

# Minnesota Honey Producers Association

## Honey Queen Program Overview

The Minnesota Honey Queen (MHQ) is the chief promoter of honey products and the beekeeping industry in Minnesota. It is a yearlong position, beginning with coronation at the Minnesota Honey Producers Association (MHPA) Annual Meeting and ending with the coronation of a new Queen at the same event one year later. When a young woman enters the MHQ competition, it is an affirmation of her commitment of time and effort to the position of MHQ.

These guidelines are meant to serve as a rule-of-thumb as to what is expected by both the Honey Queen and the Minnesota Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons (Kaye Olson & Angie Lundeen). The MHQ program is under the direction of the Minnesota Honey Producers Association. The program is governed by the Minnesota Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons.

### **Appearances**

All appearances of the Queen must be approved by the Minnesota Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons.

The Queen will be reimbursed for her travel expenses. The Queen should have her own vehicle for travel, or the permission of her parents to use their automobile. She may also make arrangements to travel to events with other beekeepers who will be attending the event. The Queen is welcome to suggest alternate travel plans to the Minnesota Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons. If the Queen selects another mode of transportation, the Queen may have to absorb some or all of the travel cost. All suggestions will be considered.

Honey producers requesting the Honey Queen attend an event in their area are responsible for the Queen while she is attending that event. This includes lodging and food. If the Queen is attending an event not sponsored by local honey producers, her food and lodging expenses (if applicable and within reason) will be reimbursed by the Honey Queen program.

Instructions and information for each appearance will come through the Minnesota Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons. Any problems or unforeseen expenses that may arise during appearances should be resolved as best as is possible by the Queen. If at any time the Queen is not certain how to handle a situation, she should call one of the Minnesota Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons.

### **Minnesota Honey Queen Responsibilities**

- The MHW will attend a training session organized by the Co-Chairpersons. Training will cover educational presentations, media interviews and general conduct and a discussion of possible promotions and responsibilities.
- The MHQ must attend all appearances set for her by the Minnesota Honey Queen Program Co-Chairpersons. If conflicts arise, she is to call a Queen Committee Co-Chairperson immediately to reschedule.
- The MHQ will submit her favorite honey recipes for her recipe brochure designed and printed by the MHPA. A deadline will be provided after her coronation.
- The MHQ must keep a record of each appearance she makes during her reign. This log will be used in her various speeches to the MHPA and will also with her application for the American Honey Queen competition. The promotion log will be updated after each event at which she appears.
- The MHQ must create a scrapbook documenting her year as Queen. Photos and any other information available will be compiled into a scrapbook to be displayed at MHPA meetings and also used in competition for American Honey Queen following her reign (if she is eligible to compete).
- The Queen must write a quarterly column for the MHPA newsletter, detailing her appearances, who hosted events, and her media exposure. Articles will be submitted to the Queen Chairpersons.
- The Queen must write thank-you notes to those who hosted appearances.
- The Queen is required to submit a monthly record of her expenses for reimbursement. Expense forms will be supplied by the Co-Chairpersons. Items that may be included on the expense report include: mileage, film and development, scrap booking expenses, food or lodging expenses if a local group does not pay for them, materials for cooking demonstrations and school presentations, phone expenses (for calls relating to appearances and to the chairperson only), and postage expenses (for appearances, thank you notes, and expense reports.) The Queen should be as economical as possible.
- The MHQ must exhibit exemplary behavior at any time she is representing the MHPA, including times when she may not be wearing her crown and banner. Smoking and drinking of alcoholic beverages in public situations are not allowed and could lead to forfeiture of her title. Body piercings and tattoos should be concealed to project the professional and wholesome image of the Queen program and the industry. Professional behavior and appearance is critical at all times.
- If disciplinary problems arise during the Queen's reign, the problem will be reviewed by the Co-Chairpersons and MHPA. If behaviors that do not reflect positively on the MHPA continue to occur, the Queen may be asked to resign her title. The alternate will then assume the title.

## **Co-Chairpersons & MHPA Responsibilities**

- The Co-Chairpersons will set up as many appearances for the Queen as possible, taking both her schedule and local beekeeping organization schedules into account. The Co-Chairpersons will provide the Queen with complete information about the scheduling of each appearance.
- The Co-Chairpersons will provide a training session with the newly crowned MHQ during the first two months of her reign.
- The MHPA will provide funds for the Queen to have a formal portrait taken. This should be done as soon as possible after coronation. The cost for the portrait should be kept to a reasonable minimum.
- The MHPA will provide lodging and expenses for the Queen at the MHPA convention at the end of her reign.
- The MHPA will provide an ABF membership for the Queen during her reign. She will receive newsletters from the ABF to stay on top of current issues in the industry.
- The MHPA will sponsor the successful and eligible MHQ in the American Honey Queen Competition, sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation each January. Travel expenses, lodging, food, and entry fees will be covered by the Queen fund for this event.

I have read the above overview and agree to the guidelines and responsibilities as specified should I be selected as the Minnesota Honey Queen.

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Contestant Signature

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Date

For more information, contact Kaye Olson at [dkolson4@yahoo.com](mailto:dkolson4@yahoo.com) or 763-559-4948 or 4725 Norwood Lane, Plymouth MN 55442.