

Miss Creole Gumbo 2023 Pageant



Miss Creole Gumbo reigns as an ambassador for the Bridge City Gumbo Festival for one year. Being Miss Creole Gumbo is about community, involvement with other Fairs and Festivals, Friendships and all-around Fun. Promoting the Gumbo Festival is a chance of a lifetime.

As Miss Creole Gumbo, you will get to experience Louisiana at its best and do fun things along the way like; pick strawberries in the fields, have orange eating contest in Plaquemines Parish, race down the levee in a cardboard box, shuck Oysters in Amite, race frogs in Rayne, light bonfires, and so much more. Most of this is on the weekends with a group of other festival queens you will soon call sisters.

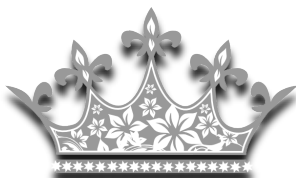
Miss Creole Gumbo will receive a trophy, beautiful embroidered banners, and a signature personalized Gumbo crown (outgoing). She will receive a travel reimbursement up to \$50 for each of the 12 mandatory events. Her chaperone will also receive the same travel reimbursement (details in contract). An award of \$1,000 to MCG of even years, i.e. MCG 2022, MCG 2024, etc. will be payable to the Queen upon fulfillment of signed contract. For MCG of odd years, i.e. **MCG 2023**, MCG 2025, etc., Miss Creole Gumbo will represent the Gumbo Festival at the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians Washington Mardi Gras Ball held in our Nation's Capital, Washington D.C.* Entry and accommodations will also be paid for her to represent the Gumbo Festival at the annual Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals (LAFF) convention held in Baton Rouge. During this weekend, Miss Creole Gumbo will compete for the title of Queen of Queens.

She will reign over the Gumbo Festival enjoying a fun-filled weekend welcoming visitors from across the state. As she ends her reign, Miss Creole Gumbo will host visiting queens from across the state during the coronation ball weekend. Her farewell will be full of fun activities including staying at the cabins at Bayou Segnette, a swamp tour and many other fun activities. This weekend will be the culmination of a year of travel and fun as Miss Creole Gumbo. However, although your reign will end you will always be a member of the Queens Club with opportunities to stay involved in the strong tradition of the Gumbo Festival.

If you are a Catholic young lady between the ages of 17 and 23 by January 2024, natural born female and a citizen of the United States, single status, never having been married or cohabitated with anyone, no children and have never been pregnant, currently do not hold a binding title, have never been convicted of a crime, are of moral character, reside on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish (minimum 1 year) and/or the daughter / granddaughter of an active parishioner of Our Lady or Prompt Succor or Holy Guardian Angels (minimum 1 year) YOU could be the next Queen of the World Famous Bridge City Gumbo Festival.

Please read full details in the attached packet. The deadline is August 13, 2023 @4pm – which will include a mandatory parent meeting.

For more information, or any questions, join us for **Tea on August 12th 2-4pm**. We'd love to answer any questions or concerns you may have for participation in this year's pageant or future pageants.



Nikole Larousse Hebert (MCG'86)
Queen's Coordinator
Bridge City Gumbo Festival
(504) 708-9110
misscreolegumbo@yahoo.com

Miss Creole Gumbo Pageant Rules and Regulations

- I. The decision of the judges is final.
- II. Contestants are expected to attend all events designated for the selection. A contestant who is unable to attend an event must have the approval of the Queen's Coordinator.
- III. Qualifications
 - a. Catholic – Registered Parishioner
 - b. Natural born female and citizen of the United States of America
 - c. Between the ages of 17 and 23 (by January 1st, 2024).
 - d. Single status, never having been married or cohabitated with anyone
 - e. No children; have never been pregnant
 - f. Currently do not hold a binding title
 - g. Have never been convicted of a crime; are of moral character
 - h. Reside on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish (minimum 1 year) **or** Parents or Grandparents registered members of OLPS/HGA parish (minimum 1 year)
I understand that I will be contacted after the deadline to confirm my qualification. Qualification confirmation is at the discretion of the MCG Queen's Committee and Fr. Buddy, Pastor of OLPS/HGA
- IV. Entry
 - a. Fee \$100.00, payable with application
 - b. 5x7 recent photograph
 - c. Completed application
 - d. Should a contestant decide not to compete, or is deemed ineligible after she has paid her entry fee, the money will not be refunded.

