

The 65th Anniversary of the Cherry Blossom Princess Program



April 7 – 14, 2013 – Washington, DC
c/o National Conference of State Societies
Post Office Box 70175
Washington, DC 20024

PRINCESS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT – FORM B

State/Territory/Country represented _____ Date _____

I agree to participate fully in the 2013 Cherry Blossom Festival events, including all National Conference of State Society (NCSS) events, during the period April 7 - 14, 2013.

I understand that I must comply with all requirements, dress codes, and other instructions set forth by the NCSS, and I understand that failure to comply **will** result in my losing the opportunity to participate in the Queen Selection Process.

Please list your affiliation with the State/Territory/Country being represented:

I also understand and agree that NCSS does not assume any financial obligation or responsibility of any kind for me. NCSS will, however, provide me complimentary tickets to all Festival functions plus a ticket for my escort for the Congressional Reception. Parents or guardians are encouraged to attend public festival events and will be given priority consideration when purchasing tickets to these events.

Further, I understand that NCSS is not responsible for my health and welfare while I am participating in the Festival and its associated activities. I agree to provide the name and telephone number of a responsible person in the Washington, DC area, for emergency contact purposes. I have also completed and included the required Emergency Care Information Form.

If not staying at the NCSS-contracted hotel, I agree to provide an address and telephone number where I may be reached for any last-minute changes or instructions.

I have fully read and understand everything on the Princess Qualification and Application Requirement and agree to abide by everything listed within these documents.

Name of Princess (please print)

Signature of Princess

I am not over the age of eighteen and therefore need a parent/guardian's signature:

Parent or guardian (please print)

Signature of Parent or guardian

APPROVED BY:

State/Territorial Society President or Embassy Representative

Signature of Society or Embassy Representative

For NCSS Use Only:

Date Received _____

NCSS Princess Chair Signature

Date Reviewed _____

NCSS President Signature

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United States Cherry Blossom Princess Qualifications

To qualify as an NCSS Cherry Blossom Princess, all candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications in order to be accepted to represent their State or Territory in the 2013 Cherry Blossom Festival. State/territorial societies may impose additional requirements.

Residence: The Princess must be a U.S. citizen and must either have been born in, be the daughter of a parent born in, or a legal resident of the State or Territory she represents. She should be well-informed about the geographic entity she is representing.

Age: The Princess is at least 19 years of age, but no older than 24 years old, as of April 14, 2013, the closing day of the NCSS activities of the 2013 Festival.

Education: The Princess must be at least a high school graduate.

Marital: The Princess must be single, never married, and have no children.

General: The Princesses are chosen based on their background, academics, leadership, community service, and future ambitions. The Princess 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 Chair.

Availability: The Princess must attend all scheduled NCSS Festival events (including Orientation) 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, and to be exposed to a broader international environment. In addition to the educational and professional development aspects, the program includes evening receptions with individual states, the Japanese Ambassador and other Ambassadors, a Congressional Reception, and a Grand Ball/Sushi Reception. Failure to participate in all NCSS events, without an approved absence form, **will** disqualify a Princess from the opportunity to participate in the Queen Selection Process.

Emergency: Each Princess must provide NCSS with the name and telephone number of a responsible adult in the Washington, DC area for contact in case of an emergency, in addition to filling out the required Emergency Care Information – Form D.

Waiver: Societies can waive the requirement of Age and Residency, with the approval of the NCSS Executive Committee.

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International Cherry Blossom Princess Qualifications

To qualify as an NCSS International Cherry Blossom Princess, all candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications in order to be accepted to represent their Country in the 2013 Cherry Blossom Festival. Embassy sponsors may impose additional requirements.

Purpose: An opportunity for Embassies to participate in an event where their (Princess) representative can exchange and share their culture with young women from the United States.

Residence: The Princess or one of her parents should have been born in the country represented. This is important so that the Princess will have first-hand knowledge about the country represented.

Age: The Princess is at least 19 years of age, but no older than 25 years old, on the closing day of NCSS activities of the 2013 Festival.

Education: The Princess must speak English. Communication is extremely important because of the dialogue that begins with the application and continues through the end of the festival. Orientation especially provides significant and vital information for the Princess' participation.

Marital: The Princess must be single, never married, and have no children.

Dress: International Princesses are encouraged to wear their native costumes at the Parade and various receptions, if they so desire.

