

ESGVJCC QUEENS CONTEST INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

FAQ

Why should I apply for the ESGVJCC Queen's Contest?



It is an amazing and unique opportunity that doesn't come often in life. You will improve your interpersonal and social skills and after the year you

will notice how your confidence and self perception have become more mature and thoughtful. If chosen ESGVJCC Queen, you will get to represent your greater community, the community center, and your family and friends as the ESGVJCC Nisei Week candidate.

If I participate, what should I expect?

The ESGVJCC Queens Committee will work with each candidate to help hone their poise and speaking abilities, as well as confidence

both on stage and off to help prepare you for Nisei Week candidacy. We've seen past candidates go through a significant personal growth as a result of their participation in the queen selection. The ESGVJCC court will be introduced at each community event and asked to participate and interact with our community members. Through this experience you can expect to gain a greater appreciation for volunteerism, giving back to the community, and growth in your relationships with ESGVJCC members.

I'm shy/timid — should I still apply?

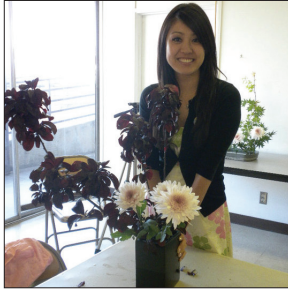
Absolutely! No one is born a public speaker and that is why you will have months of training to help you be the best you can be. Sometimes the most shy person is the one who shines the most because they have utilized the training and really embraced the opportunity to build on skills they already have.

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I'm in school or have a job—will I still be able to do this?

Yes! It's up to you if you would like to be a part of this wonderful experience, and if you manage your time and prioritize your commitments then it's completely possible. It's not always easy and it will take some juggling, but if you're willing to make it happen, it will all be worth it!

What if I don't know a lot about my Japanese heritage?



While having knowledge of the Japanese culture and language is beneficial, it is not mandatory. This is the perfect opportunity for you to learn more about who you are and

where you came from. Through both the ESGVJCC experience and the Nisei Week experience, you will learn more about your culture—like Japanese tea ceremony, dressing in kimono, karate, Japanese language, JA history, ikebana, and much more. There are many opportunities to join an ESGVJCC sub organization to further enhance your knowledge and experience of the Japanese culture for your own personal growth.

How much will it cost?

To become a candidate you must be an ESGVJCC member (\$75) and there is a \$25 application fee. Candidates will participate in a coronation ceremony and may need to purchase appropriate attire.

If you're chosen to be ESGVJCC Queen then you will go on to be a Nisei Week candidate and your registration fee will be covered by ESGVJCC. Though Nisei Week receives

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many donations to support the queen and court, there may be additional costs for travel, attire, appreciation (omiyage) and other incidentals.

What kind of time commitment will this take?

Just like your participation with any other organization would be a commitment, your participation as ESGVJCC Queen and/or a member of the Nisei Week court is a time commitment as well. ESGVJCC Court members have a one year commitment and ESGVJCC Queen has an additional two year commitment to the center. Over this time, you will learn the importance of time management and how to balance your personal affairs, school and/or work affairs,

and your commitment to ESGVJCC (and Nisei Week). However, you will only get as much out of the experience as you put into it, so we highly recommend you commit yourself as fully as possible in order to gain the most from the experience. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will afford you opportunities you would not be able to find elsewhere.

Is this a typical “beauty pageant”?



No. Being selected ESGVJCC Queen and Nisei Week candidate is not like your typical beauty pageant. Candidates are chosen based on

their poise, speaking ability, community service and desire to learn more about their Japanese heritage. Court members

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act as cultural ambassadors representing the greater San Gabriel Valley community as well as ESGVJCC and its many sub organizations.

If chosen Queen, what should I expect?

If you are chosen ESGVJCC Queen and Nisei Week Candidate you will be invited to travel to Japan, Hawaii, San Francisco and Seattle as a representative of the Southern California Japanese American community. You will meet influential people both locally and abroad such as community and political leaders and even celebrities and public figures.