Good sportsmanship is required at all times. Applicants and their parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to work with the Gumbo Festival volunteers in a positive manner. Any applicant, parent, or guardian exhibiting an unprofessional, unsportsmanlike, or unethical code of conduct will result in the applicant being asked to leave the competition.

A contestant may not hold a binding or festival title at the time of the competition. If a contestant holds any non-binding title, she agrees that her first obligation is to the Bridge City Gumbo Festival and Holy Guardian Angels for appearances. If it is discovered that a contestant holds another binding or festival title, she will forfeit her eligibility to compete. If a contestant has previously held another festival title, she must be in good standing with her past organization(s).

Contestants are required to attend a mandatory rehearsal before the pageant. All contestants will be presented at the Gumbo Festival Coronation and are expected to be at mass the next morning.

If selected as Runner-up, and the title of Miss Creole Gumbo falls to me after a vacancy occurs in that title, I shall have a period of five (5) days from notification to accept that title and agree to abide by the rules pertaining to the title of Miss Creole Gumbo.

In the event that there are less than 3 qualified contestants, Miss Creole Gumbo will be chosen by interview (with option of presentation in evening gown) by the members of the Miss Creole Gumbo Committee or selected committee.



Miss Creole Gumbo 2023 Application



Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____
(Print their names THE WAY YOU WANT THEM INTRODUCED at the selection)

Occupation (if applicable): _____ Employer: _____

High School Attending/Graduated From: _____

College Attending/Graduated From: _____

Clubs & Organizations: _____

Hobbies or Interests: _____

Ambition/Plans for the future: _____

What is your favorite type of Gumbo? _____

What do you like best about the Gumbo Festival? _____

What do you think are the three most important qualities a queen must possess? Why? _____

Why should you be selected Miss Creole Gumbo? _____

Use 2nd page if needed

**Application (2pgs), Entry Fee, and 5x7 Photo due by DEADLINE of
AUGUST 13, 2023 @4pm**

Mandatory parent meeting August 13th, 2023 @4pm

PAGEANT and/or SELECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2023
CORONATION BALL IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2023
GUMBO FESTIVAL OCTOBER 13-15, 2023

Miss Creole Gumbo 2023 Application – page 2



Qualifications (Please check off what applies to you):

- Catholic / Church _____ registered: _____
- Natural born female and citizen of the United States of the America
- Between the age of 17 and 23 years of age (by January 1st, 2024)
- Single status, never having been married or cohabitated with anyone
- No children, have never been pregnant
- Currently do not hold a binding title
- Have never been convicted of a crime; are of moral character
- Reside on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish (minimum 1 year)
- AND/OR Parents or Grandparents registered OLPS or HGA parishioners (minimum 1 year)

I understand that I will be contacted after the deadline to confirm my qualification. Qualification confirmation is at the discretion of the MCG Queen's Committee and Fr. Buddy, Pastor of OLPS/HGA.

By submitting this application, the applicant and her parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to abide by the rules and requirements of the Gumbo Festival Board of Directors and the Queen's Coordinator.

My signature below signifies that I have read the Gumbo Festival's Miss Creole Gumbo rules and regulations. I have also received and read a copy of the contract for Miss Creole Gumbo included in this packet. I also do hereby allow the Gumbo Festival to use any photographs or information submitted with this application, or any photograph taken during the pageant for publicity at the discretion of the Gumbo Festival Committee.

I realize that failure to abide by said Rules and Regulations will result in the forfeiture of my rights and any benefits I would receive as a participant of the Miss Creole Gumbo selection and will affect eligibility in future Miss Creole Gumbo selections.

