



HISTORY OF THE MISS PRIDE OF VISTA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT



The Pride of Vista Lions Club is the sponsor of the *Miss Pride of Vista* and *Miss Teen Tri-City Scholarship Pageants*. The pageants are a fundraising event for the all-volunteer, non-profit club, and are one of the many Lions youth service programs encompassing both community service and scholarship opportunities.

For some history of the Club's involvement in the pageants, it is necessary to explain that beginning in 1936, and running continuously from 1946 through 2003, the San Diego County Fair (or Del Mar Fair as many of us know it), run by the 22nd Agricultural District of the State of California, sponsored a countywide program titled "Fairest of the Fair". This pageant officially acknowledged area pageants in the cities and communities that make up San Diego County. The Fairest of the Fair (hereinafter FOF) provided common rules for anticipating pageants as well as uniform crowns, sashes, and gowns to the area winners who then participated in the FOF pageant. The contestant crowned Fairest of the Fair reigned over the duration of the Fair as well as holding the title "Miss San Diego County" for the year following the Fair.

In order to ensure that all areas were properly represented by area queens, the Fair prescribed geographical boundaries that regulated where contestants in the area pageants were to live. Thus, the entire county was broken into areas, and each area was identified by zip codes. This ensured that the area queens actually lived in the areas they represented, and that neighboring pageants did not "steal" contestants from one another.

Area pageants were sponsored by a variety of organizations or individuals, including non-profit service organizations and non-profit civic groups such as Chambers of Commerce, as well as individuals who had no affiliation with any organization.

All area pageants met annually with the FOF Director and staff and agreed in writing to abide by the rules of the FOF pageant.

In 2001, the area Miss Vista pageant came in conflict with the FOF organization over boundary infractions related to recruiting, and the crowning of a queen who lived outside the Vista area. Thus, the Fair sought different sponsorship for the area queen who would represent Vista in the FOF program.

In the true spirit of community service, the Pride of Vista Lions Club stepped forward to fill the void. The club sponsored its first pageant in 2003 to continue the tradition of having Vista represented in the FOF pageant, and was thus recognized by the 22nd Agricultural District of the State of California as the official pageant for Vista. This continuity allowed Vista's unbroken representation in the FOF program. The name of the area pageant was changed from Miss Vista to Miss Pride of Vista to recognize the designation of the Pride of Vista Lions Club as the official sponsor and to avoid confusion with the former pageant that was run by an unaffiliated private individual under the title of Miss Vista.

All net proceeds from the Miss Pride of Vista Scholarship Pageant and the Miss Teen Tri-City Scholarship Pageant are used to support the various Lions charities and projects. For more information about who the Pride of Vista Lions are and what we do, please visit our website at www.povlions.org.

In 2004, the Pride of Vista Lions extended the opportunity to participate in area pageants to younger contestants by creating a Teen pageant that included the cities of Vista, Carlsbad and Oceanside—the three cities that had pageants sponsored by area Lions Clubs. Inspired by the leadership shown by the Pride of Vista Lions, the Carlsbad Lions Club has added a Teen pageant to their program, also.