## Why should my affiliate start a Queen Contest/Program?

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF ROYALTY

The All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio is the world's largest single breed horse show. Annually the Congress boasts over 26,000 entries over its four-week duration bringing over $409 million to the central Ohio economy. Nearly a 60-year-old tradition, the All-American Quarter Horse Congress crowns an accomplished horsewoman each year to represent OQHA, AQHA and the horse industry as a whole. The Congress Queen is the Official First Lady and spokeswoman of the Congress. As Congress Queen, she exemplifies beauty, grace, intelligence, and horsemanship, all while living and promoting the western way of life!

In order to run for the Congress Queen title, a Queen must first become the queen of their state/affiliate association.  While many affiliates have sent queens over the years and have programs, there are some who are still unfamiliar with how to start and run a state/affiliate queen competition.  This document will provide tips on how to start a competition and to be a part of this incredible tradition.  Supporting a queen not only allows a young woman's dream to come true, but it also strengthens your affiliate and our industry.  The queen competition empowers the young women in our industry, educates them about our industry and rulebook, develops them professionally, instills confidence, and inspires young girls to grow up to be like them one day.  Our queens are the leaders of today and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

### HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR STATE/AFFILIATE QUEEN CONTEST

It is recommended to structure your affiliate contest just like the Congress Queen Contest to best prepare your potential queen candidate.  First, you will need to have an application to determine interest of women in your affiliate to run for the affiliate title.  You can develop your own application or mimic the one that we have affiliate queens fill out for the Congress Queen Contest which can be found on the Congress Queen website.  This deadline for the application should be early in the year, so you have time to run a contest and the winner can have time to prepare for October.

If you have more than one candidate, you will need to run an affiliate contest. There are 3 parts to the Congress Queen contest: Interview, Written Test, and a Horsemanship class.  We recommend holding the contest at your first affiliate show so that the candidates can compete in a Queen's Horsemanship Class.  At the show, you can then conduct interviews with both candidates and have the written test portion.  When conducting interviews, it is important to have a rubric to ensure both candidates are judged with the same criteria.  You can find generic rubrics and interview questions online.  Regarding the written test, the Queen's test is 100 points and questions can be pulled from anything in the *printed* version of the current AQHA Rulebook and on the Quarter Horse Congress website and publications.  Developing questions from these sources will set your queen up for success.  If you need assistance developing an exam, feel free to reach out to

info@congressqueen.com for some sample questions for your queen competition test.  The highest point earning candidate would then win the title of your affiliate queen representative.

These are just recommended guidelines on how to structure your affiliate contest.  You may add/eliminate/edit your contest to determine the best candidate to represent your affiliate.  Please note, if you have multiple candidates and your runner-ups still want to compete for the crown, we can try to help you place those runner-ups with other affiliates that are willing to support a queen.  It is not a requirement for your queen candidate to reside in the state/affiliate they are representing in the Congress Queen Contest.

## COSTS TO SUPPORT A STATE/AFFILIATE QUEEN

As an affiliate, it is important to also financially support some of your queen's expenses.  As your affiliate queen, she will need a crown for her hat, a sash, and it is common to provide a belt buckle as well.  There are numerous vendors you can purchase these from, but if you need help navigating vendors, please feel free to reach out to our email.  Additionally, it currently costs $670 to enter the Congress Queen competition.  Affiliates commonly cover this expense.  Each queen is also required to have autograph cards, a small $5-$10 gift to give to each queen contestant as a token of friendship, and to have a stall for the horse they plan to show in the horsemanship class.  Since these are required parts of the competition, it is encouraged to help your queen cover those expenses.  Other expenses can include Queen Headshots, queen attire, travel expenses, and more.  You can help your queen representative acquire sponsorships or provide more financial assistance to cover these costs, but that isn't required for an affiliate to do.

## SETTING YOUR STATE/AFFILIATE QUEEN UP FOR SUCCESS

Some advice to help your queen candidate to have a great experience includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Designate a queen committee/mentor to her.  This is someone that can help your queen with questions they have as they prepare for the contest.  Having previous queen experience is great, but not required.
- Encourage your queen to start a social media account to document her journey and allow your affiliate members to watch her journey too!
- Include your queen at your shows to help present awards, participate in exhibitor events, and more.

## MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have any additional questions on how to start a queen contest in your affiliate, please reach out to info@congressqueen.com.  We are happy to help answer any/all of your questions.  "Queening" is a once in a lifetime opportunity and experience for the young women in your affiliate, and we want to assist affiliates in their development of their programs to support the young women who express interest in running for this prestigious title.

Sincerely,

*The Congress Queen Committee*

Contact us at info@congressqueen.com