

Miss America Judging System



**STATE and LOCAL
Competitions**



Miss America Organization

The Miss America Organization is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit organization, the nation's leading advocate for women's education, and the largest provider of scholarship assistance to young women in the United States; awarding millions of dollars annually.





Selection of Judges

- Need five (5) to seven (7) Judges
- Judges who are related by blood or marriage, romantically involved, business associates, or roommates may not serve on the same judging panel
- The panel must include at least one Novice Judge who has never judged a Miss America Preliminary
- Panel may only include one (1) active state volunteer
- An individual may judge a maximum of two (2) State and four (4) Local Competitions during a Competition Year
- When judging a Dual or Triple Competition, it counts as two (2) or three (3) of the four (4) Competitions allowed



All Judges should RECEIVE the following from the Judges Chair 2 to 3 weeks before the Competition:

- A Judges Affidavit and list of the participating contestants
- Schedule of activities involving the judges
- List of the other Judges with addresses and phone numbers
- Covered expenses, if any
- Lodging information (if necessary): Include the name, address and phone number of hotel
- Social activities planned for judges to help with wardrobe
- A set of Contestant Fact Sheets (Photographs are not necessary)





Judges Affidavit

1. I agree to serve, as an unpaid, volunteer judge, in the finals of the Miss _____ Program, to be held in _____, _____.





Sample Contestant Resume

Name: Jane Doe
Title: Miss State
Hometown: Anytown, America

Date of Birth: December 29, 1985

Education: University of State – sophomore – Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts
Frederick Douglass High School

Platform Issue: Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

Scholastic/Career Ambition: Obtain a Masters of Business Administration

Talent: Pop Vocal / "Fallen"

Scholastic Honors: Recipient of National Coca-Cola Scholarship; Recipient of the Metropolitan Urban League National Scholarship; Dean's List; Member of the President's Leadership Council at the UCF

Leadership Roles: Created and implemented a comprehensive Cultural Diversity Education Curriculum for grades K-12 in twelve Public Schools; University Student Body Senator; H.S. Sr. Class Pres.; College Society President.

Accomplishments: Recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Community; Recipient of the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award, Performer, Grand Ole Opry in Nashville; Piano Performance scholarship at State University.

Interesting Facts: First person on either side of my family to attend college; Youngest of five children with a 13-year gap between me and my next oldest sister and an almost 20-year gap between the eldest and myself.

Employment: Internship with a Law Firm; Internship with local ABC television affiliate; Student Assistant at State University.

What impact can the Miss America Organization and its contestants have on society through the partnership with Children's Miracle Network? Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals throughout the country treat over 17 million children each year. It is their goal to save and improve the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals across North America. The Miss America Organization and the over 12,000 young women who compete in the Miss America Program can make a huge impact by not only raising much needed funds for CMN, but also awareness. CMN hospitals provide charity care worth billions of dollars and need community support in order to continue to provide these services. Miss America contestants are hard-working and passionate, especially when it comes to community service. By working together towards the same goal, we greatly increase the impact we can make. This not only helps CMN hospitals, but each of the communities where these hospitals are located and the children in these communities who need medical care.

What is the best way to make Miss America more relevant to people your age? I feel that Miss America is extremely relevant to people, especially women, my age. What I feel we need to focus on is breaking down common misconceptions that make Miss America seem irrelevant. The misconception people have is that Miss America is simply a beauty queen. By working to educate people on who 'Miss America' is - someone who is not only beautiful but also intelligent, talented and community service oriented - we start to break down misconceptions and show young women just how alike they are to Miss America. Today's young women need to know that 'Miss America' has the same goals as them. Contestants competing in the Miss America System are college-bound young women, who are active in their communities and who work to bring attention to issues that are important to society.

If you could create and produce one single event that would best utilize the partnership between the Miss America Organization and Children's Miracle Network, what it be and how would you do it? I think a large-scale event that utilizes the power of the current Miss America and the state titleholders is the best way to utilize the MAO/CMN partnership. An annual event like the Black Tie Gala, which MAO and CMN held in Las Vegas before the pageant, not only raised money, but also awareness for the two organizations.