Availability: The Princess must attend all scheduled NCSS Festival events (including Orientation) 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, and to be exposed to a broader international environment. In addition to the educational and professional development aspects, the program includes evening receptions with individual states, the Japanese Ambassador and other Ambassadors, a Congressional Reception, and a Grand Ball/Sushi Reception.

Emergency: Each Princess must provide NCSS with the name and telephone number of a responsible adult in the Washington, DC area for contact in case of an emergency, in addition to filling out the required [Emergency Care Information Form](#).

General: The Princess 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 Chair.

The International Princess may be invited to participate in Taste of the States. This participation is encouraged, as this is a wonderful way to interact with the US Princesses and Society members.

Registration Fee Exemption: In lieu of registration fee payment, the Embassy may opt to host a breakfast, luncheon, or dinner at their facility (Embassy or Chancery). This will exempt the Embassy from the registration fees, and these are the only exceptions to the registration fees.

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Cherry Blossom Festival Princess Application Requirement

Credentials: Each Princess must submit (1) a completed and signed Princess Participation Agreement, (2) Queen Selection/ Participation Agreement, (3) supporting documentation, and must conform to the requirements outlined on the attached Princess Qualifications document. Include a statement of interest (not to exceed one page in length) on why you want to represent your state/territory/country as a Cherry Blossom Princess. This must be signed by the Society President or Embassy Representative.

Proof of Age: Each Princess must attach a legible copy of her birth certificate, driver's license, or passport with her application. Do NOT submit the original of either document, as these will not be returned.

Attendance: Each Princess must be in Washington, DC, by Sunday, April 7, 2013, to attend the Princess Orientation at 10:00am at the NCSS contracted hotel: Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel, 999 9th Street, NW, Washington, DC. You will receive a full and detailed Schedule of Events and the required dress for each event prior to the Festival. You should plan to be available for Festival activities until **5:00pm** on Saturday, April 13, 2013. **It is important that all Princesses be available and on time for all official functions. Failure to participate in all NCSS events, without an approved absence form, will disqualify a Princess from the opportunity to participate in the Queen Selection Process.**

Transportation: Princesses will be transported to all events by bus, which will leave from the headquarters hotel each morning, move the Princesses between Festival events during the day, and return them to the hotel each evening. It is **REQUIRED that each Princess use the bus daily, even if she is not staying at the hotel.**

Photographs: Each Princess must provide NCSS with a digital head shot color photo, via email, and include in the body of the email your name and the State, Territory, or Country you are representing. This will be used for the official Festival program and for 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. This photo may also be sent to the Princess chair, via email. **Your hometown press publicity will be issued by NCSS, and Societies/Embassies are encouraged to contribute to this effort.**

Wardrobe: A modest wardrobe is necessary for the many and varied public and private events scheduled during the Festival. Basic garments needed are:

- One formal **WHITE floor-length** ball gown (not skin tight) and **LONG WHITE** gloves for the Grand Ball/Banquet (see the Princess Facebook page for appropriate examples). The *Evening Gown Program* is also available. Contact the Festival Chair at: festivalchair@statesocieties.org for more information.
- One **cocktail dress (either long or calf-length is acceptable)** for the Congressional Reception and the Japan Ambassador's Reception. **No** dresses with plunging necklines or with hemlines 2" (or more) above the knee will be allowed.
- **3 business suits** (either a matching dress/jacket combo or a matching skirt/blouse/jacket combo) and one pantsuit (matching top and pants) for daytime wear throughout the week. A list of appropriate attire for the week will be listed on the Schedule of Events well in advance.
- Comfortable shoes coordinated with your dress/suit. We suggest flats or 1-2" heels. Black shoes are appropriate. **NO SANDALS OR "FLIP-FLOPS."**
- 1 pair of flat shoes (NO heel) **IS REQUIRED** for the USO event, as well as for riding the float in the Parade®.
- One all-season coat, preferably with a liner (due to the unpredictability of Washington weather).

Bright, colorful clothing is highly recommended. Outfits that are black, brown, dark gray, or dark navy blue **are not acceptable** at any time during the week. **This dress code will be enforced for all U.S. and International princesses, and you will be required to change immediately if inappropriate clothing is worn.**

Princesses may NOT wear crowns or tiaras (except at the Grand Ball/Sushi Reception). Jeans, stretch pants, tight shorts, boots, high split skirts, or mini skirts will not be allowed during scheduled Festival events and activities. **Princesses may not wear heavy make-up or nail polish in colors such as black, blue, and other dark colors.**