – Competition Day

##### Morning:

- **Speech Competition:** Prepare a brief speech (2-3 minutes) designed to show off your personality so our members can get to know you better. Use this time to show the judges what drives you and how you will make a good representative for our organization.
- **Impromptu Question:** You'll answer a surprise question on the spot, following your speech. The same impromptu question will be given to all contestants.
- **Promotional Wear Competition:** Choose an outfit suitable for one of the following settings:
  - In-store promotion
  - Festival appearance
  - Congressional visit

For your **speech**, we recommend a professional dress or suit. You may wear the same outfit for promotional wear or change into another appropriate outfit.

##### Afternoon:

- **Judges Interviews:** You may wear your speech attire if it's professional. Panel will include at least 3 judges and last roughly 10 minutes.

##### Evening:

- **Evening Gown Competition** during our Annual Banquet.

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### 🏠 Lodging & Sponsorship Details

- **Hotel Accommodations:** The TWA will provide a shared hotel room at the Hyatt for **Friday and Saturday nights**. If you plan to stay with a family member or have alternative arrangements, please notify us ASAP.
  - **Additional Nights:** Any extra nights will be your responsibility, and you must provide a credit card upon check-in.
  - **Travel Stipend:** The **first 10 contestants** to submit their forms will receive a **\$500 stipend**, paid at the conclusion of the pageant.
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### **Sponsorship & Gratitude**

New from last year: TWA members may sponsor individual contestants.

- If you know a specific member who would like to sponsor you, please let us know.
  - Otherwise, one will be assigned to you and announced during Friday's meeting, we will make sure you are introduced to your sponsor.
  - **Please send a thank-you note** to your sponsor after the pageant.
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### **Representing the TWA**

Becoming the **2026 Texas Watermelon Queen** is both an honor and a job. We expect our contestants—and especially our Queen—to maintain a high standard of **professionalism** in how they act, speak, and dress.

The Queen will:

- **Represent the association statewide** at events, festivals, schools, promotions, and meetings
- **Travel with the Queen Coordinator**, with all travel expenses covered
- Receive a **daily per diem** for travel and workdays
- Participate in select **out-of-state trips**
- Compete on behalf of the Texas Watermelon Association in the **National Watermelon Queen pageant** in 2027

You'll receive more details at the pageant. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

### **Contact:**

Barbara Duda

TWA Secretary & Queen Coordinator

Cell: (956) 605-7636

We appreciate your interest and enthusiasm, and we look forward to a fun, memorable, and meaningful weekend with all of you.

Warm regards,

**Barbara Duda**

TWA Secretary/Queen Coordinator

**Kristin Story**

TWA President