



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Durant High School student crowned 2024 Florida Strawberry Festival Queen

PLANT CITY, Fla. (Jan. 23, 2024) – Annistyn Griffin was crowned queen of the 89th Florida Strawberry Festival in the annual pageant this past Saturday evening on the Festival grounds.

Griffin was selected from a field of 17 contestants. Taylor Gregory was chosen first maid along with court members Zion Keese, SaraGrace Sparkman and Abigail Spivey.

“I’m so honored and ready to give this next year of my life to Plant City,” said Griffin. “I’m looking forward to interacting with every single guest that walks through the Festival gates and leave an impact like they did for me.”

Griffin is the daughter of Artis and Jennifer Griffin. She is currently a junior at Durant High School and dual enrolled at Hillsborough Community College. She serves as a member of National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Junior Class Council, Student Government Association and the Durant Senior FFA. She plans to pursue a career in medical sonography to specialize in neuro sonography.

The Florida Strawberry Festival Queen’s Competition is organized by the Plant City Lions Club and is composed of five facets of competition: a personal interview, on-stage speaking, casual wear, evening wear and an impromptu question.

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“We especially would like to thank the Plant City Lions Club for sponsoring this contest and for all the time and hard work they put into making this a successful event,” said Florida Strawberry Festival Chairman Danny Coton. “I want to congratulate all the contestants tonight. They put in so much time and effort in preparing for tonight, and it is our hope that no matter the outcome, maybe that at the end of the night, they have all had fun, they all made some new friends, and they have enjoyed their participation in this event.”

Throughout the year, the queen and court make over 80 appearances as they represent the Florida Strawberry Festival and the Plant City community. They can be seen at Festival events throughout the grounds and at community events throughout the year.

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, more than 600,000 visitors enjoy the Festival’s headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its strawberry shortcake. The 2024 Florida Strawberry Festival takes place February 29 through March 10 in Plant City, Fla. For more information, visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com, Facebook, Instagram, X, formerly known as Twitter, and TikTok (#berryfest24).

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