



2026 Gays Mills Apple Festival

Royalty Candidate Application

The Village of Gays Mills Apple Festival Committee is searching for Candidates to join the 2026 Gays Mills Apple Festival Royalty. Individuals currently in Kindergarten-12th Grades or aged 6 thru 18 as of April 12, 2026 are welcome to apply. Candidates must be a resident of the North Crawford School District (including home-school or online students) OR must be a student at North Crawford (including open enrolled students).

Candidate Name: _____

Date of Application: _____ Birth Date: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____ Dress Size _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Address:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone:

Sponsored by:

School (If home-schooled, enter Home-School):

By signing below, I am confirming I have read over the Contestant Guidelines and of my intentions (or approval of my child's intentions) to participate in the interview, coronation process and Royalty activities throughout the year of their reign. I also authorize the printing of my (or my child's) image while promoting the Gays Mills Apple Festival.

Contestant's Signature:

Parent's (or Guardian's) Signature:

(Candidates under the age of 18 need a parent's or guardian's signature.)

Thank you for your interest and participation!

~ Village of Gays Mills Apple Festival Committee

Application is due Friday, March 27th at 3:30pm in the Elementary School, Middle/High School and Village of Gays Mills Offices. For questions, please contact Adam McCarn, Gays Mills Apple Royalty Advisor, at (608) 521-0400 by phone or by email at amccarn1984@gmail.com

2026 GAYS MILLS APPLE FESTIVAL ROYALTY CANDIDATE GUIDELINES

The Gays Mills Festival Committee is excited to announce the 2026 Gays Mills Apple Festival will be held September 25th-27th. As part of Apple Festival Tradition, they are searching for candidates for 2026 Apple Festival Royalty.

The Gays Mills Apple Festival Royalty serves as goodwill ambassadors representing the greater Gays Mills Community at area events, local community coronations, festivals and parades. The Royalty promotes our local Apple Orchards and the greater Gays Mills Community, participate in community fundraisers and perform community service activities throughout the year.

This set of guidelines and the attached application are the packet for participation in the Gays Mills Apple Royalty Contest and Coronation. A completed application must be submitted to the Elementary School, Middle/High School or Village of Gays Mills Offices by 3:30pm on Friday, March 27th.

Candidates applying for Gays Mills Apple Festival Royalty must be of Ages 6-18, or in kindergarten–12th Grades, as of 2026 Gays Mills Apple Festival Coronation, April 12, 2026. The Royalty Advisor reserves the right to adjust the age requirements/royalty

categories based on the number of candidates and the ages of the candidates that have applied. Tentative Royalty Categories and ages are as follows: Apple Queen—9th-12th grades or ages 15-18, Apple Princess—4th-8th grades or ages 10-14, Apple Blossom Princess—K-3rd grades or ages 6-9.

Candidates must reside within the North Crawford School District or be open enrolled into North Crawford schools. The candidates may attend North Crawford Schools, in person or virtually, be home-schooled, attend a private school or attend another school outside of the North Crawford School District through open enrollment. The Royalty Advisor and/or Gays Mills Apple Festival Committee reserve the right to ask for proof of residency.

Candidates must have a sponsor for the contest. Sponsors may be businesses or individuals. There is a \$30.00 sponsorship fee that helps to cover the expenses. All sponsors are invited and encouraged to attend Coronation. Candidate sponsors will be introduced at Coronation, mentioned in a newspaper write-up, and on the Gays Mills Applefest Royalty Facebook page. Please let the Royalty Advisor know if you need assistance finding a Sponsor.

Candidates must be in attendance for 2026 Gays Mills Apple Royalty Coronation events. A 50% attendance requirement for all parades and 50% attendance of fundraisers through the year.

A Candidates' meeting will be scheduled to be held prior to Coronation. Date and time to yet be determined at this time. Candidates (and parents/guardians of contestants under the age of 18) should plan to attend as the rules, expectations, schedule of events for the contest and Coronation program will be covered at that time. Expect to participate in a short interview at this meeting.

Coronation will be held at the Gays Mills Community Center at 16831 State Highway 131 on Saturday, April 12, 2026. The program will begin with a formal introduction of the candidates and current Royalty, their parents and sponsors, a short program and announcement of the selected Royalty that will reign over the 2026 Gays Mills Apple Festival. After the coronation program there will be time for pictures. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

All candidates will be asked to wear a formal dress (long or short) for coronation, such as what they might wear to homecoming or prom. Ladies, please do not feel obligated to go out and buy a dress in order to participate. Borrow a dress from a sibling or friend. If you are having trouble locating a suitable dress, please contact Royalty Advisor, Adam McCarn, at (608) 521-0400 or Dawn McCann, Village Clerk, at (608) 735-4341.

GAYS MILLS APPLE FESTIVAL ROYALTY CANDIDATE

GUIDELINES—cont.

Candidates will be introduced one-by-one during the program. They should be escorted by parent/s or guardian/s upon introduction. A representative for the sponsor will also be introduced.

