

**2026 US Virgin Islands Cherry Blossom Princess Delegate Qualifications  
(The Cherry Blossom Festival is part of the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS) of which the Virgin Islands Association, DC (VIADC) is a member]**

The 2026 USVI Cherry Blossom Princess Delegate application must be completed and returned to viadc.cbc@gmail.com no later than Friday, January 9, 2026, by 5:00pm EST.

The mission of the program is to have the Cherry Blossom Princesses participate in educational, leadership, and cultural activities as they serve their nation and respective state, territory or embassy in a “Washington Classroom,” by introducing the princesses to many government officials; cultural, military and business leaders; and female role models, who work in the nation’s capital. In the past decade, the princesses have met with First Lady of the District of Columbia Effie Barry; First Lady Laura Bush; former Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi; Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson; Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton; Justice Sandra Day O’Connor; Naval Commander Yvette Brownwhaller; Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught; Red Cross President and CEO Dr. Bernadine Healey, among others. The US Virgin Islands Cherry Blossom Princesses have also met with USVI Delegates to Congress, including Delegates to Congress Ron De Lugo, Donna Christensen and Stacey Plaskett.

To qualify as a Cherry Blossom Princess Delegate representing the US Virgin Islands, the candidate must be selected by the Virgin Islands Association, DC (VIADC). All candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications to be considered to represent the US Virgin Islands in the 2026 Cherry Blossom Festival.

**Residence:** The female candidate must be a U.S. citizen and either have been raised in, be the daughter of a parent raised in, or the granddaughter, sister or niece of a grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle raised in the US Virgin Islands. She should be well informed about the US Virgin Islands. The candidate will need to reside in the DC area and be available to attend all Cherry Blossom Princess Festival events. The 2026 Cherry Blossom Festival will take place April 4-11, 2026, in Washington, DC. VIADC asks that the candidate’s connection be to a financially current VIADC member.

**Age:** The candidate must be between 21 years old and 26 years old as of April 4, 2026. Candidates older than 26 years of age as of April 4, 2026, may request a waiver from the Virgin Islands Association, DC with the approval of NCSS Executive Committee. The minimum age requirement of 21 years old as of April 4, 2026, will not be waived. No exceptions.

**Education:** The candidate can either be presently attending a college or university or have a college degree. The candidate must have graduated from high school and attended post-secondary school or the military.

**Marital / Family Status:** The candidate must be single, never married and have no children.

**Leadership / Scholarship / Professional Accomplishments:** The applicant 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 exercise good physical, mental and emotional stability to withstand the rigorous schedule of Festival activities. NCSS Cherry Blossom Program events and activities are held across the Washington DC area during the period of April 4-11, 2026. Events are generally held from 7:00am to 9:00pm each day. Additionally, if selected as the 2026 Cherry Blossom Queen, you must be available to travel to Japan for approximately two (2) weeks in the summer or fall 2026 timeframe for a Goodwill Tour. Note: Failure to participate in all NCSS events will disqualify a Princess Delegate from the opportunity to participate in the 2026 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 long white elbow-length gloves will be worn. During the weeklong events the following are prohibited; no nose/lip piercings and minimal ear piercings and tattoos must also be covered (not visible). The princess delegate will be responsible for her own wardrobe.

**Photograph:** Each candidate must provide VIADC with a digital head shot color photo. If the candidate is chosen to represent VIADC, the picture will be used for the official Festival program book and publicity purposes and should be a head and shoulder portrait with just one pose. The chosen candidate will have the opportunity to submit a second photo to be included in the Cherry Blossom Festival Booklet if they choose to do so. (Please note that a high-quality photo is not required for the application. If selected as the 2026 princess delegate, a high-quality photo will be needed. A regular photo can be submitted with the application.)

**Funding:** The application cost to participate as a princess delegate for the Cherry Blossom Festival is \$750. VIADC will cover this expense. The princess may obtain sponsorship after being selected to offset expenses such as wardrobe and hotel expenses.

**Community Service Project:** If chosen as the 2026 USVI Cherry Blossom Princess delegate, the candidate will be required to become a financial member of VIADC for 2026 and will be required to do a community service project preferably related to Virgin Islands history or culture (i.e. presentation on Virgin Islands culture at cultural event at a school or other organization). The candidate will also be required to attend at least 2 VIADC signature events.

For any questions or clarifications, please feel free to email the VIADC Cherry Blossom Committee at [viadc.cbc@gmail.com](mailto:viadc.cbc@gmail.com) and put 2026 Cherry Blossom Princess in the subject line.