

TX/LA State
(Infant, Baby, and Tiny Tot)
2023 BABY PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

CONGRATULATIONS:

You can be proud to have earned an invitation to attend the TX/LA State Cinderella Baby Pageant. This is a “once in a lifetime experience” filled with clean wholesome fun that you will never forget. It is a storybook fantasy that is one of the most elaborately staged events of its kind in the state. The pageant offers an outlet for recognition and achievement for beautiful and personable children however; the most important aspect of the pageant is not the winning of a crown or trophy, but rather the rewards of participation and the opportunity to make lifetime friendships with other aspiring youth from across the state. If these attitudes are foremost during your participation, then you will go home with a sense of personal satisfaction. It is our sincere desire to make the state pageant a worthwhile growing experience for each and every participant.

GENERAL INFORMATION & DEADLINES:

Keep this handbook in your possession throughout the State Finals and study it carefully before filling out your forms. Follow all instructions explicitly. In order to reserve your place in the State pageant you must return the **STATE DEPOSIT FORM** along with your **\$100.00 non-refundable State Pageant Deposit** within 60 days of winning your preliminary title. This will reserve your place in the State finals and will give us an indication of any housing needs you might need. The **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE** for all completed forms and fees is shown on the official state entry forms. **PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.** Anything that is incorrectly executed will be promptly returned...thus causing an unfavorable delay for the participant. **ALL FORMS MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN OR NEATLY PRINTED.** To maintain a prompt schedule of events, all participants are recommended to stay in the official housing facility with an adult chaperone.

PAYMENTS:

All fees must be submitted in **CERTIFIED FUNDS**, Business Sponsored Checks, Cash, Credit Card – Visa, Mastercard, Amex, Discover, Venmo, Paypal payments (4.25% service charge added), or Money Orders. Paypal/Venmo payments can be sent to txcindydirector@aol.com. All checks and/or money orders are to be made payable to the “**TX/LA Cinderella Pageant**”. Because of the extensive planning for such a large event, no refunds will be made after May 20th. No exceptions will be made for this or any of the other deadlines in this handbook. Entry fees and other State Fees are not transferable to another entrant. It is emphasized that fees for the state pageant are very nominal and may be **BUSINESS SPONSORED**. Excessive expenses to attend the state pageant are not necessary. Your attendance at the state pageant makes an exciting and most inexpensive vacation for the participant and her family and the cost is far below the amount that a family would normally spend on food and lodging for a comparable vacation.

AGE QUALIFICATION:

The age the participant is at the time they qualify at a Local Preliminary during the 2022-23 staging year, will determine the age division they will compete in at the Texas State Cinderella Baby Pageant. If a contestant has had a birthday that puts them in the next age division, they have the right to “move up” and compete in that age division. All two year old Local Preliminary Winners who have turned three by the State Pageant will compete in the “Tiny Tot” Division or they can elect to move into the “Tot” Division. Contestants at large will compete in the age division they are on the day of the pageant which is June 4, 2023.

SPONSORSHIP PROCEDURES:

A maximum of **TWELVE (12) SPONSORS** will be listed for each participant in the official state program book. More than 12 will be shown as “Friends & Family” of the participant. These sponsors may aid in helping provide your \$150.00 state entry fee (if not paid by the local pageant committee) and also your state competition fees, housing fees, and meal packages. A special section in the program book has been designated to give recognition to your sponsors. **PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE SPONSOR’S NAME IS CORRECTLY SPELLED.** Participants needing additional business sponsorship should emphasize the importance of community backing for a worthwhile youth scholarship program of this kind.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - REGISTRATION:

You will find a tentative schedule of events for the state pageant with your official state registration forms. Please read the schedule carefully and only concentrate on the schedule for the Cinderella Baby Pageant on June 4-5, 2023. Upon arrival, go to the front desk and get checked into your rooms if you reserved one. Then proceed to the pageant registration area where you will receive your official **CONTESTANT PACKET** and all official badges, etc. Don’t forget to bring a sample of your souvenir gift with you to registration. All pageant events have been conveniently scheduled so that the participants and chaperones will have ample time to get to and from each activity. Participants must report to the staging area **NO LATER THAN 15 MINUTES** prior to the beginning of each competitive event in which they are participating. Ample time has also been allowed for rest and relaxation.