Sample Contestant Platform

Name: Jane Doe
Title: Miss State

Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

It is imperative that this nation face and embrace its cultural diversity. While many people have talked about this issue, I believe that most of them have only paid lip service to the true necessity of what needs to be addressed related to this issue. There is a false truth in merely accepting and tolerating cultural diversity. I intend to prove that in order to accept and understand people of other cultures, one must be willing to step out of a personal cultural comfort zone and identify the origin of their prejudice. I will specifically focus on three areas: Children, Communities, and Businesses.

The title of Miss America, combined with the national media already looking at the surface of this issue, will allow me to create the national awareness that must exist. Currently, the term "Cultural Diversity" is well known in the halls of institutions of higher learning and, perhaps, even in the public school classroom because of the need for some to be politically correct. But, in order for us to make a true change in attitudes and behaviors of Americans, we must move beyond talk and into action and policy changes.

My plan is to motivate the media and to partner with the National Conference for Community and Justice. This organization has chapters in every major city in the nation and, in many cases, those chapters have community leaders involved who can, with encouragement and challenging, bring this issue out of hiding and into the public light in each of those communities.

Obviously, the media and the NCCJ already exist. However, what is lacking is a lightning rod to draw attention to this issue. This is where the Miss America Organization steps into the lead. What better role is there for Miss America than to be an agent of change in organizing our nation to accept our differences and to create an environment that values each person on individual characteristics rather than on stereotypes or assumptions?

For years, Miss America was seen as a young woman who cut ribbons and appeared in parades. It is time for "Miss America" to step out of the convertible and *lead the parade*. Our country's ethnic make-up is changing rapidly and our citizen's fear of terrorism can explode already existing, but deeply hidden prejudices. I want to be the leader that this nation needs.

This nation needs this issue addressed now and through the already existing NCCJ and its local and state organizations combined with the power of Miss America, we can make a concrete difference now, which will change the direction and the future of our nation.

Jane Doe 9/12/14
Signature/Date



Once your Judges accept a Judging Assignment, have them PROVIDE:

- Their signed Judges Affidavit previously sent to them by the Judges Chair
- A short biography that will be used for the program book, no mentions of other programs similar to the Miss America Organization
- A photo, if requested
- Their travel plans so they may be met by a competition official





Your ORIENTATION of the Judges Panel should ensure that they know and understand:

- Job Responsibilities of your Miss Local/State
- Scoring Values
- Qualities and Attributes of a Contestant
- Mechanics of Judging and Criteria for Scoring
- What the Contestants will physically be doing on-stage in each Phase of Competition





SCORING VALUES for all Local Competitions

- Private Interview - 25%
- Talent - 30%
- Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit - 10%
- Evening Wear - 15%
- On-Stage Question – 20%





SCORING VALUES for State Single Night Competitions

- Private Interview - 25%
- Talent - 30%
- Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit – 10%
- Evening Wear - 15%
- On Stage Question – 20%





SCORING VALUES for the Preliminary Nights of a State Multi-Night Competition

- Private Interview - 25%
- Talent - 35%
- Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit - 15%
- Evening Wear - 20%
- On-Stage Question – 5%





SCORING VALUES for the Final Night of a State Multi-Night Competition

- Composite Score - 25%
- Talent - 30%
- Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit - 10%
- Evening Wear - 15%
- On-Stage Final Question - 20%





QUALITIES and TTRIBUTES of a Contestant

- Role Model
- Accomplished (Distinguished Achievements)
- Leader (Mobilizes and Inspires)
- Communicator (Courage of Convictions)
- Beauty (Attractive with Confident and Commanding Presence)
- Talent and Intelligence
- Energy Including Charisma and Expression





MECHANICS of Judging

- Each contestant is competing against herself and is scored in a point range of ONE (1) being the LOWEST, TEN (10) being the HIGHEST, and FIVE (5) being the AVERAGE using whole numbers only
- More than one contestant can receive the same score
- Judges should sign their score sheets as soon as they receive them from the Judges Chair and read the information at the bottom of each sheet





