



News Release

For Immediate Release

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2023 Junior Royalty winners crowned at Florida Strawberry Festival

PLANT CITY, Fla. (Jan. 15, 2023) – The Florida Strawberry Festival crowned the winners of its annual Junior Royalty pageant last night at the Grimes Family Agricultural Center on the festival grounds.

One-hundred-twenty registered contestants from 5 years old to 15 years old competed in four categories according to their ages: baroness, duchess, princess, and queen, respectively. From the top five finalists in each category, a first maid and a winner were chosen.

Madelynn Marie Hardwick was selected as Junior Royalty Queen; Giselle Elena McDowell was chosen Junior Royalty Princess; Olivia Pilar McDowell was chosen Junior Royalty Duchess; and Aubrey Sweeney was chosen Junior Royalty Baroness.

“Once again, we have an outstanding group of girls to represent our Festival,” said Florida Strawberry Festival President Paul Davis. “We couldn’t be more proud of our girls, our families, and this community! We are truly blessed.”

The Junior Royalty winners will represent the Florida Strawberry Festival throughout the year, making appearances at events and in the annual Plant City Christmas Parade and Grand Parade during the festival.

About the Florida Strawberry Festival

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community event celebrating the strawberry harvest of Eastern Hillsborough County. Each year, nearly 500,000 visitors enjoy the festival’s headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its

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strawberry shortcake. The 2023 Florida Strawberry Festival takes place March 2 through March 12 in Plant City, Fla. For more information, visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tik Tok (#berryfest23).

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