SOUVENIR GIFTS:

One of the highlights of the state pageant is the exchanging of souvenir gifts with the other participants. You will need to bring a minimum of **50** gifts for the participants in your age division, staff, judges, and reigning queens. These souvenir gifts are tokens of friendship from you and your area and may be donated by your city, state, Chamber of Commerce, or the merchants of your area. They do not have to be expensive; however, they may not be brochures or literature of any kind. Simple, small, and thoughtful items are desired and will be treasured. Each gift should be personalized with the participants name, title, and best wishes (**NO ADDRESSES PLEASE**) and may be printed, embossed, or have a simple nametag. Upon arrival, the gifts should be taken to your room for storage until time for distribution. Please bring a sample of your souvenir gift with you to registration. Gifts will be distributed by the chaperones later in the week. Refer to your schedule for day and time. Use your own imagination in preparing your souvenir gifts. We have found that the ideas are limitless. Some of the most outstanding gifts in the past have actually been made by the participants and their families. Remember, it is not the expense of the gifts that is important; it is the thought behind the gift that really makes it meaningful. Come on and join the fun and help make this year’s souvenir gift bags the most clever and creative in state pageant history. Permission is granted for the participants to use the registered trademark of the Cinderella Scholarship Program in the preparation of their souvenir gifts; however, the use of the Cinderella emblem is restricted for commercial use.

JUDGING:

The adjudication at an official Cinderella Scholarship State Pageant is always of the highest, unexcelled quality with an experienced panel of judges using a point and consultation system. The judge's decision is always final and no posting of the ballots or rating is permitted. **DO NOT ASK THE JUDGES FOR COMMENTS** after the pageant as they are **NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE PERSONAL CRITIQUES**. Personal critiques will be available at the director's discretion following the pageant. All participants will appear in Baby Playtime, Casualwear and Partywear. This makes all participants eligible for the Cinderella Overall Title, Beauty and Personality Awards. Although there is no "interview" with the participants, the judges will view the contestants (with their chaperones) in a "Close-Up Appraisal/Playtime" category. This is designed to give the judge's panel an opportunity to view the child in a more informal setting. Each participant **will be allowed** to bring in one toy to play with during this phase of competition and attire for this event is Casualwear.

All chaperones will introduce the participants at the microphone during their Casualwear presentation. The participants are **NOT** allowed to introduce themselves. The Cinderella Pageant is looking for natural, wholesome representatives to carry the official Cinderella titles. Your pageant week wardrobe (other than your competition garments) should be casual...but neat! **Do NOT overdress for informal occasions!**

CONDUCT:

At all official Cinderella Pageants the emphasis is placed on the participants and adults displaying good manners and grooming, listening to and acknowledging instructions, adjusting to conditions, maintaining discipline and dependability, and above all, displaying excellent sportsmanship at all times. Any parent, teacher, guest, director or participant who conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike/unladylike manner (before, during, or after an official Cinderella Pageant) will be subject to immediate dismissal from the pageant system.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES will be allowed in or around the staging area or public areas of the staging facility. This rule is enforced throughout the Cinderella Pageant System and includes parents and guests viewing the event. Any violation of this rule will mean immediate disqualification from the pageant system

NOTE: Disqualification from an official Cinderella event is a serious matter. If the participant is disqualified, there will be no refunds.

PAGEANT STANDARDS:

ARTIFICIAL HAIR, MAKEUP AND FALSE EYELASHES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE Cinderella Baby Pageant's age divisions, unless it is the result of a medical necessity (i.e. illness, chemotherapy, etc.). Please note that the judges have been instructed to use discretion in determining whether a participant has violated this rule and if such artifices are immediately discernible to the judges' panel, the contestant may be disqualified. The use of cosmetics is **NOT** allowed in any of the Baby divisions. We want our kids to look their age and children under the age of 3 typically do not wear makeup of any kind.

LIMITATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

The pageant or its host facility will **NOT** assume the responsibility for lost articles or personal property and is **NOT** responsible for accidents, mishaps, or the personal care of the participants. This is the sole responsibility of the chaperone. Although the pageant's official insurance coverage does cover medical expense for accidents (**NOT ILLNESS**) during the pageant, the pageant does not assume any liability or responsibility beyond the limitations of the Cinderella Registration & Insurance Program. Each participant's parents or official guardian **MUST** sign the official liability release form which is included on the state entry forms.

