



2017 Queen & Princess Middletown Days Court

Princess 2nd Runner Up Kailey Snell, Princess 1st Runner Up Tessa Sullivan, Princess Lily Sampson,
Queen 1st Runner up Jordan Sullivan, Queen Emily Mayo.

Every year the contestants have to demonstrate their skill in horsemanship, riding, modeling, and speech. They must sit for an interview and take a written test. In addition, the queen candidates have to sell \$900 in Beef Raffle tickets and the princesses \$600. All funds go to improve and maintain Middletown's Central Park.

This year, due to all the rain, they got a late start and had to meet twice a week to have enough time to prepare for all the events. Heather DeBerry, the organizer of the contest, made sure to thank all the parents for their time and commitment especially in light of their improvised schedule. She was helped by her fellow coaches Bailey DeBerry and Jane Cauley. Heather took over the contest last year when the Krissy Tighe became more involved with high school rodeo. Her daughter, Bailey, was last year's Middletown Days Queen. And, Jane has been coaching the contestants for the last 6 or 7 years because she feels "it's important that kids learn the right way."

This year the Princess contestants had to prepare a board with photos and give a speech all about themselves. The Queen contestants had a list of topics from which they could select to write their speech. While all the girls did a great job, no small feat since there was often competing noise from a party next door, two speeches stuck out. Kailey Snell, 6, the youngest contestant in the history of Middletown Days, started her speech off with 3 different photos: her first day of kindergarten, her second day of kindergarten and her last day of kindergarten. She was sure to let the audience know there were only 3 months until she entered 1st grade. It was very charming.

The other speech that stuck out was the one given by Tessa Sullivan. She was very engaging and full of personality during her speech. The subject was "All About Me" and she knew her subject well. In fact, she ditched her prepared speech and spoke extemporaneously. If she was nervous at all she certainly did not show it.

The girls also did well in the other areas of competition. Most notably, Kailey excelled at barrels, Tessa and Emily did extremely well with their reigning patterns, Lily had high marks across the board and Jordan got a 100% on her test.

This year's Princess 2nd Runner up Kailey Snell rode her 13 year old Quarter horse, Skeeter. She began riding two years ago at 4 and she says her favorite event is Goat Tying. Her hobbies are playing with her sister and playing doctor. She'd like to be a nurse who rocks babies to sleep when she grows up.

Tessa Sullivan, 10, rode her Thoroughbred Paint Studebaker (Stuey for short). She is Princess 1st Runner up. She says she's ridden her whole life. She especially enjoys the speed barrels. Her hobbies are collecting Breyer horse figurines, (Schlakes) rocks, talking/texting/Skyping with her best friend Skyler and fostering cats and kittens. She also took 3rd place in her first wrestling competition. She would like to be a veterinarian or to do Animal Rescue.

Lily Sampson, 12, began competition this year on her 10 year old Arabian Gilding, Smokey. Smokey was not excited as she was about the competition and so she had to switch to a borrowed horse named Rebel. She began riding when she was 4 and got back into it two years ago. Her favorite event is barrels because she "likes the rush." Her hobbies include track, sports and running. She's got all A's and one B that she's "still mad about." She'd like to be a lawyer when she's older. She is this year's Middletown Days Princess. While all the girls thanked their parents, she also thanked "the modeling lady" without whom she says she "would have looked like an even bigger dork."

Jordan Sullivan, was last year's Middletown Days Princess and is this year's Queen 1st Runner Up. She is 14, and has been "riding her whole life." She competed on her Quarter horse Shasta. Her favorite event is the barrels because it her "best and most fun event." Her hobbies include playing the tenor sax, bass guitar, traveling basketball, reading and 4-H. She wants to be a veterinarian.

This year's Middletown Day's Queen is Emily Mayo, 15. She rode 5 year old Quarter horse, Ginger, but had to switch to Ace when Ginger got hurt. She began riding before she was 2. Her favorite event is pole bending because "it's Ace's best event." In fact, she won pole bending for District Two and went on to Nationals twice. She is currently 5th in the state for pole bending. Her hobbies include cheerleading and her horse. Riding Ace makes her happy. She would like to be a large animal vet.

Congratulations to all the ladies on a job well done!