



Gold Discovery Days Committee

Custer, SD 57730 605-673-2244 (Chamber Office)

September 2026

We will be selecting royalty to represent our annual Gold Discovery Days Celebration, which will be held in July 2027. **The Queen will receive a \$ 1,000 scholarship, and each Princess (2) will receive a \$500 Scholarship.**

If you are interested, you will need to write a short essay, fill out a personal questionnaire for the scholarship, fill in the candidate fact sheet, and attend our **March 24 meeting** for a 15-minute formal interview with the Gold Discovery Days Judging Panel.

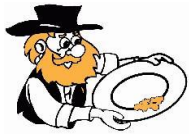
You will be judged on:

1. **Interview: (50% of overall score)** – This will be a 15-minute interview with the GDD judging panel. Every candidate will be asked the same questions. You will be judged in the following areas:
 - a. Dress and Personal Appearance (15% of Interview Score)
 - b. Poise and Presentation (25% of Interview Score)
 - c. Communication Skills (40% of Interview Score)
 - d. Knowledge of Custer and Gold Discovery Days Events (20% of Interview Score)
2. **Essay: (20% of Overall Score)** – Gold Discovery Days is an annual event that unites the community of Custer. Time, talent, and money are generously given by many community members to make this three-day event a success. **What qualifies you to be Gold Discovery Days Royalty?**
3. **Eligibility for Scholarship: (30% of Overall Score)** – You will need to fill out a Scholarship Application. Based on academic goals, school and extracurricular activities, your interview, and your essay, the scholarships will be awarded, as well as the titles of Miss Gold Discovery Days Queen and Princess.

The Gold Discovery Days Parade on Saturday, July 17, is mandatory to attend, and it is your responsibility to make arrangements for an open-top car and driver for that parade. The Committee requires that all royalty also attend the Patriot's Parade in Custer on July 4th.

Gold Discovery Days Royalty will be required to attend the Dignitary Dinner combined with the Chamber's Annual Spring Fling on Thursday, April 29, 2027, where they will be officially crowned and introduced to the community. GDD Royalty will also be asked to attend at least two (2) of the GDD Committee Meetings to prepare for the Gold Discovery Days Celebration. The first will be in March, before the Dignitary Dinner, and the second will be the last meeting in July before the event.

We look forward to receiving your essay, application, fact sheet, and agreement sheet. Please mail to the Gold Discovery Days Committee, PO Box 5018, Custer, SD 57730. All applications must be post-marked by **Friday, March 12, 2027**. We will conduct formal interviews on Wednesday **March 24, 2027**; you will be notified with the details prior to then. If you have any questions, contact Dawn at 605-673-2244 or dmurray@custersd.com, or Carrie at 269-861-1106 or carrieowns@gmail.com.



Agreement of Conditions & Responsibilities Gold Discovery Days' Royalty

I understand that if selected as Gold Discovery Days' Royalty, I will:

(Please initial)

___ uphold the **Gold Discovery Days Royalty** title in a dignified manner.

___ be on time, look professional, and be a positive role model at all times.

___ take full responsibility for the care of my crown and sash, and will return it to the Chamber of Commerce by August 20, 2026.

___ maintain a good line of communication with the Dignitary Chairperson.

___ attend the Dignitary Dinner combined with the Chamber's Annual Spring Fling on Thursday, April 29 at Crazy Horse Memorial.

___ attend two (2) Gold Discovery Days Committee meetings. (1 of which occurs the week before GDD)

___ help the GDD Committee the week of the celebration with other duties as assigned.

___ attend and help with ALL of the following Gold Discovery Days events:

- Gold Nugget Hunt – Friday, July 16
- Gold Panner's Race –Friday, July 16
- Royalty Meet and Greet - Saturday, July 17
- Car Show - Saturday, July 17

___ be in the Gold Discovery Days Parade – Saturday, July 17

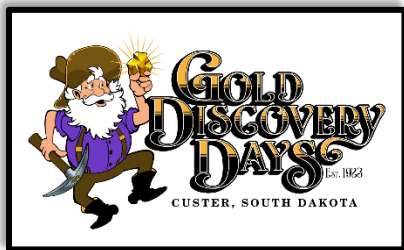
___ be in the 4th of July Patriot's Parade & volunteer for 2 hours at 4th of July Activities– Friday, July 4

Print Full Name

Signature

GDD Dignitary Chair Person

Date



2027 Gold Discovery Days' Royalty Fact Sheet

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s): Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

What is the best way to reach you? _____

Shirt Size: _____

Were you a past Jr Royalty Member? _____ YES _____ #of years _____ NO

I will attend the following required events:

_____ In-person Royalty Interview, Wed. March 24

_____ Spring Fling, Thurs. April 29

_____ Custer's 4th of July Patriots Parade, Sun. July 4, 10 am

_____ Gold Discovery Days Parade, Sat. July 17, 10 am

If you are unable to attend required events, you will be disqualified from receiving the scholarship.



Gold Discovery Days Scholarship Information

The following background information must be provided to process your application.

Specific Academic Goals and Career Plans: (if necessary, attach sheet)

High School Activities and Sports: (if necessary, attach sheet)

Outside Hobbies, Interests, and Activities: (if necessary, attach sheet)

CERTIFICATION: I certify that all information provided in this application and the accompanying documents is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the release of my admission and enrollment information to the Gold Discovery Days Committee and the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce solely for the purpose of determining my eligibility for this scholarship.

I further authorize the release of my name, academic year, and program of study for public announcement of the scholarship award.

I understand that this scholarship is awarded for one academic term only, is not renewable, and may be applied to first- or second-semester tuition, room and board (on campus), or required books for the **2027–2028Application academic year**.

I understand that I will NOT be awarded any monies if I do not fulfill my duties as Gold Discovery Days Queen or Princess.

Applicant's Signature

Date