

THIRTIETH ANNUAL Laura Ingalls Wilder Days September 10 & 11, 2022 LAURA CONTEST RULES



Registration for Laura Contestants and sign up for Little Sisters* participants will take place **on Saturday, September 10 from 9 AM to 10:45 AM** at the picnic shelter to the right of the walkway within the park (directions may be obtained at the Information Table, if needed). **There is a \$10 entry fee;** all contestants receive a gift bag. Please allow ample time to register and go through the first two stages of judging (see 4 & 5 below); this process **must be completed by all contestants by 10:30 AM.**

1. The Laura Contest consists of 4 age categories: 8-year-olds, 9-year-olds, 10-year-olds, and 11-year-olds. One winner will be selected from each of the four categories. If there are not enough girls entered, we may combine the 10- and 11-year-olds into one category. The contest is designed to determine which girl (in each age category) most closely identifies with Laura.
2. If a girl has won the Laura Contest in any age group in the past, she is not eligible to enter the contest again.
3. While this is **not** a look-alike contest, all contestants are required to be in appropriate “prairie girl” attire for the time period of 1867-1875.
4. After registering, a contestant will proceed to the first stage of judging. Here, she will answer a written questionnaire related to Laura Ingalls Wilder’s “Little House” books. Ages 8 & 9 will be asked questions from “Little House in the Big Woods.” Ages 10 & 11 will be asked questions from both “Little House in the Big Woods” and “Little House on the Prairie.”
5. The second stage of judging consists of answering a few questions asked by a judge. This helps to determine a contestant’s speaking skills and her ability to articulate answers in a spontaneous manner.
6. The third (final) stage of judging occurs on the main stage. Contestants will introduce themselves and answer a few more questions before a panel of judges and an assembled audience. Here, some questions may be more interpretive in nature (e.g., “How would you feel about . . .” or “What would you do if . . . ?”)
7. The scores from all three phases of the competition (written questionnaire, one-to-one “interview,” and the final stage appearance) will be combined and a winner chosen. Contestants are judged on the basis of accuracy of their answers, poise under various conditions, and their general appearance. In case of a tie, finalists will be required to answer another set of questions.
8. All contestants should meet behind the stage at 10:50 AM and be ready to go on stage at 11 AM. The order of on-stage appearances will be:

8-year-old competition (beginning at 11 AM)
9-year-old competition
10-year-old competition
11-year-old competition
(10 & 11 may be combined)

*The Little Sisters presentation will be held on stage during the judging period for the Laura Contest.