Signature of Contestant: _____ Date: _____

By submission of this application, I do hereby give my consent as parent or guardian of the above listed applicant to participate in the Miss Creole Gumbo selection. I also do hereby allow the Gumbo Festival to use any photographs or information submitted with this application, or any photograph taken during the pageant for publicity at the discretion of the Gumbo Festival Committee. I also have read and understand the contract which will be signed if my daughter/granddaughter is selected Miss Creole Gumbo.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Application can also be given to Fr. Buddy or delivered to rectory at OLPS. **Kindly place full application in envelope and mark with Fr. Buddy Noel – MCG Selection 2023**

*in the event that the WMGB or any other activities are cancelled for any reason, the Gumbo Festival is not obligated to compensate for any expenses or replace events in any way.



MISS CREOLE GUMBO RULES & REGULATIONS CONTRACT

You have been selected Miss Creole Gumbo 2023, and you will be under the supervision of Niki Hebert, Queen's Coordinator. Miss Creole Gumbo is an elite and prestigious title. The title you hold carries with it a responsibility to carry out your duties. The following rules have been set forth by the Gumbo Festival Board of Directors. Please be sure you understand each one and its implications.

CONDUCT:

- Miss Creole Gumbo is expected to act in a lady-like manner at all times. Any conduct unbecoming to a queen, while you are representing the festival, will be grounds for immediate dismissal. The title and all privileges will be revoked immediately and will revert back to the Gumbo Festival. The following constitutes unbecoming conduct:
 - a. Improper moral conduct or disrespect
 - b. Foul or abusive language
 - c. Physical violence of any degree
 - d. Vulgar body display or vulgar dancing
 - e. Smoking, excessive drinking of alcohol, or any use of illegal drugs
 - f. Failure to abide by a hosting festival or organization's rules
 - g. Failure to work with and adhere to the Queen's Coordinator
 - h. Disrespecting Gumbo Festival Officers and/or workers
 - i. Poor attitude
- Marriage, pregnancy, or cohabit living during my reign as Miss Creole Gumbo will result in immediate dismissal with title and all privileges reverting back to the Gumbo Festival.
- If at any time the reigning Miss Creole Gumbo does not or will not abide to and comply with the above rules and regulations, the Gumbo Festival reserves the right to replace her. If this becomes necessary, the queen will resign her title and will not be able to compete for MCG again. The crown, mantle, banners, trophy and all property of the Gumbo Festival must be returned immediately in the condition that they were received.
- All social networking sites must be appropriate and in good taste. No nude, semi-nude pictures (including swimsuit pictures), no pictures of you drinking, smoking, or in the appearance of either, no pictures with males or females that can be portrayed in a sexual nature, no vulgar comments left on your page as well as no vulgar words posted are allowed. Remember you are a representative of our church and the Gumbo Festival. Any and all pictures and comments not following these guidelines must be taken down. The festival board reserves the right to discuss with you any content we deem inappropriate.

TRAVEL / ATTENDANCE:

- Miss Creole Gumbo **MUST** attend at least 25 festivals during her reign, to include 12 mandatory festivals/events. The mandatory festivals may change due to scheduling conflicts and is at the discretion of the Queen's Coordinator. Mandatory festivals are as follows:
 - 1) Rice
 - 2) Shrimp & Petroleum
 - 3) Strawberry
 - 4) Orange (district7)
 - 5) Seafood (Plaquemines - district7)
 - 6) Tomato (district7)
 - 7) LA Crawfish (district7)
 - 8) Redfish (district7)
 - 9) Duck – alternate due to dates could be Bon Fire (district 7)
 - 10) Alligator (district7)
 - 11) Sugar
 - 12) Amite Oyster

others to consider are other festivals in our district 7 –
Bon Fire, Gretna Heritage, St. John Andouille Festival, River Parish Fall Festival (Norco) & Little Red Church Festival (Destrehan). Non-district 7 festivals to consider are: Pirates, Sicilian & any of the Tangipahoa festivals which are right up Hwy55.

- **You cannot travel alone to any festival.** For each festival, your coordinator must know with whom you are going, where you are going, when you are leaving, and when you will be returning. Your coordinator may travel with you, and she can go to any event you are invited. If you need her or someone other than your parents to go with you, then she must know ahead of time to help make arrangements. You may not travel with a male not related to you. Your boyfriend is NOT, at any time, allowed to travel with you. **If you are unable to participate you must contact the event coordinator and YOUR coordinator IMMEDIATELY!**
- Any individual who does not support or follow the items outlined within the rules and regulations set forth by the Bridge City Gumbo Festival, will not be permitted to travel with you to any and all queen approved function/event (including parents/grandparents). I understand that whomever travels with me also reflects upon the Gumbo Festival.
- Reimbursement for travel will be given for attendance to the 12 mandatory events for queen and her chaperone at \$50 each/per event. Verification of attendance will be needed and approved by coordinator. As well as and not limited to receipts or other requirements/request from GF Treasurer. This award will be given in two installments, i.e. after the first 6 mandatory events and then after the 2nd 6 mandatory events OR at the end of your reign. Please see handbook for more details.
- Parish functions take priority over festival invitations or personal events. You must attend all functions that you are invited to by the parish. Catholic based festivals/fairs should also be considered as priority.
- Miss Creole Gumbo is required to participate in the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals (LAFF) “Queen of Queens” pageant (if requested), usually held in February. The festival will be responsible for entry fees, registration, and accommodations. Your parents must get their own room. Boyfriends are not permitted to attend LAFF. Outfits must be approved by the queen’s coordinator. If she deems your outfit inappropriate, she has the right to pull you from participating in LAFF.
- Miss Creole Gumbo is not allowed to enter any other pageant other than LAFF, and she is not allowed to represent any other festival or organization as its queen. Miss Creole Gumbo is not allowed to judge any pageant or contest without Coordinators permission.
- CAR INSURANCE requirements by the Archdiocese of New Orleans must be met in order for you to travel – 100,000/300,000 coverage. Not meeting these requirements may forfeit your title.

AWARDS:

- Reigning queen of an even year, i.e. MCG 2022, MCG 2024 etc., I understand that I shall be awarded \$1,000.000 upon completion and fulfillment of duties as Miss Creole Gumbo. If I do not complete or fulfil my obligation, I understand this award will be forfeited.
- Reigning queen of an odd year, i.e. 2023, 2025 etc., I understand that I will represent the Gumbo Festival at the Mystick Krewe of Louisianians Washington Mardi Gras Ball in our Nation’s Capital, Washington, D.C. when held. If I do not complete or fulfill my obligation, I understand this award will be forfeited.
- In the event of a natural disaster, pandemic, or other unforeseen event that causes the cancellation of fairs and festivals and extends the reign of Miss Creole Gumbo for an additional year, the Gumbo Festival and the Queens’ Committee may forgo the awarding of the \$1000 scholarship and could require Miss Creole Gumbo to attend the Washington Mardi Gras Ball. In the event that Miss Creole Gumbo is unable to represent the Gumbo Festival at the Washington Mardi Gras Ball, she must relinquish her title and the Queen’s Committee will select a new Miss Creole Gumbo. In the event that the Washington Mardi Gras Ball or any other activities are cancelled for any reason, the Gumbo Festival is not obligated to compensate for any expenses or replace event monetarily or in any other way.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- All invitations must be directed to the coordinator. **Any events attended as Queen must be with the approval of the Coordinator.** A copy of invitations/itineraries **MUST** be given to Coordinator prior to your acceptance. **The official Miss Creole Gumbo email address SHOULD be used for all correspondence or copied on any correspondence – misscreolegumbo@yahoo.com.**
- Miss Creole Gumbo must send thank you notes or letters of regret to any function she cannot attend. This will ensure the next queen gets invitations. Emails are acceptable but must be approved by Coordinator, copied to the MCG email account or sent from the MCG email account, or by post mail with copy to coordinator.
- I understand and acknowledge that I am NOT authorized to print any promotional materials, business cards, etc. without the approval of my coordinator.
- I understand and acknowledge that my travels are expected to be posted on social media in a timely manner, with tags to the Gumbo Festival's social media. The Gumbo Festival expects postings of photos with individual people you meet, group photos with other queens or organizations, doing activities etc.