EXPLANATION OF CASH AWARDS FOR EACH STATE

Cash Awards listed are based on the following: 3-7 Entrants in a division - \$250.00 Cash Award; 8 or more entrants in an age division - \$500.00 Cash Award. If there are less than 3 entrants in an age division, the state office reserves the right to cancel or combine the division. If you are the Overall winner – the cash will be paid in two parts – ½ upon registration at the International Pageant and ½ at the end of your reign. Overall Winners must represent our program all year and is required to attend certain events throughout the year as our State Ambassadors. If you cannot make the few mandatory appearances during the year, you agree to forfeit the balance of your cash award.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

These awards are given carefully and thoughtfully to those who show a significant accomplishment in a particular area of competition throughout the pageant weekend. Those who receive an Overall, Beauty, Personality, Photogenic, and the alternates to those titles, are not eligible to receive special awards. All awards are custom designed with the official Cinderella emblem.

PRELIMINARY & FINAL STAGINGS:

The fabulous state finals of the Cinderella Scholarship Pageant will be a "thrill of a lifetime" for every participant and certainly many people will want to share these marvelous memories. The parents, friends, relatives, and special guests of the participants are cordially invited to attend any and all of the official state pageant functions. All preliminary events, Souvenir Party, and the Grand Finals staging, will be open to the public. All participants will come dressed in their State Pageant Party Dress Competition garments and will be introduced at the start of our Grand Finals show. A top 3 finalists in each age division will then be announced at the Grand Final show if numbers permit, and only these finalists will have the opportunity to be showcased onstage one more time, before the judges make their final decisions for our Overall Winners. If your friends and relatives have never seen a Cinderella state finals, invite them to schedule their vacations during the state pageant to help support you and your hometown. The competition is fantastic and we know they will enjoy seeing the state's finest young talent.

PRESS INFORMATION:

The Cinderella Scholarship Pageants are newsworthy events and should garner excellent coverage from your local news media. In order to get the best coverage you should alert your friends and family across the state to request information about the state pageant (before, during and after) from their local news sources. This should begin now. If the media is alerted that a local participant is representing your community at the official state pageant and they have been contacted beforehand, they should offer excellent publicity. Ask your director for a press release.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER:

At the Cinderella State Finals only members of the press and the state pageant's own official photographer and videographer may take photos and videos of any participant during the actual competitions. This includes all of the preliminary pageant competition events and grand finals. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you would like to have photographs or a video to remember this spectacular event, you may order packages at registration.

Prices and samples will be displayed. Year after year our photographer and videographer produce wonderful keepsakes of our Cinderella participants...don't miss out on this opportunity!

PHOTOGENIC GIRL:

The Photogenic competition is required for ALL participants. Photos can be color or black and white and no larger than 8 x 10. One photogenic entry is included with your Registration Fee. You may elect to turn in more than one photo at an additional fee of \$15.00 each. All photos can be turned in at Registration, however for program book purposes, you **must** send in a black and white roster photo no larger than a 4X6. The Roster Photo does NOT have to be the same as your Photogenic Entry and can be emailed to txstatecindypix@gmail.com by the deadline in a **jpeg or pdf** format. Reminder: The participant's roster photo along with all forms must be sent in by the May 10th deadline in order to be included in the program book. A late fee of \$25.00 will be incurred if photos are sent in after deadline. Absolute latest deadline for all roster photos will be May 20th. If roster photo is emailed, please put the Name of Participant, Age Division and Roster Photo in the subject line.

SELECTING YOUR WARDROBE:

The Cinderella Pageant was not designed to be a "clothes show" and your pageant wardrobe should be kept simple and appropriate for your child's age group. The judges will be judging the participants and NOT their wardrobes. Flaunting an overly expensive wardrobe is often detrimental to the participant's image as a wholesome, unaffected, all-American girl. Your wardrobe should include casual garments for the meal function and to wear around the host hotel. The judges often see the participants between judging sessions, so having a neat appearance at all times is important. Every participant will have garments in her own wardrobe that are appropriate for the state pageant (having all "new" clothes is not necessary).

