

2026 Texas Rice Festival Little Rice Sweetheart

Chairman: Tiffany Williams (409) 893-2717

Sponsor: Tanya Young Properties

Rules & Information

Age Limit: Open to girls ages 7 – 9 years old as of September 26, 2026.

Entry Fee: \$40.00 due upon entry w/application. Fees will not be refunded for no show.

Number of Contestants: The contest will automatically close when 30 entries have been accepted. The deadline for entry is Friday, September 4, 2026. In the event an entry form arrives at the festival office after the contest has been declared closed, the applicant will be notified, and the entry fee will be returned. **You can not sign up for this pageant if you have been a previous Little Rice Sweetheart of the Texas Rice Festival.**

Interview Outfit: You will be able to express your personality by wearing an outfit of choice. Points will not be given for the outfit but should be age-appropriate and tasteful.

Dress for Stage: Any style of tea-length or full-length dress is appropriate. **Short dresses, hats, and gloves are prohibited.** Contestants wearing a short pageant dress, hats, or gloves will not be given a score for **“Appearance”**.

SATURDAY, September 26, 2026, ~ JUDGING!

Judging: All judging will be completed on 9/30. Contestants will be judged on Interview, Appearance, Personality, & Stage Presence. Winners will be announced on Youth Day, Friday October 2, 2026.

Interview: at 9:00 am (wearing outfit of choice)

Be at East Chambers High School no later than 8:45 a.m. Parents/Guardians may not stay with contestants during this portion. Contestants will be given a number from 1 to 30 and must be interviewed in that order or forfeit their turn. Each girl will have a 2-minute interview with the judges. We will rehearse, and then the children will be released. Parent/Guardian should pick their child up at 10:30 am.

On Stage Judging: at 1:30 pm (wearing formal dress)

Be at East Chambers High School no later than 1:15 p.m. completely dressed and ready to go on stage. Judging will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. Contestants one at a time will walk on stage while the emcee reads information submitted on their entry form. Family members and friends are invited to attend the onstage portion of the contest.

FRIDAY October 2, 2026~ YOUTH DAY

Check In: 12:45 p.m. – Meet at Prosperity Bank (rear parking lot) wearing the same dress that was worn the weekend before during judging. Contestants will be bussed to the Main Stage in the park for their final stage presentation. One Parent/Guardian may accompany contestant on the bus to the festival grounds.

Line-up: Upon arrival when exiting the bus, **PARENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** in the line-up area behind stage. This will be strictly enforced. Please go directly to the front of the stage and wait in the viewing area. Back stage is chaotic, and the amount of traffic flow must be kept at a minimum. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Little Rice Sweetheart Contest: 1:20 p.m. – Each contestant will be individually introduced and lined up on stage. After introductions, the new Texas Rice Festival Little Rice Sweetheart and Runners-ups will be announced.

Youth Day Parade: All contestants are strongly encouraged to ride on the Little Rice Sweetheart float during Friday's parade. Please meet in front of the Community Building at the South end of the park at 2:15 p.m. to be placed on the float. One adult may ride with each child. Contestants will be dropped off in front of the Community Building after the parade. Little Rice Sweetheart and runners-up are to wear their dresses. All other contestants should wear their pageant dress to ride in parade.

Should you need further assistance please call Tiffany Williams at (409) 893-2717 or the festival office at (409) 296-4404 and we will be happy to answer all your questions. For information about the 2026 Texas Rice Festival go to www.texasricefestival.com.

Registration opens Wednesday, July 8, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. and will automatically close on Friday September 4, 2026, or when the limit of 30 entries is reached.

*****Please Note*****

**In the event of a rain out
or natural disaster, entry
fees will not be refunded.**

2026 Little Rice Sweetheart Entry Form

Age Limit: 7 – 9 yrs.

Entry Fee: \$40.00

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____
(Mailing Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age (as of 9/26/26) _____

School Attending: _____ Grade _____

T-Shirt Size: Small (6-8) Medium (10-12) Large (14-16) AS AM AL

When I grow up, I want to be _____

Sponsor: _____

I hereby give consent for my child to participate in the Texas Rice Festival Little Rice Sweetheart Contest. By signing, I understand and give consent for any photographs taken during or after the contest to be used for publicity or anyway deemed necessary by the festival.

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____