



Gila River Royalty Pageant
Miss Gila River and Jr. Miss Gila River
Royalty Application

The Gila River Royalty Committee has operated the Jr. Miss Gila River and Miss Gila River Royalty Program, offering scholarships to young women enrolled in the Gila River Indian Community. The titleholders will serve as role models for young women and youth and as goodwill cultural ambassadors throughout the Community and the State of Arizona. The Royalty Committee encourages qualified young women to participate in the Jr. Miss Gila River and Miss Gila River Royalty Pageants.

Submit the completed application and all required materials to the Gila River Indian Community Communications and Public Affairs Office (CPAO; Located in the Governance Center) or email completed application and all the necessary materials to: missgilariver@gric.nsn.us

Application Deadline: **February 13, 2026 5:00 PM**

Mail: P.O. Box 97

Sacaton, AZ 85147

Phone: (520) 562-9715

Email: Missgilariver@gric.nsn.us

Drop off: 525 W. Gu u Ki Sacaton, AZ 85147;
Governance Center-CPAO

Miss Gila River Eligibility Criteria

- Young ladies between the ages of 18-24 years on or before February 13, 2026.
- Enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.
- Has never held the Title of Miss Gila River
- Must be a full-time student with a minimum 2.0 GPA or full-time employee and in good standing with the Employer.
- Must be single, never married, and have no children.
- Must not be cohabitating (living) with an intimate companion.
- Must be willing and able to uphold the image and leadership role of Miss Gila River throughout their reign.
- Contestant must reside local and be able to attend in person events as requested

Jr. Miss Gila River Eligibility Criteria

- Young ladies between the ages of 13-17 years on or before February 13, 2026.
- Participants need to be an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community.
- The participant has never held the title of Jr. Miss Gila River.
- Must be a full-time student with a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Must be single, never married, and have no children.
- Must not be cohabitating (living) with an intimate companion.
- Must be willing and able to uphold the image and leadership role of Jr. Miss Gila River throughout their reign.
- Contestant must reside local and be able to attend in person events as requested

Judging Criteria

- Demonstrate knowledge of the Gila River Indian Community Government, Culture, and History of the Akimel O'otham and Pee-Posh
- Personal Interview with pageant judges and impromptu sessions
- Pageant Presentation – Introductions for Miss and Jr. Miss contestants
- Pageant Presentation – Traditional talent that is culturally appropriate and genuine – three (3) minute time limit.
- Pageant Presentation – Traditional Attire
- Pageant Presentation – Business Attire
- Overall contestant poise and attitude throughout the pageant activities
- Overall communication skills throughout the pageant activities

Part One - Official Contestant Application:

- Complete the Official Contestant Application
- Biography (One Paragraph, include name, age, residence, parents/siblings, maternal/paternal grandparents, school/work.)
- Copy of Certificate Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) or Gila River Tribal ID
- Official Academic Transcripts, including December 2025 grades OR a Letter of Recommendation from the Employer (Miss Contestants only)
- Two (2) letters of reference from school officials or professional individuals; Letters from relatives or tribal officials will not be accepted.

Part Two - Pageant Requirements:

The following must be submitted at Orientation:

- Introduction for Miss & Jr Miss Gila River Contestants
- Traditional Talent Description
- Traditional Attire Description
- Business Attire Description

Note: Once submitted, absolutely no changes will be allowed. All items described above become property of the Communications and Public Affairs Office and will not be returned.

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| | |
| Name: | |
| Age: | Date of Birth: |
| GRIC Enrollment Number: | Enrolled District: |
| Email Address: | Cell Phone: |
| Home Phone: | Message Phone: |
| Mailing Address: | Physical Address: |
| Applying for: | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss Gila River (18-24 yrs old) <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. Miss Gila River (13-17 yrs old) |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | |
| Mother/Guardian's Name: | Father/Guardian's Name: |
| Mothers Parents: | Fathers Parents: |
| Tribal Descent: | Tribal Descent: |
| Phone Number: | Phone Number: |
| Email Address: | Email Address: |
| Mailing Address: | Mailing Address: |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| | |
| Name of School Attending: | School Address: |
| Did you graduate? | Expected Graduation Date: |
| Last Semester GPA: | Degree Obtained/In Progress: |

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| | |
| Name of Employer: | Address: |
| Start Date: | Supervisor Name: |
| Supervisor Phone Number: | |

Please add any additional information you would like to include (awards, extracurricular activities, volunteering, etc.)

Disclaimer and Signature

With the submission of this application, I, the contestant, hereby enter the 2026 Gila River Royalty Pageant.

I understand that the Gila River Royalty Committee will use the information provided in this application for qualification and pageant judging purposes.

Furthermore, I authorize the Gila River Indian Community to record, film, tape, photograph, or otherwise use my name, likeness, voice, wardrobe, and performance for the Gila River Royalty Program's promotional programs and informational purposes.

I, the contestant, also understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in disqualification from the 2026 Gila River Royalty Pageant.

Contestant Signature:_____ Date:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____