



Dear Contestants,

On January 28, 2017 we will host the Miss Sylacauga and Miss Marble Valley Pageant along with the Miss Sylacauga and Miss Marble Valley Outstanding Teen. We look forward to having you come to Sylacauga and be a part of our pageant. This year our theme is "80 Years Strong: A Legacy of Winners." I think that we will have a great show and look forward to meeting everyone. Below are important dates and other information you will find helpful as you prepare for the pageant experience.

PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH PAGEANT IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 20 APPLICATIONS RETURNED.

IMPORTANT DATES:

PACKETS DUE: JANUARY 13, 2017

DRESS REHEARSAL: JANUARY 27, 2017 4:30 p.m. until

PAGEANT: JANUARY 28, 2017- WE WILL LET YOU KNOW THE TIME TO ARRIVE WHEN WE HAVE A FIRM NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: BLACK COCKTAIL DRESS FOR OPENING NUMBER

INTERVIEW ATTIRE

SWIMSUIT FOR MISS CONTESTANTS

(TEEN CONTESTANTS ONLY- BLACK SOFFE SHORTS, WHITE TENNIS SHOES, WHITE NO-SHOW SOCKS- A T-SHIRT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE FITNESS ROUTINE)

EVEING GOWN

TALENT COSTUME, PROPS, ETC.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL OR EMAIL Jim Armstrong with any questions or concerns.

Jim Armstrong (256)249-8561 jarmstrong@mysylacauga.com.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN JANUARY!

Miss Teen Marble Valley Registration Fee: \$50.00

You will need to pay this fee when packet is turned in. Please make sure you have all documents, pictures, music for talent, etc. when packet is turned in.

CONTESTANT FOLDER CHECKLIST for 2016-2017

NAME OF CONTESTANT: _____

- 6 copies of platform essay
- 6 copies of resume
- 6 copies of a 5 x 7 black and white photograph copied on 8.5 x 11 paper
- Photograph (if applicable)
- Talent CD (if applicable)
- Talent Request Information (found on form)

For 2016-2017 pageant year	
2016	2017
1999 = 17	2000 = 17
1998 = 18	1999 = 18
1997 = 19	1998 = 19
1996 = 20	1997 = 20
1995 = 21	1996 = 21
1994 = 22	1995 = 22
1993 = 23	1994 = 23
1992 = 24	1993 = 24
1991 = 25	1992 = 25

THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW WILL BE CHECKED BY THE FIELD DIRECTOR UPON ARRIVAL:

- Contract Acknowledgement of Understanding and Statement of Eligibility (This form must be signed and notarized and contain **ONE** of the following:)

Eligibility Documentation (only **one** is needed):

- Copy of Driver's License or Lease if competing as a **resident** of Alabama
- Copy of recent transcript if competing under **student** status
- Proof of Employment if competing as a **full time worker** in Alabama

- Signature of Pageant Director on Bottom of this Form
- Age Verified (minimum age 17/Senior in high school and no older than 24 on December 31, 2017)
- Certified Birth Certificate
- ~~Children's Miracle Network/Community Service hours and money raised (found on form)~~
- ~~CMN Verification (\$100.00 per pageant with a cap of \$400.00)~~
- \$50.00 No-Show Agreement Check
- Local Preliminary Contract (signed and notarized)
- A Local Judge's Book will also be checked (No need to provide an **extra** copy for your FD.)

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MISS TEEN MARBLE VALLEY LOCAL CONTRACT

CONTESTANT NAME: _____

The Miss Marble Valley Pageant promotes academic excellence, community involvement, integrity and personal growth through the Miss Marble Valley Pageant. Listed below are the requirements that must be met by the current titleholder.

I understand that the primary role of Miss Marble Valley is to serve as a positive role model and a spokesperson for the Miss Marble Valley Organization and Sylacauga Parks and Recreation. Miss Marble Valley will represent the Miss Marble Valley organization, Sylacauga Parks and Recreation, The Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sylacauga, and the sponsors during her year of service. It is imperative that she maintains immaculate personal grooming during all public appearances. This includes attending school, shopping in the community, and/or participating in civic activities.

A. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

I, _____ attest that I am a citizen of the United States of America and have resided for the past twelve months and continue to reside, attend school full-time, or am employed a minimum of 40 hours per week in the State of Alabama, reside within a 50 mile radius of the City of Sylacauga and, that I am presently enrolled as a student at

_____.

B. MORALITY/CHARACTER

I, _____ attest that I am a female and have always been a female. I have never been pregnant and am not now pregnant, and have not been involved in any act of moral turpitude and that I have never been charged in committing a crime and that nor criminal charges are pending against me nor have I ever done or engaged in any activity which is or could be characterized as dishonest, immoral, immodest, indecent or in bad taste.

C. ABILITY TO COMPETE

I, _____ attest that I am in reasonable good health and can to the best of my knowledge participate fully and without limitations in all pageant activities.

D. RULES AND REGULATIONS

I agree to participate in the series of events leading up to the final selection of Miss Marble Valley 2017 and to abide by and be bound by the rules and regulations governing the program and the awarding and supervision of the program scholarships and other prizes. If I am selected as Miss Marble Valley 2017, I agree to make myself available for public appearances to the pageant director. The director has approval rights on all appearances made by Miss Marble Valley 2017. When appearing as Miss Marble Valley, I will always dress appropriately for the occasion with hair, make-up and nails groomed. I agree to work out to maintain my physical appearances and stay abreast of current events and world issues. I agree to attend all mock interview sessions scheduled for me as well as all consultations, meetings and other scheduled

events in preparation for the Miss Alabama Pageant and/or the upcoming Miss Marble Valley Pageant.

E. LIABILITY

I agree that neither the Miss Marble Valley Pageant, Sylacauga Parks and Recreation, its board of directors, Sylacauga High School, Sylacauga Board of Education, nor anyone associated with the program shall be liable should any accident occur or any personal loss occur during any pre-program, program activities or appearance.

F. JUDGING

I agree that the manner and method of conducting the Miss Marble Valley Pageant shall be the sole discretion of the Miss Marble Valley Pageant, the Miss Alabama Pageant and the Miss America Pageant. I further agree that the time method and manner of judging, the award and supervision of the scholarships shall be within the sole direction of the director of the Miss Marble Valley Pageant and persons designated to judge the various events in any and all matters pertaining to the selection of the winners and shall be final.

G. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

If any of the representation and warranties made by herein shall prove false, or if I engage in any of the prohibited acts or activities described in this contract during the year of my service, or if I otherwise fail to conduct myself in a manner which, in the opinion of the Miss Marble Valley Pageant and/or the Miss Alabama Pageant, does not uphold and maintain the dignity and honor of the title of Miss Sylacauga or if I suffer any disability which, in the sole and exclusive judgment of the Miss Marble Valley pageant, may impair my ability of perform the duties expected of me as Miss Marble Valley 2017 then I understand and agree that the Miss Marble Valley Pageant may, at its exclusive option terminate by right to participate in the 2017 Miss Alabama Pageant and the 2018 Miss Marble Valley pageant. I will be required to return all crowns, awards, scholarships and prerequisites pertaining thereto in excellent condition and I will forfeit all of the benefits to which I would otherwise be entitled.

H. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

I understand that I must claim any and all scholarships and awards offered to me in writing within 90 days after and the date they are offered, otherwise they will be forfeited.

I AM UNDER A CONTRACT AT THIS TIME (PLEASE ATTACH) I AM NOT UNDER A CONTRACT

I _____ HEREBY HAVE READ THE ABOVE CONTRACT, AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS THERETO, I UNDERSTANT IF AWARDED THE TITLE OF MISS SYLACAUGA ALL CASH SCHOLARSHIPS WILL NOT BE DISBURSED UNTIL I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED MY DUTIES AS TITLE HOLDER.

CONTESTANT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

MISS TEEN MARBLE VALLEY PAGEANT 2017
HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I, _____ HEREBY AGREE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE MISS
MARBLE VALLEY PAGEANT COMMITTEE, THE SYLACAUGA PARKS AND
RECREATION DEPARTMENT, SYLACAUGA HIGH SCHOOL AND THE PAGEANT
OFFICIALS OF ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY, THEFT,
AND/OR DAMAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY POSSESSED BY ME DURING THE
DESIGNATED TIME OF THE MISS MARBLE VALLEY PAGEANT. IT IS OF MY
CHOICE THAT I ENTER THIS PAGEANT AND WITH THE CONSENT OF MY
PARENT/GUARDIANS OR WARD.

