

2026 Texas Rice Festival

Little Rice Tot Contest

Co-Chairmen: Daina Cook
Candace Abshier

Sponsor Texas First Bank

Contest Date Friday, October 2, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location TRF Main Stage in the Winnie-Stowell Park

Little Rice Tot ~ Rules & Information

Age Limit: Children ages 1-3 as of October 2, 2026.

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per child and is due upon entry. Entry fees will not be refunded for no-show.

Confirmation of Entry: 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. The deadline for entries is Friday, September 4, 2026. Costume changes **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** after September 4, 2026.

Check In: All contestants should line up at 9:30 a.m. behind the Main Stage. One of the chairmen will be there to assist you and get you lined up.

Number of Contestants: The contest will automatically close when 25 entries have been accepted. Babies to be judged as a pair will be considered one entry.

Theme: **"From Sea to Shining Sea"**

NO DUPLICATE COSTUMES OR CHARACTER WILL BE ALLOWED!

In the event a duplicate entry is received the first entry will prevail and the second entry will be asked to change their theme.

Props: Wagons, carriages and other small conveyances may be considered in judging if they directly contribute to the costume presentation. It is necessary that such conveyances be small enough for use on the stage ramp. Handheld props may be used. **The float must fit on the ramp to be presented on stage. Music is not allowed.**

Categories (5): Little Rice Tot, 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up, 3rd Runner-up, and 4th Runner-up.

Awards: Little Rice Tot will receive a plaque and sash. Plaques will also be awarded to the four other categories listed above.

Day of Contest - During line-up before the contest **ONLY ONE ADULT PER CHILD** will be allowed in the line-up area behind the stage. Please ask your family and friends to wait in front of the stage in the viewing area. **THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Drinks and snacks will be provided for the babies while they are waiting. You will have to pay to enter the festival. Children are free.

Youth Day Parade: The Youth Day Parade will begin at 2:45 p.m. on Friday. All contestants are invited to ride on the Little Rice Tot float. Please meet in front of the Community Building in the Park at 2:15 p.m. for line-up instructions. We will begin placing contestants on the float at 2:30 p.m. An adult must ride with each baby.

Should you need further assistance please call Daina Cook (409) 781-6897 or Candace Abshier (409) 782-5289, or the festival office (409) 296-4404. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If there is no answer, please leave a message. All calls will be returned as soon as possible.

Registration opens Wednesday, July 8, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. and will close on Friday September 4th. The contest will automatically close when the limit of 25 entries is reached.

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

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

2026 Little Rice Tot Entry Form

Age Limit: 1-3 yrs.

Entry Fee: \$20

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

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

Email Address _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age (as of 10/2/26) _____ Gender: _____

Character to be presented: _____

I hereby give my child consent to participate in the 2026 Texas Rice Festival Little Rice Tot 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: _____