

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL LAURA CONTEST RULES (2019)



Registration for the Laura Contest and sign up for Little Sisters participants will take place on Saturday, **September 14**, from 9:00 – 10:45 A.M. 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 **must** be completed by all contestants by 10:45 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. The order of on-stage appearances will be: 8 year-old competition (beginning at 11); 9 year-old competition; Little Sisters presentation; 10 year-old competition; 11 year-old competition (10 & 11 may be combined).

All Laura contestants are invited to ride in the parade on Sunday. Parade lineup is ½ block from the intersection of County N (Dunn St) and Hwy 35. This intersection is 6 blocks south of the park – see map in your folder. If you are going to ride in the parade you must be there between 12:30 and 12:45 pm. After the parade the girls will be dropped off at the motel across the street from the Main Stage (in the park).