SIGNED _____
CONTESTANT IF OVER AGE TWENTY-ONE (21)

DATE _____

SIGN _____
PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR WARD IF UNDER AGE OF TWENTY-ONE (21)

DATE _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN WAIVER FOR MINORS

In the event that the participant is under the age of consent (18 years of age), then this release must be signed by a parent or guardian, as follows:

I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of _____,
named above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on
behalf of this individual.

Parent / Guardian

Name:

Relationship to Minor:

Signature:

Date:

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

In consideration of the risk of injury while participating in _____ (the activity) And as consideration for the right to participate in the Activity, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, or personal representatives, knowingly and voluntarily enter into this waiver and release of liability and hereby waive any and all rights, claims or causes of action of any kind whatsoever arising out of my participation in the Activity, and do hereby release and forever discharge Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/City of Sylacauga, located at _____, Sylacauga, Alabama 35150, their affiliates, managers, members, agents attorneys, staff, volunteers, heirs, representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns, for any physical or psychological injury, including but not limited to illness, paralysis, death, damages, economical or emotional loss, that I may suffer as a direct result of my participation in the aforementioned activity, including traveling to and from an event related to this activity.

I am voluntarily participating in the aforementioned activity and I am participating in the activity entirely at my own risk. I am aware of the risks associated with traveling to and from as well as participating in this activity, which, include, but are not limited to, physical, psychological injury, pain, suffering, illness, disfigurement, temporary or permanent disability (including paralysis), economic or emotional loss, and death. I understand that these injuries or outcomes related to travel, or the condition of the activity location(s). Nonetheless, I assume all related risks, both known or unknown to me, of my participation in this activity, including travel to, from and during this activity.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/City of Sylacauga against any and all claims, suits or actions of any kind whatsoever for liability, damages, compensation or otherwise brought by me or anyone on my behalf, including attorney's fees and any related cost, if litigation arises pursuant to any claims made by me or by anyone else acting on my behalf, if Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/City of Sylacauga incurs any of these types of expenses, I agree to reimburse Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/ City of Sylacauga.

I acknowledge that Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/ City of Sylacauga and their directors, officers, volunteers, representatives and agents are not responsible for errors, omissions, acts or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific event or activity on behalf of Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/ City of Sylacauga.

I acknowledge that this activity may involve a test of a person's physical and mental limits and may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, property loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, lack of hydration, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic and actions of others, including but not limited to participants, volunteers, spectators, coaches event officials and event monitors, and/or producers of the event.

I acknowledge that I have carefully read this "waiver and release" and fully understand that it is a release of liability. I expressly agree to release and discard Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/ City of Sylacauga and all of its affiliates, managers members agents attorneys staff volunteers heirs representatives, predecessors successors and assigns, from any and all claims or causes of action and I agree to voluntarily give up or waive any right that I otherwise have to bring a legal action against Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/City of Sylacauga for personal injury or property damage.

To the extent that statute or case law does not prohibit release for negligence, this release is also for negligence on the part of Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/City of Sylacauga, its agents and employees.

In the event that I should require medical care or treatment, I agree to be financially responsible for any cost incurred as a result of such treatment, I agree to be financially responsible for any cost incurred as a result of such treatment, I am aware and understand that I should carry my own health insurance.

In the event that any damages to equipment or facilities occur as a result of my or my family's willful actions, neglect or recklessness, I acknowledge and agree to be held liable for any and all cost associated with any actions of neglect or recklessness.

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

This agreement was enter into at arm's length, without duress or coercion, and is to be interpreted as an agreement between two parties of equal bargaining strength. Both the Participant, _____, and Sylacauga Parks and Recreation/City of Sylacauga agree that this agreement is clear and unambiguous as to its terms, and that no other evidence will be used or admitted to alter or explain the terms of this agreement, but that it will be interpreted based on the language in accordance with the purposes for which it is entered into.

