

Kween Marionberry Contest

The Kween Marionberry Contest seeks brave individuals willing to don fabulous attire, embrace absurdity, inspire the masses, and represent the da Vinci Days' Graand Kinetic Challenge with enthusiasm, creativity, and style.

Kween Marionberry serves as an ambassador for the Corvallis race, spreading joy, encouraging racers, engaging spectators, and celebrating the glorious intersection of art, engineering, community, and play.

No previous royal experience is required. A willingness to have fun, embrace ridiculousness, and enthusiastically commit to the bit is mandatory.

The Kween who wins needs to attend the Mud Bog on Sunday's Race Day as well as the Racer's Award Ceremony. They should be at every major spectator part of the race. Check the Spectators page for details: <https://www.davincidays.org/spectators/>

Time: Saturday, July 18th, 2026, 4(ish) pm, at the outdoor PRAX theater (470 SW 15th St, OSU Campus, Corvallis). There is access to bathrooms inside PRAX.

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What to expect:

- Kween Marionberry serves as an ambassador for the Graand Kinetic Challenge and represents the uniquely Corvallis flavor of kinetic culture. Contestants should be friendly and be prepared for a healthy amount of Kinetically silly behavior. Be prepared to graciously accept the admiration of your loyal subjects.
- Please wear your finest attire—or whatever *you* consider royal. Fancy, fancy-ish, fabulous, practical, extravagant, handmade, thrifted, bicycle-themed, berry-inspired, or gloriously over-the-top are all welcome. What you choose will tell who you are and will showcase you as a Kween!. This can be a persona, or your truest, authentic, silliest self.
- For this pageantry-non-pageant-pageant you will have to complete three challenges:
 - 1.) **Tell a S.T.E.A.M related joke.** Make us laugh. Bonus points if it involves science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics, bicycles, berries, kinetic sculptures, or all of the above. This is a family-friendly event, please keep your jokes, etc. G-rated (at worst, PG!)

- 2.) **Showcase a talent** Perform a talent, skill, demonstration, or act of creative brilliance. Maximum time: 5 minutes
- 3.) **Demonstrate Your Royal Presence.** Show your signature Kween Walk, as well as a Kween Wave. Royalty does not simply enter a space. Royalty arrives, maybe with bubbles, maybe tripping onto the stage. Make it yours..

Judging will be judged by Judgy Peoples. We'll give them a Royal Badge of Honor to ID their reason for eagle-eying you.

Bribing is a proud kinetic tradition. Judges appreciate creative bribes, audience members enjoy creative bribes, racers enjoy creative bribes, and frankly most people enjoy creative bribes.

We are not talking about money. We are talking about stickers, buttons, poems, tiny treasures, handmade art, snacks, jokes, compliments, and other delightful expressions of glory.

The best bribes are memorable, inexpensive, and connected to your Kween persona.

We encourage bribing spectators, not exclusively judges.

Who can compete:

- The competition will be 18+, all genders welcome.

Scoring:

- Contestants will be ranked a score of 1-5 for five categories. We will do this in rounds (ie. each contestant does round 1, then round 2, etc...)
 - 1.) Joke
 - 2.) Talent
 - 3.) Wave/Walk
 - 4.) Kween energy (stage presence, confidence, audience interaction)
 - 5.) Kinetic spirit (costume, enthusiasm, commitment to the bit)

We will have a section where the audience can cheer for their contestant of choice, this will not be an official vote, however this can influence the judge's choice.

Winners receive the gloriousness of being the reigning Kween for the race weekend and the year. And a beautiful crown. Throughout the year, if you are local, you will be offered opportunities to represent the Marionberry Kweendom. The following year you qualify for your own set of GKC Trading Cards, featuring you! At the following year's Graand Kinetic Challenge, you have the honor of placing the crown on the newly dubbed Kween!

Kweenly Advice:

- Each Kween brings their own energy and experience into the character. There are no “rules” on how to be a Kween. Every Kween forges their own path. There is no single way to be a Kween. Some are elegant. Some are chaotic. Some are mysterious. Some are loud enough to be heard from across the river. What matters is that your Kween energy is authentically yours.

We are rooting for your success! This is a fun aspect of the Graand Kinetic Challenge and should never be stressful. Here are some guidelines, from one Kween to the next.

- 1.) **Have fun.** This is the most important rule and the only one that really matters.
- 2.) **Ask for help.** Reach out to Zoë Daugherty, our inaugural Kween Marionberry, if you have questions or would like advice.
- 3.) **An entourage can be useful.** Whether they help with your performance, carry props, document your glory, or simply hold your water bottle, loyal attendants will be a time-honored royal tradition.
- 4.) **Commit to the bit.** The judges may forget your score, but they will remember your enthusiasm.
- 5.) **Spread glory.** Encourage racers. Talk with spectators. Take photos. Celebrate other contestants. A great Kween makes everyone around them feel included.
- 6.) **Be camera ready.** Kinetic royalty should always be prepared for a surprise photo opportunity, whether you make them or not.
- 7.) **Above all, remember:** This is not about perfection. It is about creativity, confidence, community, and having a ridiculously good time.