All members of the Apple Royalty chosen to represent Gays Mills Community and Apple Festival will receive a Tiara and Sash to be worn at parades and appropriate events. Attire for future events will be discussed in detail at a later time.

The selected Gays Mills Apple Royalty **Members must be available and committed to reign during the Gays Mills Apple Festival, September 25 - 27, 2026**, and representing the Gays Mills Community and Festivals. A 50% attendance requirement for parades and 50% attendance for fundraisers. The Apple festival parade in Gays Mills is a mandatory parade to participate in.

The Gays Mills Apple Festival Committee have determined attendance at the following parades/events will be of highest priority of the Gays Mills Apple Royalty: Gays Mills Spring Festival, Memorial Day Parade, Soldiers Grove Fun Days Parade in Soldiers Grove, Seneca Ridge and Valley Rally Parade, Eastman 4th of July Celebration Parade, Boscobel Red, White and Boom Parade, or LaFarge and Ontario 4th of July parades, Gays Mills Apple Festival Activities and Parade, Mill House Lights and Parade, and Coronation for the 2026 Gays Mills Apple Royalty Court. There will be other parades throughout the year that are farther away but have had really good feedback from these parades. This is a year-long commitment. Most activities occur during the summer and early fall months. Additional events, parades and activities beyond those listed above will be discussed and scheduled at a future meeting.

If at any time, an Apple Royalty Member is unable to attend a scheduled event, it is their, or their parents/ guardians' responsibility to contact the Royalty Advisor directly to let them know as soon as possible. A group app has been created for the easement of contacting everyone regarding attendance and other things throughout the year.

All 2026 Apple Royalty and family will be expected to participate in fundraiser/s for the Apple Royalty and a variety of community service activities and fundraisers during their reign.

There will be a zero – tolerance on harassment and / or bullying. That behavior will not be tolerated and disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, expulsion from the program.

The Gays Mills Festival Committee has set forth these expectations and the Royalty Court members will be expected to adhere to them. There will be a Royalty Advisor that will guide and oversee the Royalty Court throughout the year and serve as a liaison between the Festival Committee, Royalty Court and their families. **Gays Mills Apple Royalty Advisor, Adam McCarn—Cell: 608-521-0400 or Email: amccarn1984@gmail.com**

Please Note: *The Royalty Advisor is able to provide proof of service to cover any Volunteering and Community Service activity requirements needed for school, college application requirement or National Honor Society. You may use this volunteer experience in your future resumes and applications of employment. At the end of your reign and in gratitude, you will receive a monetary award from the Village of Gays Mills Festival Committee.*

Thank you!

2026 GAYS MILLS APPLE FESTIVAL

ROYALTY CANDIDATE

GUIDELINES—cont.

List of parades in the area (We do not always go to all of these!)

Westby Syttende Mai in May.
Muscoda Mushroom Fest.
Memorial Day Parade in Gays Mills
West Salem June Dairy Days
Allamakee County June Dairy Days Parade.
Richland Center Rodeo / Dairy Days parade
Sparta Butterfest
Soldiers Grove Fun Days Parade in Soldiers Grove
Eastman 4th of July Celebration Parade and then Boscobel Red, White and Boom Parade
OR Lafarge 4th of July Parade and then go to Ontario following.
Seneca Ridge and Valley Rally Parade
Lansing Fish Days
Wild West Days, Viroqua
Blue River Autumn Fest
Labor Day Parades – Wauzeka and Readstown
Platteville Dairy Days – in September
Cashton Fall Fest
La Crescent AppleFest Coronation, Queen's Tea and Parade
Viola Horse and Colt Show
Gays Mills Apple Festival Activities and Parade
Retreats World Fair
Lancaster Harvest Fest
October Fest PDC
Twinklefest Viroqua
Christmas Parade PDC
Mill House Lights and Parade
Chaseburg Snow Trailer Days
St. Patricks Day Parade

Additional optional activities and events will be proposed at a future time. At that time, please have schedules and availability dates so that we can discuss and decide together what events we will commit to attending. We want to be mindful of your family vacations, school, employment and other obligations. We will develop our activity schedule for the year together at that time. If at any time, you are unable to attend a scheduled event, it is your responsibility to contact the Royalty Advisor as soon as possible.

As we are doing so, please remember the purpose of this Royalty Court is to promote Gays Mills Tourism and Economic efforts, attracting visitors to our quaint little village, our village's festivals and events, businesses, and especially our Apple Orchards and Wisconsin's Apple Industry. The more activities and events our Royalty participates in, the more people and revenue (money) we bring to our community. Promoting Gays Mills, the Apple Orchards and the Gays Mills Apple Festival, assists in the continued development of our community so that we may continue to grow and flourish.

I have been informed, read and agree to abide by these guidelines for the 2026 Gays Mills Apple Royalty Contest and Coronation. (Parents'/Guardians' signature is required for Candidates under the age of 18.)

_____ Printed Name of Candidate	_____ Candidate's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Printed Name of Parent/Guardian	_____ Parent/Guardian's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Printed Name of Parent/Guardian	_____ Parent/Guardian's Signature	_____ Date