In the event that any provision contained with this Release of Liability shall be deemed to be severable or invalid, or if any terms, condition, phrase or portion of this agreement shall be determined to be unlawful or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect in the intent of the parties. If a court should find that any provision of this agreement to be invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting said provision it would become valid and enforceable, then said provision shall be deemed to be written, construed and enforced as so limited.

In the event of an emergency, please contact the following person(s) in the order presented:

EMERGENCY CONTACT	CONTACT RELATIONSHIP	CONTACT TELEPHONE
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I, undersigned participant, affirm that I am of the age of 18 years or older, and that I am freely signing this agreement, I certify that I have read this agreement, that I fully understand its content and that this release cannot be modified orally. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract and that I am signing it of my own free will.

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017**

Name of Local Pageant: _____

Name of Contestant: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

College/School: _____

College Major: _____

Hometown: _____

SECTION A: ELIGIBILITY

Age. I am currently ____ years of age. I was born on (date) _____, 19____. I understand that, in order to be eligible to compete, I must be:

- (1) at least a high school senior before the date of my first Local Competition;
- (2) at least seventeen (17) years of age at the time of my first appearance in the preliminary round of the Local Competition; and
- (3) no older than twenty-four (24) years of age on December 31, 2017

I will be ____ years of age on December 31, 2017 and confirm that I will not be older than the twenty-four (24) year age requirement. A certified copy of my birth certificate is included.

Choose ONE of three from the boxes below (See Section 2.3 of the complete contract).

- I have been a resident of the State of Alabama for at least six (6) months (copy of driver's license or lease must be enclosed) **OR**
- I am claiming student status. I have successfully completed at least one semester as a full-time undergraduate student (at least 12 hours) or graduate student in the State of Alabama (copy of recent transcript must be enclosed) **OR**
- I am employed on a full-time basis in the State of Alabama and have been for at least six months (see Section 2.3.3 of the complete contract) (Employer contact information must be enclosed - including phone numbers, address, and employment dates.)

SECTION B: CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

Note: To compete this year, you must register on the CMN web site in the **2018 Pageant Cycle**.

of hours you have worked for CMN: _____ Amount of money you raised for CMN: _____

I have created my CMN profile on www.missamerica4kids.org **for this local pageant in the 2018 pageant cycle.** I understand that if I compete in more than one local pageant, I must update my CMN profile each time I compete in a different local pageant so that it reflects the current local pageant in which I am competing. **Initial:** _____

MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017

SECTION C: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (if different from CMN)

Name of Community Service Project: _____

of hours worked on Community Service Project: _____ Amount of money raised: _____

SECTION D: TALENT PRESENTATION

Type of Talent (vocal, dance, piano, etc): _____

Name of Talent Selection: _____

Type of microphone preferred (if available): Cordless Microphone with stand Lavalier

Will you be using props? Yes No If yes, please describe: _____

Please write a short 2-3 sentence introduction for your talent presentation:

Contestant checklist of items to enclose with this packet:

- Certified copy of birth certificate
- Six (6) copies of platform essay for judges' books
- Six (6) copies of resume for judges' books
- Six (6) black & white photocopies of 5x7 photo on 8.5x11 paper
- Photo (contact local pageant for additional photo requirements)
- CMN Verification Sheet (proof of the \$100 minimum CMN requirement)
- Local Contract (contact local pageant)

[Note: This refers to a different contract that is drafted by each local pageant and varies from pageant to pageant.]

In addition to the above, enclose **ONE** of the following:

- Driver's license or Lease Agreement (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as an Alabama resident)
- Copy of current transcript (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as an undergraduate or graduate student in Alabama)
- Proof of Employment (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as a full-time employee in Alabama)

MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017

On the basis of all of these statements and agreements, I request the Miss _____ Organization to accept my application to participate as a Contestant in the Miss _____ Competition. If the Miss _____ Organization accepts this application, I agree to comply with all of the terms and conditions of this Application and Contract, together with its attachments.

