

ORANGE CITY TULIP FESTIVAL

Contract and Guidelines for Selection of 2026 | Tulip Queen and Court

Residence

- Parents of any eligible girl must have an Orange City address.
- Orange City residency must be as of August 26, 2025.

Age

- Eligible girls must be high school seniors.

Marital Status

- Eligible participants' status must be single with no previous marriages.
- They may not plan to marry during the reigning year of the court.
- They may not have children previous to participating in the Tulip Court.
- They may not be pregnant during the reigning year.

General Rules

- They must have participated in one or more prior Tulip Festivals.
- Court candidates, family, and friends may not engage in campaigning for a specific candidate to earn a position on the Tulip Festival Court.
 - Example: Sharing social media posts, hanging up posters, etc., that would promote individual candidates. You may share the festival posts that include all candidates, but not specifically advocate for individuals.
 - **It is your responsibility as parents and candidates to communicate this with your family and friends.
- They may not participate in any other ambassador competition or contest without written permission from the Steering Committee.
- They may not participate in advertising or in private enterprise as a representative of the Tulip Festival.
- All press interviews must be approved by the Queen's Committee and/or the Promotion Committee Chairpersons.
- Each candidate is a representative of the community, and their actions and conduct must reflect this at all times.
- Each candidate is expected to be cooperative and portray a positive attitude.
- If a candidate fails by their conduct to represent Orange City in a positive manner, they will lose their position on the court, their Tulip Festival college scholarship, and an alternate will take their place on the court.

Requirements

- They must be in attendance during the days of Tulip Festival (beginning with Wednesday morning activities and ending with the Sunday Church Service).
- They must be available for all public appearances (in costume) during the reigning year. These appearances take precedence over other activities (school, clubs, church, work, etc.).
 - Examples: track, golf, soccer, dance, mission trips, vacations
- They must be willing to learn about the past and upcoming Tulip Festivals.

- They must be present at all rehearsals of the program used for public appearances. The rehearsals begin at the end of January.
- They will decorate a downtown window prior to the Tulip Festival.

Parents of the Queen & Court Requirements

- Parents will not disparage, belittle, or comment about other court members' performances or abilities.
- Parents will not disparage, belittle, or comment on other parents or volunteer committee members.
- Parents will be responsible for all of their expenses relating to the Pella Tulip Time trip.
- Parents are asked to be in authentic costume through the Night Show and host parents of the Pella Court and ride in the parade on the day designated by the Tulip Festival Steering Committee.
- Parents may need to be responsible for providing transportation and supervision to some of the appearances.
- If elected to the Court, the cost of costumes will be \$250. The first installment (\$125) is due at the parent/daughter information meeting following the election. The remaining balance (\$125) is due by February 1. The cost of shoes will also be the individual's responsibility. Scholarship checks to colleges will not be awarded until all payments are made.

Future Responsibilities of the Queen and Court

- Scholarships will not be sent out to the colleges until each member sends the office verification of their enrollment. Once that has been received, we will mail checks to each institution.
- The Court members are encouraged to be present at the Tulip Festival following their reign by participating in the Mode Show.
- The Court members are encouraged to be present at the Queen's Reception for the Pella delegation for the Tulip Festival, following their reign in costume.
- The Court members are encouraged to be present at the Queen's Crowning the year following their reign.
- As former ambassadors of Orange City, we encourage all Court members to find ways to participate in future Tulip Festivals (ushering in reserved seating, Dutch dancing, working in the information booth, serving as tour guides or parade barkers, riding the King's Birthday float, etc.)

Additional Responsibilities for Queen and Her Parent(s)

- The Queen must prepare two speeches to be given at the Pella Straat Feest (one in the evening & one in the afternoon).
- The Queen must prepare a speech for the Tulip Festival Straat Feest and Night Show presentation each evening (when the Loving Cup is presented).
- The Queen should be prepared to give some remarks at the Sunday Community Worship Service.
- The Queen is expected to co-host the Queen's Crowning the year following her reign.
- The Queen is expected to be present at the Straat Feest activities during the Tulip Festival following her reign.
- The parents of the Queen are expected to serve as hosts for the Queen's reception for the Pella delegation during the Festival following her reign.

Agreement to the Contract as Listed Above

I, _____, represent the City and will abide by the laws of the State of Iowa. I will be subject to and abide by the Constitution of the State of Iowa and the United States of America.

I, _____, have read the qualifications listed above and pertaining to the Orange City Tulip Festival Royal Court, and promise to abide by these rules and accept the nomination for the Orange City Tulip Festival Court.

Signed _____ (Candidate signature) Date _____

Signed _____ (Parent(s) signature) Date _____

Agreement to the Contract as Listed Above, FOLLOWING the Candidate/Parent Meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2025. (To be signed at the meeting following a review of the contract)

Signed _____ (Candidate signature) Date _____

Signed _____ (Parent(s) signature) Date _____

If you are elected as a court member, your participation in the following events is expected (please put these on your calendars):

1. Friday, September 12, 2025 – Contract, Photo, & online Questionnaire due by 5:00 p.m.
2. Court Informational Meeting - Sunday, September 14, 2025. Mandatory Informational Meeting at Iowa State Bank basement, 2:30 p.m. for all interested candidates & parents. A photo will be taken for the Press after the meeting.
3. Tulip Court Election - Wednesday, October 8, 2025
4. New Court Meeting – Sunday, October 12, 2025
5. Queen's Crowning Event rehearsal - Sunday, November 23, 2025
6. Queen's Crowning Event – Monday, November 24, 2025
7. Tulip Festival Extravaganza rehearsal - Tuesday, March 17, 2026
8. Tulip Festival Extravaganza – Wednesday, March 18, 2026
9. Pella Tulip Festival - May 7-9, 2026
10. Straat Feest practice/Night Show introduction practice & window decoration - May 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
 - a. Rain date: May 10, 2026, same time
11. Window decoration - May 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm
12. Orange City Tulip Festival – May 13-17, 2026

The Tulip Festival Executive Committee reserves the right to amend any and all plans, events, and requirements associated with serving on the 2026 Orange City Tulip Festival Court.

Additional practices and media days will be released at a later date.