You will continue to see growth in your public speaking abilities as you meet and converse

with people from all walks of life at different events. You will witness the selfless giving of many community members as they work to make your year as memorable as possible as they “roll out the red carpet” for you and the court members.

Our hope is that you gain a greater sense of



your heritage and involvement in the Southern California Japanese American community as a result of your participation in the Nisei Week Court, and that after your year is over, you

continue to give back to the both the greater Southern California JA community, and more importantly, to the ESGVJCC Center.

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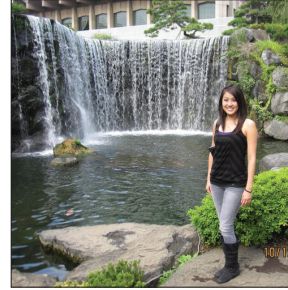
When is the best time to apply?



Some people recommend that age 20 to 21 (around college graduation) is a great time to apply because many girls feel they have a bit more direction in their life and have had more life

experience. However if you're between the ages of 19-25, are motivated, feel you will be able to accommodate the time commitment and are ready to seize an opportunity, then apply! We have had candidates that are ages 19 or 20 as well as 24 and 25.

Okay I'm interested. What's next?



We would love to have you as a member of the 2012 ESGVJCC Court! Please fill out the attached application and return to the Queens Committee by the deadline date, along with

your \$25 application fee. A member of the Queens Committee will be in touch with you to discuss the next steps for each applicant/candidate. We look forward to working with you and being a part of what is sure to be a fantastic year!

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Important Dates

Information Session

November 9 at ESGVJCC

Application Deadline

January 27 submit to Pearl Omiya

Alumni Reception and Coronation

March 25 at ESGVJCC

Queens Committee

Miyo Takahashi

Queens Committee Advisor

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Kiko M. Cheng

Queens Committee Chairperson

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Queens Committee Alumni Chair

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Queens Committee Public Relations Chair

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Kelli Teragawa

2010 ESGVJCC Queen/QC Member

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Queens Committee General Info

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ESGVJCC

Pearl Omiya

ESGVJCC Executive Director

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ESGVJCC General Info

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APPLICATION

Contact Information

Applicant Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Live with Parents Yes No; If 'no', please indicate with whom _____
Home Phone _____ Mobile (Alt) _____
Email _____

Background Information

Place of Birth _____ Age _____
US Citizen Yes No If no, what is immigration status _____
Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____
Address (if different from above) _____ City _____

Education

High School _____ Date of Graduation _____
College _____ Date of Graduation _____

Employment

Employer _____ Title _____
Address _____ City _____
Phone _____

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 19 years old and not older than 25 on the day of the Nisei Week Coronation in August 2012.
- Applicant must be of at least 50% Japanese ancestry.
- Applicant must have been born or naturalized in the US as a permanent resident, never married and without children.
- Applicants may be engaged, but if crowned ESGVJCC Queen, she must remain unmarried for the duration of her reign.
- Applicant for ESGVJCC Queen must live in the greater San Gabriel Valley area.
- Applicant must be an ESGVJCC member.
- Applicant will become a member of the ESGVJCC Court, a one-year mandatory commitment to the ESGVJCC.
- If applicant is crowned ESGVJCC Queen, she will represent ESGVJCC as a candidate for Nisei Week Queen and will remain active throughout her reign as well as an additional two years.

Application Fee: \$25 (If applicant is not a member in good standing then membership dues are also required at time of application. Membership dues are \$75.)

Application Deadline: January 27, 2012

I understand the requirements that are being asked of me and that I must be available for training during February and March. I also understand that I must not enroll or participate in any other beauty or popularity contests or apply with any other Nisei Week Queen sponsor/organization until the end of the 2012 Nisei Week Festival.

I affirm that all of the answers on this form are true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date