



FOR THE MEDIA

Congress Queen Contest History

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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. Rich in history, the Congress Queen has been crowned at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress since the 2nd year in 1968. The 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!

The Congress Queen competition is a challenging one consisting of three parts. The first portion of the contest, worth 30 percent of the overall score, is a written examination of the American Quarter Horse Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations and Quarter Horse Congress history and general information. This is the most demanding portion of the contest because the AQHA Rulebook is 360 pages.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

50% ORAL INTERVIEW

Judged by outstanding people in the field on candidate's poise, appearance, and personality. Candidates will also be judged for interview based on an impromptu question and 1 minute speech at the Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening. The 1-minute speech is to be rehearsed and well-prepared by each candidate to introduce themselves to the group and tell about the association that they are representing. Points will be deducted for any contestant going over 1 minute.

30% WRITTEN TEST

Knowledge of the Quarter Horse breed and industry. All questions will be taken from the current year's printed AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations and the Quarter Horse Congress history and general information from the show's website and publications.

20% HORSEMANSHIP

Judged by a panel of judges. The class will consist of performing a pattern and rail work; balance of the class at judges' discretion to prove superior horsemanship.

All candidates will be given a score in each portion of the contest that will determine the overall results. Top ten medallions will be given out, however overall results will be based on *total points earned* not top ten placings. Additional awards will be presented for Miss Congeniality.

