



## **COURT TASK FORCE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The following recommendations represent the significant work of the Rose Festival's Court Task Force over the past five months. The Task Force was chaired by Rose Festival board members Leslie Goodlow-Baldwin and Diane Deardorff and met from August 2007 through January 2008 to complete the report, summarized as follows:

### **Eligibility/Qualifications**

The Task Force reviewed the basic qualifications for participation on the court, resulting in the following recommendations:

- ❖ Candidates must have a 3.0 grade point average (or significant mitigating circumstances)
- ❖ Candidates may be Juniors or Seniors
- ❖ Candidates must meet a minimum number of hours (TBD) of verifiable community service
- ❖ Candidates must attend a 5A or 6A high school in Multnomah, Clackamas or Washington counties
- ❖ Candidates must be female students

### **Application and Selection Process**

This was probably the most challenging of the subjects covered by the task force; the resulting recommendations meet important goals of the Rose Festival, including continuing to partner with historic high schools while relieving much of the burden of the current process from the school administration AND allowing for additional outreach in East Multnomah County and both Clackamas and Washington counties. Following are the recommendations:

- ❖ The 14 existing high schools will be invited to continue to participate with a princess on the Rose Festival Court. (Participating high schools must have no fewer than five eligible candidates; schools with fewer than five will lose their designated spot on that year's court and their candidates will be included in the At-Large selection. After two successive years of fewer than five eligible candidates, a participating high school will lose its designated spot on the Court.)
- ❖ One additional position will be added; qualified women (see above) from high schools other than the 14 (see lists in the complete Recommendation) will be able to apply for this 'At-Large' position.
- ❖ If one of the 14 schools decides to drop out, the qualified candidates from that school may participate for an At-Large spot; the court size might shrink based on the participation of existing schools but will not grow to more than 15.
- ❖ If more than one At-Large spot is created due to the retirement of participating schools, no eligible school may have more than one princess selected for the Court.
- ❖ The application process will move in-house, as opposed to being overseen by each individual school. Applications will be available on line; the application will include verification of hours of community service, letters of recommendation and a school transcript.
- ❖ In the 14 existing schools, the princess will be SELECTED by the judging panel and then announced at one school assembly; princess candidates will not be presented to and elected by their student bodies. The name of the princess will be kept secret until the announcement.

## **General Recommendations**

The Task Force made additional recommendations regarding the committee structure and the Court schedule, as follows:

- ❖ A Court 'curriculum' should be established, encompassing information on the history of Portland and the Rose Festival and on local and state government.
- ❖ The Court schedule should reflect visits to more diverse geographic areas; the length of the schedule could be included to start later and run at least a week beyond GFP weekend.
- ❖ Court visits with educational value should be emphasized.
- ❖ The Court Steering Committee should include additional Rose Festival directors in meaningful roles overseeing the non-elected volunteers.
- ❖ New Rose Festival directors should be encouraged to serve on the Court Committee at least one year during their first term on the Board

## **Court Mission Statement**

The Court mission statement was re-written to reflect the overall goals of the Court experience, in keeping with the new mission statement of the Portland Rose Festival Foundation:

*The mission of the Rose Festival Court program is to provide scholarships for higher education, to promote community outreach and volunteerism, to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to outstanding young women in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for Rose Festival history and tradition.*

## **Implementation and Review**

The above recommendations should be implemented for the 2009 festival and announced publicly in late February 2008.

- ❖ An implementation committee has been formed to work on the details of the above recommendations and establish a program timeline.
- ❖ A review of the program should be held on an annual basis and there be a major evaluation once every three years.

## **Task Force members:**

Leslie Goodlow-Baldwin and Diane Deardorff, co-chairs  
Denny Baker, Royal Rosarians  
Sue Bunday, PRFF Board Vice President, former Court chair  
Marilyn Clint, PRFF Associate Executive Director  
Amy Johnson, PRFF Board member, former Court member  
Mark McGirr, PRFF Board President  
Katy Neill, community representative  
Jennifer O'Bryan, PRFF Event Manager  
Meredith Park, PRFF Board member, 2008 Court chair  
Eldon Tichenor, PRFF Past President, past Court chair  
Juanita Valder, PPS District Representative