MECHANICS of Judging (cont'd)

- Judges should mark their score sheets immediately after each contestant completes her Phase of Competition
- To change a contestant's score, a Judge needs to draw a line through the old score, enter the new one and initial the change





MECHANICS of Judging on Preliminary Nights

- Consider the “Qualities and Attributes” & “Job Responsibilities” for the following four Phases of Competition when scoring:
 - Private Interview
 - Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit
 - Evening Wear
 - On-Stage Question
- Talent is scored strictly on its own criteria on preliminary nights only





MECHANICS of Judging a State Single Night or the Final Night of a Multi-Night Competition

- Consider the “Qualities and Attributes” and “Job Responsibilities” in ALL Phases of Competition, including Talent.





Judges should use the competitions to assess three critical points for each contestant

- Can she do the job?
- Does she want the job?
- Will she be cooperative once she receives the job?





The PRIVATE INTERVIEW Competition

- Remembering that we are looking for a person to fill a job position, this Phase of Competition is an opportunity to learn as much as possible about the contestant
 - Qualities and Attributes
 - Commitment to advance her issue as a “Role Model”
 - Ability to express and distinguish her beliefs
 - Ability to fulfill the Job Responsibilities





Private Interview SCORING CRITERIA

- Overall “First Impression”
- Qualities and Attributes
- Knowledge and Understanding of her Platform Issue – in a manner of “National Public Interest”
- Ability to Fulfill Job Responsibilities
- Sense of Accomplishments (above and beyond Statement of Achievements on Fact Sheet)
- Confident and Commanding Presence
- Personality, Appearance and Attractiveness
- Validated Opinions and Responses (In Context)
- Communication (Speech, Vocabulary and Grammar)



Private Interview FORMAT

- A podium will be used
- Interview time will be a total of ten (10) minutes
- Interview begins immediately
- Interview continues until the 9:30 timing mark
- 30 seconds to close this phase of competition – optional at each contestant's discretion
- If discussion ends before the 30 seconds are up, the interview then ends





Private Interview QUESTIONS are predicated upon:

- Resume (Fact) Sheet
- Relevant Issues to Women
- STATE Issues Relevant to the Contestant
- Role and Responsibilities
- Current Events
- Career Goals and Personal Ambitions
- Education
- Artistic Expression in Talent





A Contestant:

- A contestant may respond to a question with “I Don’t Know”
- A contestant is to wear “Business Attire” that is appropriate for her age and for a job interview





PRIVATE INTERVIEW

DATE _____

Signature of Judge

SCORING IN PRIVATE INTERVIEW

Each contestant is competing against herself and **MUST** receive a score in a ***1 to 10 point** range for all **Single Night State and Local Competitions** and **Preliminary Nights of a State Multi-Night Competition** (OR a ****6 to 10 point** range for the **Final Night Of a State Multi-Night Competition**), using whole numbers only. More than one contestant may receive the same score.

Overall "first impression"; exceptional communication skills with a commanding presence; personality, personal appearance and heauty; validated opinions and responses; ability to fulfill job responsibilities; sense of accomplishment; and knowledge and understanding of her platform issue.

If you make a change or erasure on your score sheet, please initial it. When you have finished, hand your score sheet to the Judges Chair.



The TALENT Competition

- The Talent Competition is not an end in itself, but rather an insight into the woman's preparatory and performance skills
- The Talent Competition acknowledges the "Quality" of the performance, "Technical Skill Level", "Stage Presence" and the interest and entertainment value
- On Preliminary Nights of Multi-Night State Competitions, this phase will be scored considering technical quality along with the entertainment and performance value criteria ONLY





The TALENT Competition

(cont'd)

