



2026 RAILROAD DAYS PRINCESS APPLICATION

Sponsored by: Bancroft Lioness Lions Club

If you have any questions regarding the application, rules and/or expectations for Railroad Days Princess, please contact:
Martha Owens at (810) 923-3308 and leave a message.

Purpose of Railroad Days Princess

The purpose of Durand Railroad Days Princess (the Princess) is to represent the Durand Community, the Durand Railroad Days Festival, and the Bancroft Lioness Lions Club at various events throughout the area. The Princess will participate in parades, receptions, luncheons, and similar activities when available. The Princess is at all times an official ambassador and is expected to act in a manner that reflects her 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 Bancroft Lioness Lions Club. 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 top or dress. No bows or big barrettes are allowed in the contestant's hair. The Railroad Days Royalty Committee will contact you to make arrangements.

Voting Process

1. Each contestant will provide their own decorated collection canister to place in 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, through 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 Bancroft Lioness Lions Club's Princess 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 Princess will be announced in co-ordination with the Miss Railroad Days Crowning Ceremony (Crowning Ceremony) held on March 27th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., where she will receive her crown and sash.

8. Participation ribbons will be given to all contestants.

9. The Princess will receive a \$100 scholarship. The scholarship money will be distributed by the Bancroft Lioness Lions Club at the conclusion of her reign (2027 Crowning Ceremony).

Requirements and Duties of the Durand Railroad Days Princess

1. The Princess will be required to appear in various parades and community functions throughout the year, representing her title, the Bancroft Lioness Lions Club, 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 Princess be allowed to have any guest(s) in her company while attending scheduled events.

3. If the Princess does not attend or arrives late for a function without prior approval, she will forfeit her title and scholarship.

Appropriate Attire for Appearances

Appropriate and proper attire is required at all times during an appearance by the Princess. 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 Princess will be required to wear dressy clothing for some appearances (no jeans).

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

3. The Princess will not have an inappropriate hair color or style throughout her reign.

Rules and Regulations

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

2. Any Princess who, during her reign displays improper conduct that could damage the reputation of the Durand Railroad Days Festival or Bancroft Lioness Lions Club, will forfeit her title and scholarship.

3. Upon winning the title of "Durand Railroad Days Princess", the Princess further agrees not to allow the use of any photos of herself in her 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/Princess has been reprimanded for bullying, has been suspended, expelled, or truancy charges brought against her, she will be dismissed from participation and will forfeit her 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 Princess 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 Princess will meet with the Royalty Committee to receive her required list of events, meet the Queen, Attendant, and Prince and answer any further questions. The Princess 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 PRINCESS APPLICATION

(Please type or print clearly)

Candidate Information

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

Parent(s) Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

School attending _____ Current Grade _____

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 March 27th, 2026, and the weekend of Durand Railroad Days, May 14th – 17th, 2025.

Candidates/Parent by signing this entry form, acknowledge their understanding of the Durand Railroad Days Princess 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 Princess.

Candidate Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

The deadline for turning in your Princess 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. Make checks payable to **Bancroft Lioness Lions Club** and mail or deliver to Railroad Days Inc., Royalty Committee, c/o Martha Owens, 9981 Pittsburg Rd., Durand, MI 48429.