



2026 RAILROAD DAYS

PRINCE APPLICATION

Sponsored by: Randy Wise of Durand

If you have any questions regarding the application, rules and/or expectations for Railroad Days Prince, please contact Martha Owens at (810) 923-3308. (Please leave a message and your call will be returned)

Purpose of Railroad Days Prince

The purpose of the Durand Railroad Days Prince (the Prince) is to represent the Durand Community and the Durand Railroad Days Festival at various events throughout the area. The Prince will participate in parades, receptions, luncheons, and similar activities. The Prince is at all times an official ambassador and is expected to act in a manner that reflects his title.

Qualifications

1. Candidates must meet one of the qualifications below (will be verified):
 - a. Must currently attend Durand Area Schools or
 - b. Must have a Durand mailing address
2. Candidates must be between 8-11 years of age on or before January 1st, 2026.

Sponsorship

Candidates must procure a sponsor who will accept the expense of the \$50 entry fee. The sponsor must be a local business. The entry fee is to be submitted with the application. Each sponsor will be acknowledged (at a minimum) in the Independent, Argus-Press, Durand NOW, and in the Crowning Ceremony programs. Sponsor checks should be made out to Railroad Days, Inc. If a candidate needs assistance in obtaining a sponsor, please contact a Durand Railroad Days Royalty Committee (Royalty Committee) member.

1. Candidates must be able to leave their vote collection canister at their sponsor's place of business for a period of two weeks.
2. Each sponsoring business may display one canister (please sponsor one prince or princess contestant only).

Photo Session

Photos of contestants will be provided by BLC Just Be Photography on February 9th, 2026 by appointment (this is free). This session is mandatory for all contestants. The contestants are asked to wear a white button-up dress shirt, no ties allowed. The Railroad Days Royalty Committee will contact you to make arrangements.

Voting Process

1. Each contestant will provide their own decorated collection canister to be placed in the sponsoring business on Friday, March 6th, 2026.
2. Canisters will remain in the sponsor's place of business for two weeks, Friday March 6th, 2026- Friday March 20th, 2026, for vote collection.
3. Canisters must be sealed and will be picked up by a designated Durand Railroad Days Committee member at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20th, 2026.
4. The counting of the votes will be conducted by PFCU in Durand.
5. The winner will be determined by the most votes received. Each cent collected in a contestant's canister will equal one vote.
6. In the case of a tie, a special meeting will be called consisting of the Royalty Committee and one member of the community chosen by the chairperson. Each person will be eligible to cast one vote for the contestant they believe will best represent the community during the Railroad Days festivities.

7. The winning Prince will be announced in co-ordination with the Miss Railroad Days Crowning Ceremony (Crowning Ceremony) held on Friday, March 27th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., where he will receive his crown and sash.

8. Participation ribbons will be given to all contestants.

9. The Prince will receive a \$100 scholarship. The scholarship money will be distributed at the conclusion of his reign (2027 Crowning Ceremony).

Requirements and Duties of the Durand Railroad Days Prince

1. The Prince will be required to appear in various parades and community functions throughout the year, representing his title and the community of Durand. However, the majority of these appearances will be made during May through August. These appearances will be scheduled by the Royalty Committee. This year's Railroad Days will be May 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th.

2. At no time will the Prince be allowed to have any guest(s) in his company while attending scheduled events.

3. If the Prince does not attend or arrives late for a function without prior approval, he will forfeit his title and scholarship.

Appropriate Attire for Appearances

Appropriate and proper attire is required at all times during an appearance by the Prince. The Royalty Committee will determine what type of attire is deemed appropriate for an appearance. If the Royalty Committee feels the outfit is not appropriate for the appearance, they may request that the outfit be changed. The Royalty Committee decision is final.

1. The Prince will be required to wear dressy clothing for some appearances (no jeans).

2. The Prince will be expected to wear school appropriate attire with the "official royalty" shirt (royalty shirt will be provided).

3. The Prince will not have an inappropriate hair color or style throughout his reign.

Rules and Regulations

1. When attending an event or making an appearance, the Prince is the official representative of not only the Durand Railroad Days Festival, but the Durand community, and is expected to act in a manner compatible with the title. When not in an "official capacity", the Prince is still expected to act in a manner compatible with the title. Remember, whether or not the Prince has a crown or sash on, people will still recognize him and associate him with the community of Durand and the Durand Railroad Days Festival.

2. Any Prince who, during his reign, displays improper conduct that could damage the reputation of the Durand Railroad Days Festival, will forfeit his title and scholarship.

3. Upon winning the title of "Durand Railroad Days Prince", the Prince further agrees not to allow the use of any photos of himself in his crown and/or sash, by any other party for publicity or advertisement, without the consent of the Royalty Committee.

4. Official Durand Railroad Days Festival photos are not permitted for any other use without express written consent from the Royalty Committee.

5. If a candidate/Prince has been reprimanded for bullying, has been suspended, expelled, or truancy charges brought against him, he will be dismissed from participation and will forfeit his title and scholarship.

6. The Royalty Committee will review all applications to determine that these guidelines have been met. The Royalty Committee reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the guidelines as stated. All decisions of the Royalty Committee are final. If an application is rejected, the candidate will be notified within two weeks of the

application deadline.

Important information

Contestants will meet with Royalty Committee Representatives during their scheduled photo session to review expectations, explain how the Prince is selected, the Crowning Ceremony, and to answer any questions that the contestants may have. Parents are invited but are not required to attend this informal meeting.

The Crowning Ceremony will be held Friday, March 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Durand Union Station. Contestants are asked to arrive by 6:15 p.m., dressed in dressy clothing (no jeans).

On Sunday, March 29th at 1:00 p.m., the Prince will meet with the Royalty Committee to receive his required list of events; meet the Queen, Attendant, and Princess; and answer any further questions. The Prince and a parent/guardian will be required to sign a contract stating that they understand the rules, obligations, and commitments that are required and that they agree to abide by them.

RAILROAD DAYS 2026

OFFICIAL PRINCE APPLICATION

(Please type or print clearly)

Candidate Information

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

School attending _____ Current Grade _____

Parent(s) Name(s) (and address if different from above)

City _____

City _____

Sponsor Information

Business Sponsor: _____ Contact _____

Address: _____ City _____

Telephone Number: _____

I, _____ have read and understand the eligibility requirements
(Candidate's Name)

for this contest and will be available for the Crowning Ceremony on Friday, March 27, 2026 and the weekend of Durand Railroad Days, May 14th – 17th, 2026.

Candidate/Parent by signing this entry form, acknowledge their understanding of the Durand Railroad Days Prince rules and regulations, regarding both the crowning ceremony and the title itself. I, the undersigned, have read and understand the rules governing the Durand Railroad Days Prince.

Candidate Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Check for sponsor fee made payable to **Durand Railroad Days**

The deadline for turning in your Prince application is Saturday, January 31st, 2026. When returning this application be sure to include your completed application and your \$50 entry fee paid by your sponsor. Mail or deliver to Railroad Days Inc., Miss Railroad Days Committee, c/o Martha Owens, 9981 Pittsburg Rd., Durand, MI 48429.