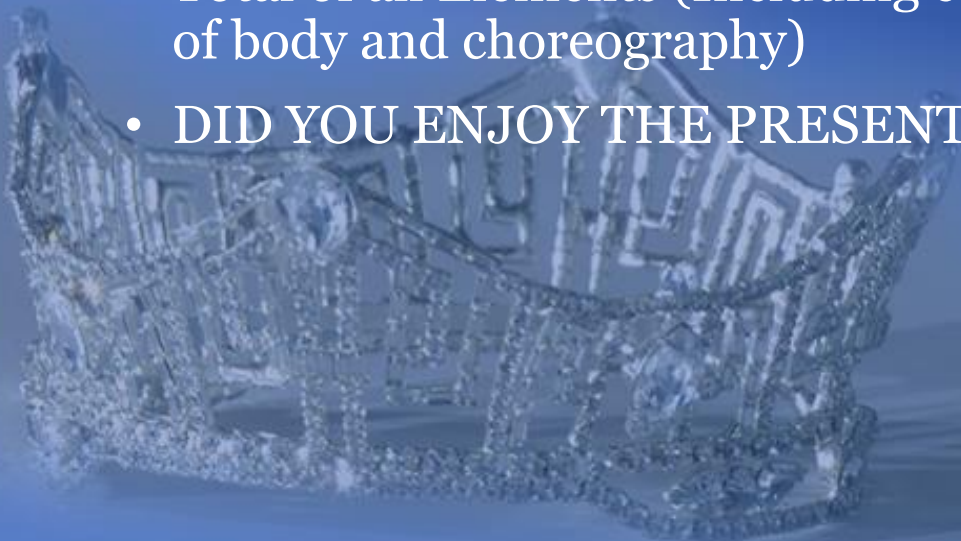
- Each Talent routine shall not exceed ninety (90) seconds in length excluding the emcee's introduction
- On the Final Night of Competition, Talent as well as all other phases will be scored against the stated Criteria, Qualities and Responsibilities





Talent SCORING CRITERIA

- Selection and Performance (Distinguishes personality and skill)
- Interpretive Ability:
Technical Skill Level (Execution, Technique, Synchronization and Control)
- Stage Presence (On-Stage Personality)
- Total of all Elements (Including costume, props, music, voice, use of body and choreography)
- DID YOU ENJOY THE PRESENTATION?





GROUP _____ TALENT _____ DATE _____

Signature of Judge _____

SCORING IN TALENT

CRITERIA FOR SCORING TALENT

© 2017 Miss America Organization - All rights reserved

SP07+LE08 State-Local Talent Score Sheet.doc – Blue (Optional) – Revised 2/26/07



The EVENING WEAR Competition

- This competition is designed for the contestant to “make an on-stage statement of her compelling charm, presence and personality”
- Her beauty, sense of style composure and allure must be projected across the footlights
- Does she grab your attention simply by walking into a room/onto a stage?
- The contestant’s total look is considered
- The Evening Wear (not the value of it) should complement the woman





Evening Wear

SCORING CRITERIA

- Overall “First Impression”
- Sense of Confidence
- Personality and Stage Presence
- Walk, Posture, Carriage and Grace
- Sense of Style and Appropriateness of the Evening Wear
- Beauty, Sense of Attractiveness and Charm





EVENING WEAR

DATE _____

Signature of Judge

SCORING IN EVENING WEAR

CRITERIA FOR SCORING EVENING WEAR

If you make a change or erasure on your score sheet, please initial it. When you have finished, hand your score sheet to the Judges Chair.



