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*Jr. Miss  
Cherokee*

LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

**APPLICATION**



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**CHEROKEE NATION**<sup>®</sup>  
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948  
918-453-5000 • www.cherokee.org

Office of the Chief

**Chuck Hoskin Jr.**  
*Principal Chief*

**Bryan Warner**  
*Deputy Principal Chief*

## Jr. Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition 2026-27

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for requesting an application for the 2026-27, Jr. Miss Cherokee Competition. This packet contains a description of the contestant's eligibility and qualifications, the Jr. Miss Cherokee application, a list of items that need to be submitted with the application and the policies and procedures of Jr. Miss Cherokee. The application and requested items must **be received by the DEADLINE of no later than 6 pm, Wednesday, July 1, 2026.**

**We will accept hand carried applications Wednesday, July 1, 2026, between 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the foyer of the W.W. Keeler Complex main building, in Tahlequah. However, early completed applications can be submitted prior to the deadline of July 1.**

Once your application and required attachments have been reviewed and approved, you will receive notification that you are an official contestant for the 2026-27 Jr. Miss Cherokee Competition. Eligible contestants will be required to attend mandatory rehearsals and events August 20-22. The competition will be held on Saturday, August 22, at a venue to be determined. Please follow the link for information pertaining to Jr. Miss Cherokee, <https://www.cherokee.org/all-services/education-services/youth-leadership/junior-miss-cherokee>.

The Jr. Miss Cherokee Committee will have a mandatory orientation meeting with the official contestants to conduct an overview of the events that will be occurring during the competition, on Saturday, August 1, 2026. Only those applicants who met the criteria as a contestant will be notified of the time and place of the orientation meeting.

Thank you for expressing interest in serving the Cherokee Nation. The Jr. Miss Cherokee Committee is looking forward to meeting and working with you. If you have any questions, please call (918) 453-5000, Lisa Trice Turtle, ext. 4991.

Sincerely,  
The 2026-27 Miss Cherokee Committee

## CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Middle School, Jr. High or High School Student between the ages of 13 - 18 years of age by August 21, 2026.
2. Be a registered Cherokee Nation Citizen.
3. Must reside within the reservation of the Cherokee Nation.
4. Must not have been married or have ever cohabited
5. Must not have been pregnant or given birth.
6. Must not have previously served as Jr. Miss Cherokee.
7. Must never have been convicted of any crime nor have any criminal charges pending.
8. Must be physically able to fulfill the duties of the position. Jr. Miss Cherokee appearances are frequently outdoors which could expose her to weather conditions of extreme cold (below 32 degrees) and extreme heat (above 100 degrees) and she may not be protected from weather conditions. There may be sufficient noise to cause Jr. Miss Cherokee to shout in order to be heard above the noise level. Hazards Jr. Miss Cherokee would be exposed to include moving vehicles and high places such as stages. Jr. Miss Cherokee appearances will have physical demands that require seldom sitting, nearly continuous hearing and listening, talking, standing, and will often be walking, bending, stooping, climbing stairs, kneeling/squatting, reaching overhead, and sometimes lifting up to 50 pounds.
9. Contestants will be judged on Cherokee language usage during their introduction and cultural presentation.
10. Contestants must comply with all applicable health and safety requirements in effect, including any measures implemented during a public health emergency. This includes, but is not limited to, federal, state, and local guidance, as well as Cherokee Nation health and safety protocols. When guidance differs, Cherokee Nation requirements will serve as the final authority. All requirements are subject to change based on evolving conditions and the most current public health information.

### CONTESTANTS MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

1. A completed Jr. Miss Cherokee Ambassador Competition application form for 2026-27.
2. A copy of your Cherokee Nation Tribal Citizenship (blue) card.
3. A copy of the most recent official school transcript.
4. One (1) 4x6 color photograph. (head shot)
5. Two pages typed double space, and 12 point font on your platform that will be your topic for the following year to speak on.
6. Proof of residence, submit a copy of your parents' utility bill.