Your **competition** wardrobe should consist of one (1) presentation party dress to be worn during Party Dress competition and the Glamorous State Finals. Ages 0-2 must wear a short, knee length or mid-calf length dress. You should have one (1) presentation casual wear outfit that is casual and useful (may include pants or capri's, sundresses, shorts, etc.) Props such as sunglasses, hats, purses, gloves, etc. are NOT allowed during Cinderella modeling competition. You will also need a Baby Playtime casual outfit that can be shorts, bubble suits, jumpers, sundresses, etc. Ankle length dresses are not acceptable for party wear competition. In order that the judges will not be aware of title or placement at the previous pageant level, crowns and banners are NOT to be worn at any time during the pageant. **ALL CONTESTANTS COMPETE ON AN EQUAL BASIS IN STATE COMPETITION!!**

MODELING PROCEDURE:

A parent or guardian must accompany the participant on stage and will be solely responsible for their conduct and safety. The parent or person accompanying the participant will introduce the child at the microphone giving the child's name, age and hometown during the Casualwear segment of competition. The parent IS NOT JUDGED however, the judge's panel will be instructed to consider the overall **grooming** of the person accompanying the child as this is a part of the overall stage presentation.

Children in the "Under 1-Year" age category may be carried by the chaperone on stage. It is required that all 1 year old Baby participants should hold the hand of the accompanying adult at all times in order to avoid accidents. All participants ages 2 and above may walk independently with the chaperone walking close behind, as long as the participant stays in control and can make their way between X's on the stage. All age categories will follow the Cinderella modeling pattern!

MODELING MUSIC:

The official CINDERELLA RUNWAY/MODELING MUSIC will be used at the state finals for all modeling divisions. The music is precisely timed so that each participant and chaperone has approximately the same amount of time on the runway. The music contains electronic tones, rhythmic voids, and chimes that signal the start, stops, turns, and finish of the modeling presentation. A mp3 version of the official modeling music is available at a nominal cost so that the participant and chaperone may practice with the music before attending the state pageant. The music includes ten (10) casualwear and ten (10) party wear selections with all the electronic tones and signals. Also included is a musical "collective judging" segment with entrance music and exit music. Every participant/chaperone will feel "at home" on the Cinderella runway with the music she has practiced modeling to at home. **TO ORDER:** Contact the State Cinderella Pageant Office at (713) 702-2307 or by email.

CINDERELLA REGISTRATION / INSURANCE PROGRAM:

All official participants, chaperones, and staff members must be covered by the Cinderella Pageant System Registration & Insurance Program. Cinderella insurance coverage includes 24 hours a day coverage during the pageant for accidents (illnesses not included). Participants who have registered with the Cinderella insurance program at an official local or district pageant during the current pageant year WILL NOT be required to register again since the prior insurance coverage extends through the International Finals; however, their chaperones must register. Note: All entrants and chaperones who have not previously registered will be required to register to participate in the state finals and MUST pay the Registration & Insurance Fee (participant - \$3.00 / chaperone - \$4.00) Benefits include: \$5000 accidental death and dismemberment and \$1000 blanket accident medical expense (for accidents only). The aggregate limit with respect to any single accident is \$25,000. Not covered: war, suicide, and act of armed forces.

TICKETS:

Everyone (except the participants) attending the preliminary events and Grand Finals will be required to purchase tickets for each day or the special Ticket Package Plan. The Ticket Package Plan will consist of an official badge which will allow "come and go" admittance to all events except meal functions. The package plan will be made available only to relatives and guests of the participants and MUST be purchased during pageant registration or in advance on the official state entry forms. There is no limit to the number of Ticket Package Plans that may be purchased by the party attending the pageant with a participant. All official chaperones will be required to purchase a Ticket Package Plan badge (included in required fees) which must be worn at all times for identification purposes. There is our Baby "Cinderella" Reception that is for our participants and their families that will require a separate ticket. Those dinner tickets must be purchased in advance and can be ordered under the Optional Ticket section of your paperwork.