The LIFESTYLE & FITNESS IN SWIMSUIT Competition

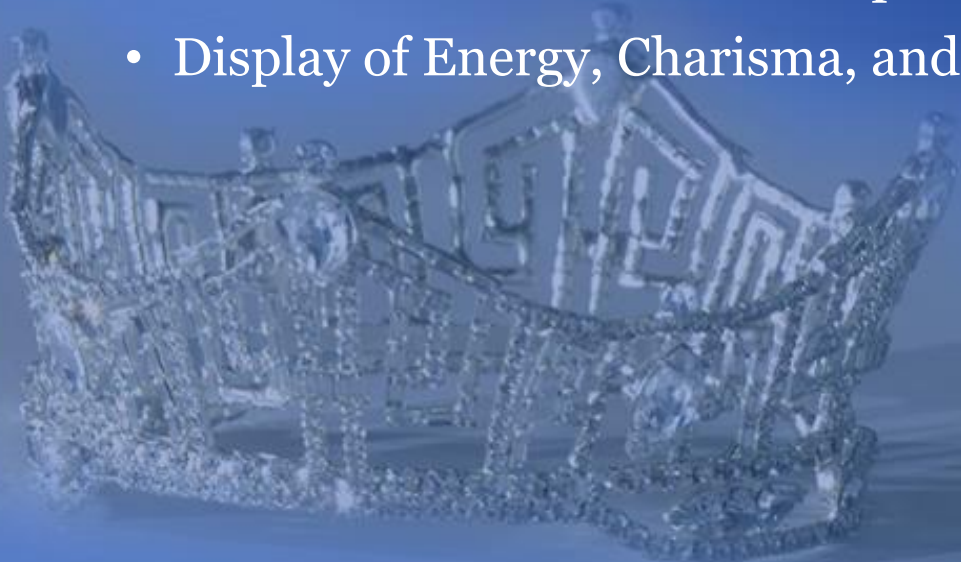
- This phase is designed to see how well the contestant maintains a lifestyle of good physical fitness and health
- Her sense of confidence, attractiveness and presence must be considered in the scoring
- Because the Swimsuit Competition is very fast paced, Judges should quickly score each contestant





Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit SCORING CRITERIA

- First Impression
- Attractiveness and Presence
- Lifestyle Statement of Strong Physical Health
(Is she physically fit?)
- Walk, Posture, Poise and Grace
- Sense of Confidence and Composure
- Display of Energy, Charisma, and Expression





LIFESTYLE AND FITNESS IN SWIMSUIT

DATE _____

Signature of Judge _____

SCORING IN LIFESTYLE & FITNESS IN SWIMSUIT

Each contestant is competing against herself and **MUST** receive a score in a ***1 to 10** point range for all **Single Night State and Local Competitions** and **Preliminary Nights of a State Multi-Night Competition** (OR a ***6 to 10** point range for the **Final Night Of a State Multi-Night Competition**), using whole numbers only. More than one contestant may receive the same score.

Overall "first impression;" physical fitness; physical beauty; sense of confidence and composure; display of drive, energy and charisma; and does she meet the public expectation of a titleholder?

If you make a change or erasure on your score sheet, please initial it. When you have finished, hand your score sheet to the Judges Chair.



The ON-STAGE QUESTION Competition

The On-Stage Question Phase of Competition is designed for the contestant to answer a random question on relevant current events

The Judge is only to consider her answer to the questions:

- Overall “First Impression”
- Did the Contestant answer the question in the context in which it was asked?
- Can she handle the pressure of speaking on stage in front of an audience?
- Will young people see her as a Role Model who is reflective of today’s generation?



COMPOSITE SCORING For Multi-Night State Competitions

- You have seen all the contestants in every phase of competition
- You must now assess each contestant's ability to fulfill the Job Responsibilities of Miss State/America
- Each contestant is competing against herself and **MUST** receive a score in a 6.0 to 10.0 point range, using whole numbers only
- More than one contestant may receive the same score
- The auditors will discard the high score and the low score for each contestant in this phase
- The Composite phase of competition is equal to 25% of the scoring and will be carried forward to the Final Night's Score Sheet, replacing the Private Interview



Criteria for Composite Scoring

- Consider all of the judging criteria from all of the phases of competition
- Evaluate her overall performance in all competitions and whether or not she should be the winner
- Does she have the ability to fulfill the job responsibilities of Miss State/America?
- Does she have the commitment as a role model who cares about her role and other women's roles in society?
- Should she be Miss State/America?



