

Program Details

The Ambassador program is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with our community. The competition is held every year at the Markham Fair Grounds. If you're from a farming background or not, now is a great time to learn more about how important agriculture is to our community.

The Markham Ambassador has been a tradition of the Markham Fair for over 50 years! Previously young people between the ages of 18 and 24 represented the Society at many events during the year. Some of these events include the Community Santa Claus Parade, local festivals, attendance at the district meeting, and the President's Banquet in early November. With the start of our Jr. Competition, we expanded our program to include those from the ages of 12 to 15. We want to encourage more young people to become involved in the Markham Fair as well as provide support for the numerous children's events that happen at the fair and throughout the year.

Moreover, the Ambassador program is an excellent opportunity to develop resume and life skills such as public speaking, publicity and networking. The Senior Lead Ambassador gets the chance to meet new people from across the province and develop new skills. The Senior Lead Ambassador will be expected to attend the O.A.A.S. (Ontario Association of Agricultural Society) convention in February and enters the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs Competition in August. The Senior Ambassador is selected on the first day of the Fair, and the Junior Ambassador will be selected on the Friday evening of the fair.

The Competition is open to all genders. Contestants are judged on several different aspects which are outlined below. Many prizes are donated by local businesses for the Ambassadors. To apply to become the next Markham Fair Ambassador complete the online entry form and the committee chairman will be in touch with you. As a token of appreciation for the commitment, passion and leadership exhibited by the Markham Fair Senior Ambassadors, a scholarship of up to \$1000 will be awarded to them after the completion of their agreed upon obligations for the year.

Competition Day

Senior Ambassador Contestants

On Thursday at 9:00am contestants will meet in the Boardroom of the Markham Fair Grounds. You will be greeted by the Committee Chairpersons, and other committee members. You will be assigned to one of our friendly chaperones for the day. During the day you will take part in awarding ribbons, speaking to the public, greeting school children, attending agriculture displays and the opening ceremonies; note that the judges will be at the fairgrounds during the day to view your interactions.

The judging process is divided into several components throughout the day including a formal interview, general knowledge questions, overall interaction and initiative with fair patrons, and a speech at the formal competition. Prior to the judging components, you will be given a scheduled time to go with your chaperone to meet with the Judging Team. Your individual interview with the Judges will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete. You will also have a scheduled individual time with two of our committee members to answer General Knowledge questions. Before the formal competition at 1:00pm you will be given a walk-through of the

competition, a chance to test the microphone, and a few minutes to relax and prepare. After the Sr. Ambassador is announced you will have a few minutes for photos, time with your friends and family, and then begin your new journey as the Markham Fair Ambassador!

Junior Ambassador Contestants

On Friday at 4:30 pm you will be greeted at the Markham Fair Office by the committee Chairpersons, and other committee members and have a chance to meet the Ambassador Committee members and other contestants. Before the formal competition, the judges will have had a chance to review the previously submitted 'All About Me' Presentation and then each contestant will be given a time to have a personal interview with the Judging Team. At the beginning of the competition, the MC will give each contestant an opportunity to introduce themselves. Each contestant will then be asked a couple of impromptu questions to showcase their public speaking abilities and comfort level on stage. Following a short deliberation period for the judges, the winner will be announced! There will be an opportunity to take photos and then the Jr. Ambassador will begin their duties at 9:00am the following day.