ATTIRE, DRESS CODE & APPERANCE:

- Miss Creole Gumbo is expected to dress appropriately. We expect you to look and act your best at all times. Remember you are representing a Catholic Church Festival. The Queen's Coordinator determines the appropriateness of outfits (not parent) and her decision is final. Your coordinator will pull you from any event and not allow you to represent the festival if you are not dressed appropriately. When attending church please refrain from wearing anything exposing your shoulders and skirts/dresses must be at an appropriate length. SEE HANDBOOK AS AN EXTENTION OF THIS CONTRACT FOR MORE DETAILS.

PROPERTY:

- The crown, scepter, collar, and mantle are property of the Gumbo Festival. **You are to treat them with respect and care at all times.** The crown is to be kept in its case when not in use. In the event that any items are lost, stolen, breaks, or soiled, the item(s) it will be replaced immediately and identically at her/parents own expense or refund the Gumbo Festival the amount for replacement.

GENERAL:

- I understand that as Miss Creole Gumbo, I am under the supervision of my coordinator. I understand and acknowledge that I must obey her rules and guidelines at all times while representing the Gumbo Festival. I understand she has the final say so (over my parents/grandparents) in respect to what I wear, how I act, and what I do while representing the Gumbo Festival. I am to communicate directly with her (not through my parents). I understand that the coordinator has the right to travel with me and show up at any function. I understand that I am to respect her at all times. I understand and acknowledge that I am required to contact my coordinator to receive approval to leave a queen function/event early or stay later than the times outlined on the invitation. I understand that she is the only one I am to talk to about issues or problems with my title.
- In the event of inappropriate actions, I understand that the coordinator may suspend me from representing the festival. I will return the crown, banner, etc. immediately and in the manner in which I received items.
- I have been given a copy of the Miss Creole Gumbo Handbook and that I am to follow directions herein and with the guidance/assistance of the Queens Coordinator. I understand that the handbook entails further details outlined in this contract and any questions should be directed to Queen's Coordinator.

I understand that the Gumbo Festival may take my title away from me for any of the following reasons: not making appearances as required, multiple reports of misconduct, pregnancy, not obeying or respecting the queen's coordinator, moving out of state or any other action the board deems inappropriate of its queen. I understand that the queen's coordinator and/or the chairmen can remove my title immediately during any event if they deem it necessary.

I HAVE READ THIS CONTRACT and the MISS CREOLE GUMBO HANDBOOK.

AS MISS CREOLE GUMBO, I HEREBY ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AS STATED AND WILL ABIDE BY ALL THE RULES AS SET AND STATED BY THE GUMBO FESTIVAL BOARD. I UNDERSTAND EACH RULE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT MY FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE RULES WILL RESULT IN MY DISMISSAL. I AGREE TO RETURN SAID PRIVILEGES AND PROPERTIES IN GOOD CONDITION IMMEDIATELY TO THE FESTIVAL.

I UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN ONLY HOLD THE TITLE OF MISS CREOLE GUMBO ONCE.

Miss Creole Gumbo 2023 _____
Signature and Date

As a parent/guardian of Miss Creole Gumbo, I have read the contract and understand the rules. I understand that the queen's coordinator has say so over me regarding festival related issues including her dress and appearances. I understand that she has the right to travel with my daughter, and I agree to work with the coordinator and not against her. I understand that if I do not follow the rules and guidelines that I will not be permitted to travel with my daughter. I understand and will encourage my daughter to have direct contact with her coordinator and not speak through me. I have read the details of this contract and the Miss Creole Gumbo Handbook and agree to all terms/conditions.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____
Signature and Date

Signature of Queen's Coordinator _____
Signature and Date