**United States Cherry Blossom Princess Candidate Qualifications**

To qualify as the Maine State Cherry Blossom Princess and participate in the NCSS Cherry Blossom Princess Program, during the National Cherry Blossom Festival®, all candidates must meet the following minimum requirements.

**Residence:**  The candidate must be a U.S. citizen and either have been born in, be the daughter of a parent born in, or the granddaughter, sister or niece of a native of the State she represents. She may also have been a resident of or spent significant time in the state.  **She will be well informed about the geographic entity she is representing.**

**Age:**  The candidate **must be 19 years of age**, but no older than 24 years old (waivers can be granted for those older than 24) as of April 11, 2015, the closing day of the NCSS festival activities of the 2015 National Cherry Blossom Festival®.

**Education:**  The candidate **must be at least a 19 years of age and a high school graduate!! ZERO exceptions!!!**

**Waiver:**  Societies **MAY NOT WAIVE** the minimum age requirement but may waive the maximum age, with the approval of the NCSS Executive Committee.

**Marital:**  The candidate must be single, never have been married, no children.

**General:**  Candidates are chosen based on their background, academics, leadership, community service and future ambitions.  The candidate should possess poise, intelligence, maturity, have a good personality and character, and enjoy good physical, mental and emotional stability in order to withstand the rigorous schedule of Festival activities.  No visible tattoos or body piercing – for clarification contact the Princess Program Director.

**Availability:**  The chosen Princess **must attend** all scheduled NCSS Festival events and may be asked to participate in related events during the Festival period.  The program provides college-aged, professional women the chance to meet and interface with role models, gain an increased understanding of government and industry, as well as, be exposed to a broader international environment. In addition to the educational and professional development aspects, the program includes the following **MANDATORY EVENTS:** the Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony, Celebration of the States/Territories Reception, the Congressional Reception, the Japan Ambassador’s event, the Official Cherry Blossom Grand Ball/Sushi Reception, the National Cherry Blossom Parade® and the Sakura Matsuri. **NOTE: Failure to participate in all NCSS events, will disqualify a Princess from the opportunity to participate in the Queen Selection Process.**

**Photograph:** Each candidate must provide their society with a digital head shot color photo, via email, to the Society President and include in the body of the email her name. IF chosen to represent that Society, this will be used for the official Festival program book and publicity purposes. The photos should be a head and shoulders portrait with just one pose. For consistency, we ask that you wear a black drape and no jewelry other than pearls and conservative earrings. No hats, crowns or tiaras.

**STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

Please indicate (in the space below, and if necessary, with additional pages to be attached to this form) why you are the best candidate to represent your State as a Cherry Blossom Princess and if chosen as Queen, the best candidate to represent the United States. Please be as precise as possible!

**CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Please print or type legibly

 Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State Representing\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Maine\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_Maine\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Country USA Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Work/School Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent address (if different than above):**

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State/Territory \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_USA Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Biographical data for publicity**

Hometown Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City/State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College/Post High School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City/State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Honors, Awards Community, Social & Civic Activities/ Hobbies, Sports, Interests, Special Talents

**PRINCESS GIFT FORM**

Please complete this form and turn it in with your state, territorial, or country’s gifts. **NOTE:**  Each State/Territorial society or Embassy is responsible for sending their own thank you letters for the Princess gifts. This will not be handled through NCSS or the Princess Committee. Thank you.

We are asking that each participating State, Territory, and Embassy Cherry Blossom Princess provide ONLY lapel pins (or memorabilia pins) for each of the participating Cherry Blossom Princesses and Queens: a total of ***seventy-five (75)*** pins are needed. There is no longer a need for any other state/territory gift for the Princesses. The Queen will be taking several to Japan, as well.

**In addition to the memorabilia pins,** NCSS asks each State/Territorial Princess to provide **three (3)** **small gifts** that represent that state/territory for the **US Queen to take to Japan,** for presentation to Japan and American dignitaries that she will meet there – in the name of the United States, the States/Territories, and the Societies. **Examples of appropriate gifts are**:

* crystal or ornamental paperweights;
* small crystal, ceramic, or silver federal or state logo items;
* small crystal or ceramic keepsakes
* ornaments (similar in quality to the White House or US Capitol ornaments)

**We cannot and will not accept:** food or beverages of any kind (including chocolates, coffee, tea, etc.), books, magazines, brochures, mugs, glasses, cups, bags, or totes.

1. Society Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Princess Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Contact person for Princess gift \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Contact’s phone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Contact’s email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Description of the Queen’s gift \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR GIFTS TO THE HOTEL, THE MORNING OF ORIENTATION**

**APRIL 5, 2015. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE**