

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 US 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, many 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 April 1 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 8:00am – 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, Silesian, or Slovak culture or ancestry; make this part or your description. Limit description to no more than 250 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. The contestant is responsible for travel expenses to and from Cedar Rapids. Lodgings or early arrival will be the responsibility of the contestant. Lunch during the pageant will be furnished to the contestant. If hotel accommodations are needed, a list of hotels may be sent by request only.
9. Contestants will be required to be available upon conclusion of the pageant for additional pictures, interviews or personal visits with various individuals of the Czech Heritage Foundation.
10. 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. Exceptions can be made with valid conflicts.
11. Contestants and/or guardians must become members of the Czech Heritage Foundation. Membership forms may be downloaded from the Czech Heritage Foundation's website at: <http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org/forms/membership.pdf>

12. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 18. Send entry forms to:

Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa
c/o Zelda De Hoedt, Pageant Coordinator
5767 W. Mustang Rd.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

Official Program Entry Little Sister Iowa

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City, State, & Zip Code _____

Phone () _____

E-Mail Address _____

Guardian Name(s) _____

Are your Guardian(s) members of the Czech Heritage Foundation?

Yes ___ No ___

If no, please complete and attach a membership application. Forms available at:
<http://www.czechheritagefoundation.org/forms/membership.pdf>

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.
- If you or your guardian(s) are not currently CHF members, please attach CHF membership application and fee.
- Entries must be postmarked no later than April 18.

I hereby declare that I have read the Rules and Procedures and my application and information submitted is true and complete, and furthermore, I agree to the official rules and procedures of the Little Sister while representing the Miss Czech-Slovak Iowa pageant.

Signature _____ Date _____

Guardian Signature _____ Date _____