**The complete application and requested items must be received by the DEADLINE of no later than 6 pm, Wednesday, July 1, 2026. We will accept hand carried applications Wednesday, July 1, 2026, between 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the W.W. Keeler Cherokee Nation Complex, Tahlequah. Hand carried or mailed applications will be accepted prior to the deadline. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Mailed applications should be mailed to the following address and (MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE OF 5 pm (Close of Business if mailed), JULY 1, 2026). Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Any application received via mail or hand delivered after the deadline will not be accepted.**

Cherokee Nation  
Jr. Miss Cherokee Competition  
Attention: Londa Cox  
P. O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465



# JR. MISS CHEROKEE LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

## 2026-27 APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET/P.O. BOX.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET/P.O. BOX

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP CODE

School You Are Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**List any pageant/s you have entered:**


**List Cherokee cultural activities that you participate in and cultural skills you can demonstrate:**

(If you need additional space please list on a separate sheet of paper that is same size and color.)


**How do you serve your community?**

(If you need additional space please list on a separate sheet of paper that is same size and color.)


**Platform Presentation: See attached form**

**Cultural Presentation: See attached form**

**Provide a list/history of your leadership skills from Middle School to present (i.e., honors awards, club membership, etc.).**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

If additional space is needed, please list on separate paper that is same size and color do not write on the back of the form.



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# CHEROKEE NATION<sup>®</sup>

## Cherokee Nation Media Release Form

**Jr. Miss Cherokee**

Event Name

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I hereby allow the Cherokee Nation or its entities to use my image for non-commercial purposes, including publication and release to media outlets and web sites. I release, discharge, and agree to save the Cherokee Nation and its entities from any liability for non-commercial use of my image.

I have read this authorization and release prior to its execution. I have not been induced, other than by the consideration received, to execute the same by any representation or statement made by the Cherokee Nation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Participants Name (print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**State**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Zip**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Participants Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent or Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**2026-27 JR. MISS CHEROKEE LEADERSHIP COMPETITION  
CULTURAL PRESENTATION  
(Three (3) Minute Time Limit)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your cultural presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

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List any props you will be using: \_\_\_\_\_

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Once you are notified you are an official contestant for the Jr. Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition, you are required to submit a cultural presentation form that is your final idea and submitted by Saturday, August 1, 2026. Once submitted you will not be allowed to make changes to your cultural presentation.

If you are going to use music, please bring it to the first rehearsal.

Accompaniment by another person will not be allowed for the Cultural Presentation. The AV equipment at the facility does not have remote capability to change slides so any slides used for presentation must be set as a timed slideshow by the contestant.

The Cultural Presentation information form is **due Saturday, August 1, 2026, by 9:00 am.**

**2026-27 JR. MISS CHEROKEE LEADERSHIP COMPETITION  
CONTESTANT PLATFORM GUIDELINES  
(Three (3) Minute Time Limit)**

Once you are notified you are an official contestant for the Jr. Miss Cherokee Leadership Competition, you are required to select a platform, that supports the Cherokee Nation Mission Statement, that you will spend the year advocating if selected as Jr. Miss Cherokee.

**Cherokee Nation Mission Statement:** The Cherokee Nation is committed to protecting our inherent sovereignty, preserving and promoting Cherokee culture, language and values, and improving the quality of life for the next seven generations of the Cherokee citizens.

Your personal connection to the platform should be understood. You may be asked why you selected the platform from various people. Select an issue that reflects who you are or what you've accomplished and where your heart lies. It should be clear that you have researched, thought about and understood the platform and its impact on others.

Requests are occasionally received for Jr. Miss Cherokee to present her platform when she appears before groups/organizations, etc.

Some of the platforms of past Jr. Miss Cherokee contestants:

- Education
- Diabetes awareness
- Preservation of culture
- Language
- Mental Health Awareness

The written platform is due Saturday, August 1, 2026, by 9:00 am, via 1- hard copy and also send an electronic file via email to [lisa-trice-turtle@cherokee.org](mailto:lisa-trice-turtle@cherokee.org).

The composition of the platform must be as follows:

Two (2)-pages in length, typed, double spaced, in 12-point font. Instead of giving the paper a title, put the topic and your name on the top on each page.