



History of the Sun Queen and Court

Coronation has been part of the Sun Bowl since the first-ever college Sun Bowl game was played in 1936. Coronation played a huge social role in the “Sun Carnival”, the weeklong pageantry associated with the Sun Bowl.

According to the 1938 Sun Bowl game program, “The social side of the Sun Carnival centers around the Coronation of the Sun Queen with Ladies-In-Waiting and her Royal Court of Princesses from all the cities of the Sun Empire and the Grand Ball tendered by the Association in honor of Her Majesty and Court.”

In the early years of the coronation, about 30 young women were part of the formal coronation, and each participant represented an organization.

Today, from five-to-nine or more individuals are chosen for the court, including one queen. Selection is based on poise, appearance, personality, communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to demonstrate knowledge of El Paso. Contestants must be enrolled as full-time students. The competition is open to all females’ ages 18-22 that have not been married or have not had any children.

Princesses and the queen serve as ambassadors for the city of El Paso. They volunteer at various community events and make appearances at the Western Refining College All-America Golf Classic, FirstLight Sun Bowl Parade, WestStar Bank Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational, Hyundai Sun Bowl Game, Academy Sports + Outdoors Sun Bowl International Soccer Tournament, the Helen of Troy Sun Court Charm Camp and other events throughout the year.

Past Sun Queens

1936	Ruth Staten	1953	Jean McGregor
1937	Gretchen Reine	1954	Sandra Schwartz
1938	Charlene Watkins	1955	Nancy Saunders
1939	Margaret McKee	1956	Ruthie Kay Fulwiler
1940	Jean Miller	1957	Helen Ann Harris
1941	Mary Mason	1958	Mary Lee Leavell
1942	Ellie Semple	1959	Linda Hart
1943	Barbara Bassett	1960	Anne Ponder
1944	Frances Roderick	1961	Barbara Daugherty
1945	Frances Schwartz	1962	Edita White
1946	Barbara Price	1963	Martha Charlene Green
1947	Anna Louise Jagoe	1964	Katherine Lynn Crombie
1948	Louann Hoover	1965	Freida Lee Schwartz
1949	Patricia Murchison	1966	Pamela Ann MacGuire
1950	Marianne Lowenfield	1967	Susan Joan McKee
1951	Susan Ballantyne	1968	Susan Ponder
1952	Frances Zork	1969	Mary Hardie Hoover
1970	Phyllis Deter	2004	Lindsay Caldwell
1971	Margaret Mayfield	2005	Amanda Esparza
1972	Delores Pellicano	2006	Briana Torres
1973	Kyle Barnhouse	2007	Katherine Foust
1974	Debbie Finger	2008	Celeste Nevarez
1975	Marta Salas-Porras	2009	Stephanie Smith
1976	Lorez Curlin	2010	Naomi Nuñez
1977	Kay Sanderson	2011	Adriana Diaz de León
1978	Susan Millard	2012	Rebekah Wierson
1979	Cyndi Lund	2013	Madeline Clark
1980	Sheryl Ward	2014	Rebecca Gutierrez
1981	Janene Costa	2015	Cassidy Caitlyn Daw
1982	Amy Wilner	2016	Katherine Carroll-Miller
1983	Patty Dent	2017	Macy McBeth
1984	Ann Boling		
1985	Virginia Windle		
1986	Kari Rubin		
1987	Elizabeth Mitchell		
1988	Linda Ann Hornsten		
1989	Amy Lynn Kahn		
1990	Allison Lee Hardie		
1991	Susy Gail Michel		
1992	Kristen Brown		
1993	Stephanie J. Stanford		
1994	Marisa Loren Echaniz		
1995	Jennifer Puishes		
1996	Monica Daniels		
1997	Nichole Ayoub		
1998	Robin Hope Adams		
1999	Michele Amber Malooly		
2000	Emily Marie Hovel		
2001	Vanessa Beth Lujan		
2002	Amber Doolittle		
2003	Natalie Hart		