MORE THAN ONE FAMILY MEMBER:

The Cinderella Scholarship Pageant is a wholesome "family affair" where we encourage siblings to participate in the state finals by not requiring the second family member to have an additional chaperone. Siblings competing in the same age division will be separated in their order of appearance by taking one of the siblings out of the alphabetical order and moving her/him to another position in the lineup so they will not be appearing back to back in any phase of the pageant. Please note on your forms that you have a sibling competing in the pageant so that we can make the necessary adjustments in the participant lineup. Participating siblings can also take advantage of additional savings by only needing one hotel room at the

official pageant facility and one party ticket. Ask the State Director for more information regarding sibling discounts or refer to the state paperwork for more information regarding the sibling discount.

ADDITIONAL ADVERTISING & COVER GIRL:

Additional sponsors can be obtained by anyone and we would like to see EVERY PARTICIPANT’S PHOTO appear on at least one additional page of advertising. You may place your photo on every full page or ½ page of advertising that you sell and if you sell several pages you will have the opportunity to show several different sides of your personality and increase your chances of being selected as the state pageant “Cover Baby Girl” for your age division. Remember, each photo you submit will be judged for the prestigious “Cinderella Cover Baby Girl” award. Communities and businesses are anxious to show their support of a worthwhile youth activity like Cinderella. Ad copy may include “Best Wishes” or any other ad copy desired. An advertising form must be submitted with each ad (additional copies may be reproduced).

EARN YOUR STATE FEES PAID:

You can become the Cinderella Cover Girl for your age division and earn money to pay your Cinderella State and/or International Fees by selling additional Full and Half pages in the official program book. Increase your opportunity to win the State Cover Baby Girl title and awards by participating in this fund raising program. A portion of the advertising sales for Full and Half pages will be applied to your Cinderella Participant Account. Advertisers may submit their own ad copy and artwork if it is camera ready to the specified size of the ad. Ads submitted without artwork or layout will be set in standard type selected by our printer and an additional \$10.00 typesetting fee per ad will be charged. Photos on full page ads are usually “bled” from edge to edge of the sheet with an “over-burn” of ad copy. Photos may be head and shoulders or full length. Business cards, letterhead, sales slips or an ad from another program book can be reproduced if the copy fits the ad space (copy will not be reduced). Copy submitted in light colored ink will not reproduce. Photos may appear on full length or ½ page ads only and may include city or state officials or the advertiser with or without the participant. Some advertisers prefer having the participant photographed in front of their business or with their product (EX: The participant with an automobile from a car dealership, or wearing a garment from a department store). We know that your imagination will far surpass ours! **Note: An additional \$10.00 fee will be charged for each additional photo appearing on an ad and will be judged as a separate Cover entry. Please refer to your entry forms for more specific information on how to submit ads electronically.**

GIFT TABLE / GIFT SHOP:

One of the highlights of the week for all participants is the exchanging of good luck gifts for those special friends you have made during the pageant weekend. A special table for each age division will be available in the Texas State Gift Shop where gifts will be delivered. Make sure you tag each gift showing who it is for and who it is from. Chaperones and Family members may also deliver gifts for their very own Cinderella girl. This is a wonderful way to show the participant how proud you are of them and what a great job they have done during the week. A complete gift shop will be available where numerous Cinderella items will be sold. We will also have an Official Florist that can deliver flowers as they are ordered. Look for their information in the state program book. Gifts are certainly not mandatory in order to participate at the Cinderella State Finals.

Cut Along Line



Official Advertising / Sponsorship Receipt

Please make as many copies as needed for your sponsors.

This certifies that _____ is an official contestant in the 2023 TX/LA

Name of Participant

State Baby Cinderella Scholarship Pageant to be held in Houston, Texas – June 4-5, 2023. Your company _____ has agreed to help sponsor this participant with either a cash donation or an official ad in our program book in the amount of \$ _____. Any donation made can be 100% tax deductible to your company as an advertising expense. Thank you for helping this participant achieve her goals. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the State Office at the number below.

Kelli Harvey – TX/LA State Director
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Email – txcindydirector@aol.com or lacindydirector@gmail.com or visit our website at:
WWW.TEXASCINDERELLAPAGEANT.COM OR WWW.LOUISIANACINDERELLA.COM

**BEST OF LUCK FROM ALL OF US AT THE
TX/LA STATE OFFICE!**