ON STAGE COMPETITIONS ON THE FINAL NIGHT of a Multi-Night State Competition

- Remember, the Top Ten Composite Scores have been carried forward and take the place of the Private Interview Scores. They now count for 25% of the Final Score
- The On Stage Competitions will be scored in a 6 to 10 range, using whole numbers only, with each contestant's high and low score discarded
- Each contestant is competing against herself and more than one contestant may receive the same score





SCORING VALUES for the Final Night of a State Multi-Night Competition

- Composite Score - 25%
- Talent - 30%
- Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit - 10%
- Evening Wear – 15%
- On-Stage Final Question – 20%





Questions to Ask Yourself

- “Would I be proud to see her as Miss Local/State?”
- “Could I see her going through all the competitions at the next level?”
- “Can she be a role model for young people PLUS earn peer respect and acceptance?”





GENERAL RULES for Judges

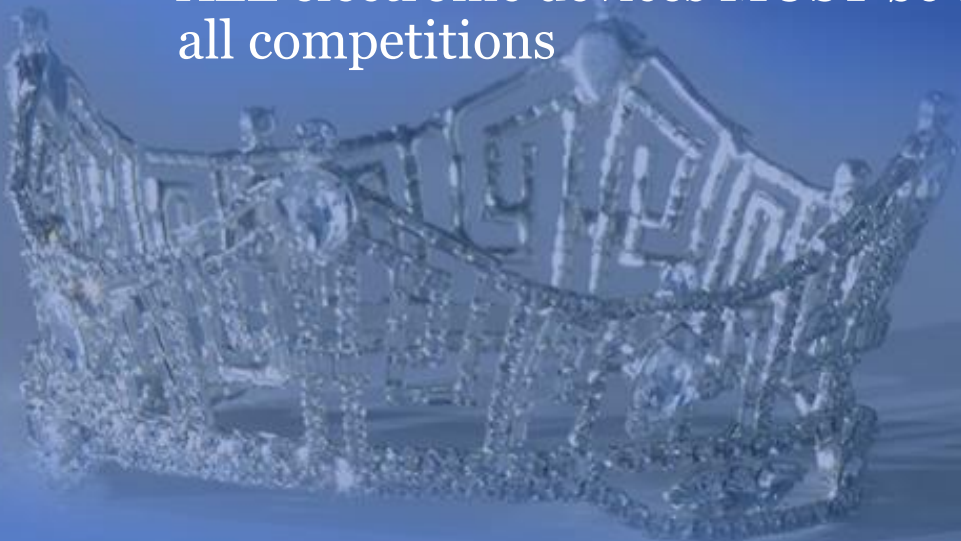
- If you cannot judge a contestant impartially, then do not accept the position
- Give the FIRST contestant the same point consideration as the LAST one
- No talking, laughing or applauding while contestants are on stage, particularly during competition
- Watch all contestants and mark your sheet as each one finishes
- Do not tell anyone how you scored
- Be aware of the point values with ONE (1) being the LOWEST, FIVE (5) being the AVERAGE, and TEN (10) being the HIGHEST using whole numbers only



GENERAL RULES for Judges

(cont'd)

- Do not compare
- Judges, and all others associated with the judging process are to NEVER discuss the contestants among themselves
- Judges are not permitted to attend rehearsals or leave the arena during the pageant
- ALL electronic devices MUST be turned off during all competitions





After the Competition

- If there is an event following the Pageant, do not discuss anything that transpired during the judging process with anyone
- You may be asked by the Executive Director or other designated Pageant personnel to participate in a “critique” of the winner following the Pageant. You should provide this information, in a positive manner, to help the contestant improve for the next level of competition





After the Competition

(cont'd)

- If you receive E-mails and/or letters following the Competition requesting advice on how to improve, politely decline by saying, “I signed an affidavit which prevents me from discussing anything that took place during the judging process, but good luck with your future competition experience”
- Please be sure that all contestant paperwork in your possession is disposed of in a manner which will protect the contestants identity and information





Conclusion

- As a pageant judge, you are also BEING judged
- The contestants consider participating in this program serious
- They are sincere in their efforts, and you should respond at all times with understanding and dignity

