







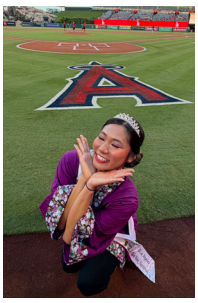








ESGVJCC QUEENS PROGRAM
INFORMATION AND APPLICATION



















FAQ



Why should I apply for the ESGVJCC Queen Program?

It is an amazing as well as unique opportunity. Some of our past Queens have described it as a "once in a lifetime opportunity." 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 ESGVJCC, and your family and friends as our Nisei Week candidate.

If I participate, what should I expect?

The ESGVJCC Queens Committee will work with you to help hone your 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. You will be introduced at each of our events and asked to participate and interact with our 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 the training will 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.

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 this 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 program to further enhance your knowledge and experience of the Japanese culture for your own personal growth.

How much will it cost?



To apply, you must be an ESGVJCC member and sumit a $25 application fee. The applicant chosen as ESGVJCC Queen will be formally introduced and crowned at Coronation and may need to purchase appropriate attire.

FAQ

As ESGVJCC Queen, you will go on to be a Nisei Week candidate and your registration fee will be sponsored by ESGVJCC. Though Nisei Week receives many donations to support the queen and court, there may be additional costs for travel, attire, appreciation (omiyage) and other incidentals. We will have a more detailed breakdown for you at Orientation.



What kind of time commitment will this take?

Your participation as ESGVJCC Queen and or a member of the Nisei Week court is a time commitment as well. The ESGVJCC Queen has a one year commitment and one additional year commitment to the organization after your reign. 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 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. The ESGVJCC Queen acts as a cultural ambassador representing the greater San Gabriel Valley community as well as ESGVJCC and its many programs.



If chosen Queen, what should I expect?

If you are chosen ESGVJCC Queen and our Nisei Week Candidate you will be invited to travel to Japan, Hawaii, and San Francisco 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.

FAQ

When is the best time to apply?

Some people recommend that age 21 to 22 (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 20-26, 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 20 or 21 as well as 25 and 26.



Okay I'm interested. What's next?

Please fill out the attached application and return to the Queens Committee by the deadline date, along with your $25 application fee. If there is more than one applicant, the ESGVJCC Queens Committee will hold individual interviews with the candidates. Interview scores will be tallied and the candidate with the highest interview score will be named ESGVJCC Queen.

The candidate named ESGVJCC Queen will receive additional weekly training, both virtual and in-person, to help prepare for ESGVJCC Coronation & Nisei Week.
We look forward to working with you and being a part of what is sure to be a fantastic year!

Important Dates

Virtual Info Sessions
Wednesday, November 25 | 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 9 | 7:00pm

Application Deadline
January 8, 2027 submit to Melissa Kozono at mkozono@esgvjcc.org

In-person Interview Date (if more than one applicant)
Tuesday, January 19, 2027 | 7:00pm

Mandatory Orientation via Zoom
January 31, 2027 | 11:00 am

Training Sessions
Once a week for 2-3 hours beginning the week of February 1st

Queen Coronation
April 11 at ESGVJCC

Cherry Blossom Festival
April 24 | 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Queens Committee Contact

Melissa Kozono
ESGVJCC Program Director
e | mkozono@esgvjcc.org

ESGVJCC General Info
1203 West Puente Avenue
West Covina, CA 91790
e | info@esgvjcc.org
p | 626 960 2566

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 20 years old and not older than 26 years old on the day of the Nisei Week Coronation in August 2026
- Applicant must be of at least 25% 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 must be an ESGVJCC member.
- If applicant is selected as ESGVJCC Queen, she will represent ESGVJCC as a candidate for Nisei Week Queen and will remain active throughout her reign as well as one additional year.

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 $55.)

Application Deadline: January 8, 2027

I understand the requirements that are being asked of me and that I must be available for training during January, 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 2026 Nisei Week Festival.

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

Signature Date