

## ***History of the Little Sister Iowa Program***

Czech Heritage Foundation  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Little Sister Iowa program was started by the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant committee in 2005 to encourage young girls to become more involved in their Czech heritage. This program was inspired by the Little Sister program used at the Miss Czech-Slovak USA pageant, held each year in Wilber, Nebraska.

At the 2005 Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant Mackenzie Serbousek was named the first Little Sister Iowa along with Beth Struzynski, Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa 2005-2006. Since then, two more Little Sisters have been crowned and have participated with the reigning Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa in parades, dances, festivals, and other special events.

## ***Little Sister Iowa Official Rules and Procedures***

1. Contestant must be between the ages of 6 and 14 prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
2. Contestant must be of full or partial Czech, Moravian, Silesian, or Slovak descent.
3. Contestant must appear in an authentic or Americanized Czech/Slovak costume called a kroj at all functions they attend.
4. Contestant will accompany the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa contestant they are assigned to. They will participate in the pageant luncheon, parade, and crowning. This will be an all-day activity during Houby Days in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The contestants are tentatively needed throughout 9:00am – 9:00pm on the pageant date.
5. Contestants must be present at the evening crowning of the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant. They must perform any duties assigned to them at this event.
6. Send a brief description of your Kroj with your entry form. This will be read aloud as you model your costume on stage during the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa costume competition. Mention if it is handmade, made by one of your family members, or if any part of your costume is from your ancestors or if any of the material came from the Czech/Slovak Republic. Mention if any part of your costume has meaning of the Czech Moravian, Selesian, or Slovak culture or ancestry; make this part or your description. Limit description to no more than 300 words in length.
7. A photo (any size) must accompany the entry form. It must be clear and easy to reproduce. The photo can be black and white or in color. The picture may be used in media pertaining to the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant or the Czech Heritage Foundation.
8. If hotel accommodations are needed, a list of hotels may be sent by request only.
9. You must, if possible, accompany the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa in local parades, the St. Joseph's Day dance, and any activity you are called to attend.

***10. Entries must be received no later than April 20<sup>th</sup>. Send entry forms to:***

Czech Heritage Foundation  
c/o Adeline Volesky, Pageant Coordinator  
1801 60<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

## **Official Program Entry Little Sister Iowa**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**City, State, & Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (     )** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent)/Guardian Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**School** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special training in music, dance, drama, etc.** \_\_\_\_\_

**How are you of Czech/Slovak decent?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you feel about your Czech/Slovak ancestry?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why do you want to be the Little Sister Iowa?** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Please attach a resume which can include community activities, hobbies, and interests.**
- **Be sure to enclose photo, costume description, and resume.**
- **Entries must be received no later than April 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**I hereby declare my application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and furthermore, I agree to the official rules and procedures of the Little Sister Iowa pageant.**

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

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_