

# 2026 MAIZE PRINCESS COMPETITION

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES



### PROGRAM PURPOSE

The program is intended to grow confidence and potential in young rural women

- Provide an opportunity to young rural lasses to:
  - Engage in community activities
  - Encourage others to participate in community events
  - Develop new skills and understanding of volunteering together
  - Increase awareness for a local businesses and organisations including the Atherton Maize Festival
  - Create friendships with other likeminded people
  - Fundraise for the Maize Festival Committee
  - Have fun!

### PROGRAM OUTLINE

- A brief information evening will be held (time and date TBA).
- In Jun - August the program co-ordinators will provide multiple development & community engagement opportunities which may include but are not limited to:
  - Public Speaking/Presentation Skills
  - Personal leadership skills and strengths
  - Innovative Fundraising
  - Attending community events
  - Participate in leadership and mentorship opportunities presented throughout the program
- Presentation of the Princesses will be at the Street parade

### PRINCESS CATEGORIES

12-15 year-old Lasses (we are willing to cater to all and change the program if others are interested)

**Maize Princess**– Overall winner

**Mazie Princess Runner-up**

**Maize Charity Princess** - Most funds raised - inventive fundraising

**Encouragement award** – Will be given by the judges for the most improved/showing growth throughout the program.

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entrants must be a resident and employed in, or a student in the Tablelands Regional Council area.
2. Entrants must be turning 12-15 years of age in the year of the Festival to enter
3. Entrant sponsorship must be by a Firm, Club, Association, Organisation, or by the entrant themselves (or parents/guardians).
4. Complete all parts of the application form
5. Payment of \$80 for each Princess entrant (usually paid by sponsor)
6. Work with your sponsor to enter a float into the Mardi Gras parade
7. Attend compulsory community events  
(the information session and the 2026 Maize Festival Main Street Parade)
8. Participate in leadership and mentorship opportunities presented throughout the program
9. Agree to abide by the code of conduct
10. Named Princess to accept the title & prize
11. Entrants under 18 years of age must have parental or guardian consent. Parents and guardians are responsible for their child during events.
12. Entrants (and parents or guardians) give permission for photos to be taken and used in promotional or marketing material for current and future use.

### FEES/PARTICIPATION COSTS

- \$80 entry fee paid to Maize Festival Committee
- Travel to & from events
- Meals at events where food is not provided

## SPONSORS

Each entrant is to be supported by a community sponsor. This can be a business, community organisation, sporting organisation or school (the sponsor can also be the receiving charity). The role of the sponsor is to support their entrant throughout the festival period and work collaboratively with the entrant. At a minimum, this would include:

- Payment of a \$80 entry fee to the Atherton Maize Festival Committee Inc.
- Entry and decoration of a float into the street parade
- Attendance at the Sign On/Briefing and Street parade (see event schedule)
- For business sponsors, decide with your entrant which charity/community organisation you would like to raise funds for (see fundraising notes)
- Provide a logo for promotional use throughout the year

Additional sponsorship to assist with any other participation expenses would no doubt be appreciated but can be decided between the entrant and sponsor.

## FUNDRAISING

Entrants are asked to fundraise for the Maize Festival Committee, prizes and raffle ticket books etc will be provided to the Princess. It is highly encouraged that participants use innovative means to raise funds and seek fundraising items if they can.

All funds raised during the Festival Queen and Princess Competition period (1 June – 29 August 2026) must be banked to the Atherton Maize Festival Inc. bank account (details to be provided at the information session) with an appropriate reference. Atherton Maize Festival Committee will also work with entrants to donate a portion of funds back to local community groups/charities. These groups must be based or support local community members – funds should be spent within the area benefiting local community.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The Princess Program is focused on engagement levels and personal growth over the course of the program. In an effort to judge this holistically, the judging occurs throughout the period of the festival and is not limited to formal events. Judging across the following criteria is carried out by several mentors involved:

1. Community engagement
  - a. How well you engage with the community & each other at community events.
2. Collaboration in volunteering
  - a. How well you work with others to promote your sponsor and the Festival
  - b. How well you contributed to & participated in Maize Festival events
3. Personal Growth & Development (judging panel present at events)
  - a. How well you participate in and contribute to personal development events
  - b. The level of personal growth evident between your starting & ending the competition
4. Personal Presentation (judging panel present at events)
  - a. How appropriately you present yourself – behaviour
  - b. Speech – clear and easy to understand with good eye contact.

*This is subject to change. We will go through this on the Sign-on Day, and you will be informed of any other changes prior to participating in any judged events.*

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Your participation in the Maize Festival Princess Competition requires that you conduct yourself in a manner that will showcase the reasons we pride the youth in our region. We welcome your full personality but expect respectful interactions with guests, speakers & coordinators at all events and with all community members at public events.

The Maize Festival Committee reserves the right to terminate your participation at any time throughout the Festival should your actions in some way bring the program into disrepute. Let's keep it simple:

No foul language or clothes that showcase them, no talking/texting/scrolling on phones during events, neat and appropriate clothing to be worn at all events, positive engagement with all participating contestants.

Appropriate and prudent handling of fundraising money accompanied by adequate records (if applicable).