**2019 Cherry Blossom Princess Program Application**

***A Signature Program of the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS) Since 1948***

The Cherry Blossom Princess Program is a week-long program that offers cultural, educational, and professional development opportunities for young women leaders, ages 19 through 24, from across the United States and around the world. The program takes place each year during the National Cherry Blossom Festival© in Washington, DC and is proudly managed by the [National Conference of State Societies](http://www.statesocieties.org/cherry-blossom-1/).

Young women leaders are selected by a State/Territorial Society or International Embassy to be Cherry Blossom Princesses based on their leadership and academic achievements along with their interest in social, civic, community, and world affairs. As Cherry Blossom Princesses, you will represent your respective state, territory or country in both public and private events held each day across the Washington, DC area and engage with top government, business, arts, and media leaders. Alumnae of the Cherry Blossom Princess Program include leaders in many fields including government, business, science, education, and the arts worldwide. Two current U.S. Senators, the Honorable Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, are both alumnae of the Program.

**Eligibility & Qualifications**

All candidates for selection as a 2019 Cherry Blossom Princess must meet the following minimum requirements. Additional requirements may also be added by State and Territory Societies – please contact them for further information (Links to all the State/Territory Societies can be found at <https://www.statesocieties.org/>)

**Citizenship/Residency** – Must be a U.S. citizen and meet at least one of the following criteria:

* Born in the U.S. State or Territory that she will represent
* Is an immediate family member (Daughter, Granddaughter, Sister or Niece) of a Native of the U.S. State or Territory she will represent
* Currently is a resident of and/or has spent significant time (i.e. attending college/university) in the U.S. State or Territory she will represent.

**Age** – Must be between 19 years old and 24 years old as of April 8, 2018. Candidates older than 24 years of age as of April 1, 2019 may request a waiver from their State or Territory Society with the approval of NCSS Executive Committee. The minimum age requirement of 19 years old as of April 1, 2019 will not be waived – no exceptions.

**Marital / Family Status** – Must be single, never been married and have no children.

**Education** – Must be a high school graduate.

**Leadership / Scholarship / Professional Accomplishments** – Must be a leader in her school, workplace and/or community. Candidates are chosen based on their background, academics, leadership, community service and future goals and ambitions. She must also possess poise, intelligence, maturity, have a good personality and character, and enjoy good physical, mental and emotional stability in order to withstand the rigorous schedule of Festival activities.

**Event Participation** - NCSS Princess Program events and activities are held across the Washington DC area during the period of Sunday April 7th – April 13th, 2019. Events are generally held from 8:00am – 9:00pm each day. Additionally, if selected as the 2019 Cherry Blossom Queen, you must be available to travel to Japan for approximately two (2) weeks in the May/June 2019 timeframe for a Goodwill Tour. Note: Failure to participate in all NCSS events will disqualify a Princess from the opportunity to participate in the 2019 Queen Selection Process.

**Wardrobe** – This is a cultural and professional development program so business attire is the default dress code. For receptions knee length dresses and for the Cherry Blossom Ball, a long, white gown with white long elbow-length gloves will be worn. She must also purchase the official 2018 Dress (cost is not more than $100) and wear it for specific events throughout the week. During the week no nose/lip piercings and minimal ear piercings and tattoos must also be covered (not visible).

**Lapel Pins –** Each Princess is responsible for bringing 70 label pins from her State/Territory/Country to trade. These may be provided by the State Societies or Embassies.

**Application Process**

* Complete the Application and forward to your State Society or NCSS Princess Program: **cbprincessprogram@gmail.com** and it will be forwarded to your State Society.
* Applicant must submit a Digital Photo. Should be a head shot for the program and taken on a plain, light color background. The photo must be at least 300 dpi (you can check the resolution by the looking at the "Properties" for the photo) and can be taken with a simple digital point-and-shoot camera.
* **Fees** – There is a $550 fee to participate in the program, which helps cover the cost of the Princesses tickets and transportation to events and gifts taken on the trip to Japan by the Queen. If Sponsored by the State Society, the State Society must be in good standing (2019 Dues are paid) in order to participate in the program.

If you have additional questions please contact the following:

Peter Berlowitz, President NCSS president@statesocieties.org

Gigi Galbraith, Director Princess Program cbprincessprogram@gmail.com

**Deadline for 2019 Cherry Blossom Princess Class Selection is January 2, 2019.**

*Eating sushi at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador, dancing in the ballroom of the Russian Embassy and meeting amazingly strong and successful women from across the country and world are all memories I will cherish forever.  Going into this week, I had no idea I would come out of it feeling as empowered and encouraged as I do now. From professional networking to goofing around with my fellow princesses on the bus, I am so incredibly grateful for this week as a Cherry Blossom Princess. This truly was a professional and cultural development program that makes strong women stronger by celebrating our accomplishments and character.  I am so proud to be Virginia’s 2018 Cherry Blossom Princess and advocate for this incredible program.*

***Margaret O’Meara, Virginia, 2018 US Cherry Blossom Queen***

**2019 Cherry Blossom Princess Program Application**

Full Name: Age:

US State/Territory or Country you desire to Represent:

Current Mailing Address:

City: State/Territory: Country: Zip Code:

Home Phone: Cell Phone #:

Email Address:

Permanent Address if different than above:

Current Mailing Address:

City: State/Territory: Country: Zip Code:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s):

Home Phone: Cell Phone #:

Email Address:

High School: Year Graduated: City/State:

College/University: Graduation Year: City/State:

Major(s): Degree(s):

Job Title (if applicable):

Organizations Name:

Honors, Awards, Community Service, Social & Civic Activities, Hobbies, Sports, Interests & Special Talents:

Statement of Certification: I certify that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete and I meet the minimum requirements as a 2019 Cherry Blossom Princess.

Signature: Date:

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**Statement of Interest**

Please describe below why are you the best candidate to represent your State, Territory or Country as a Cherry Blossom Princess and if chosen as the United States Cherry Blossom Queen, the best candidate to represent the United States.