Date Contestant Signature

State of _____ : ss
County of _____

Affidavit of Truthfulness

_____, the Contestant making this Application, of full age and being duly sworn according to law, upon her oath deposes and says:

I do hereby swear that the statements made in this Application and Contract and its attachments are true.

Sworn and subscribed to before me

this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Contestant Signature

Notary Public of _____

Approval of Application for Participation

The Miss _____ Organization hereby APPROVES this Application and Contract and accepts appointment as the agent of the Contestant on the terms provided in this Application and Contract. The Contestant may compete in the competition pursuant to the terms of this Application and Contract and its attachments.

Date: _____ Signed: _____
Local Executive Director

Print Name: _____ The Miss _____ Organization
Organization Name

MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017

(To be completed by the Parent(s) or Guardian(s) of a Contestant who is not yet 18 years of age on the date of this Application and Contract)

State of _____

: ss

Affidavit of Parent or Guardian

County of _____

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of _____, who is the Contestant named in this Application and Contract, of full age and being duly sworn according to law, upon my oath depose and say:

1. I have read and I understand the provisions of this Application and Contract and its attachments. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, all of the factual statements made in this Application and Contract by the Contestant are true.
2. I have been given the opportunity to consult with an attorney of my choosing to seek legal advice regarding this Application and Contract.
3. I consent to the execution of this Application and Contract by the Contestant.
4. On behalf of the Contestant, I agree to the terms and conditions of this Application and Contract and its attachments.
5. I have not previously authorized any person, firm, or corporation to use the name, photograph, picture or any present or future title of the Contestant in connection with any endorsement or advertisement of any commercial product for or on behalf of the Contestant, nor has any other person ever been authorized to do so, other than a co-signer of this affidavit.
6. I shall not authorize any person, firm, or corporation to use the name, photograph, picture or any present or future title of the Contestant in connection with any endorsement or advertisement of any commercial product for or on behalf of the Contestant other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Application and Contract and its attachments.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Sworn and subscribed to before me

this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public of _____

MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017

2017 Local Contestant Coaching Disclosure

Include interview prep, talent or choreography coaches, as well as anyone involved in a coaching business.

Adherence to the rules and guidelines detailed in the Miss America 2017 Local Contestant Contract is critical to our program's success. The clause below is a significant part of that contract and demonstrates one aspect of the contestant's commitment to service.

Section 5: Commitment for Service as Miss _____ 2017
(name of local preliminary)

5.5.8. determine the best method of preparing me for the next level of competition. I understand that the Miss America Organization does not endorse nor promote the use of individuals nor businesses who act as pageant coaches, etc., whether they are paid or offer services at no charge. However, the use of a coach may transpire as long as the Local Director agrees and collaborates on such arrangement in order to prepare me for the next level of competition. If my Local and/or State Executive Director does approve the hiring or utilizing a pageant coach, then a signed Coaching Disclosure Form must be presented to the Local and State Organization no less than seven (7) days before the Local Competition.

I understand that coaching relationships that are not properly disclosed will not be tolerated in the Miss America Organization. Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA's) or any other legally binding contract designed to conceal a coaching/contestant relationship is expressly prohibited. Any and all other contracts are superseded by the MAO State Organization Agreement and Contestant Contracts.

This Coaching Disclosure Form is to be completed and signed and then approved by the Local Executive Director. Failure to provide complete information on any current coaches or coaching businesses that a contestant has engaged to work as a prep person or team, up to and during the 2017 National Finals, carries serious consequences.

Contestant Statement

I am currently working with the following coach, coaches or coaching business:

Contestant Name: _____

Local Title: _____

Coach's Name: _____

Location: City _____ State _____

Coaching Business: _____

Location: City _____ State _____

Contestant Affirmation: I have read and understand the Commitment for Service as Miss _____ 2017. I am currently not working with a coach or a coaching business, other than as disclosed herein, and will not engage any coach, coaching business or prep team unless approved by my Local Executive Director. I have not signed a coaching contract or non-disclosure agreement with any coach or coaching business, other than as disclosed herein. I understand the consequences if I am not forthright in my disclosure statement.

Contestant's Signature: _____

Local Executive Director: _____

Local Executive Director's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Note: If you are working with more than one coach or coaching business, a separate form must be completed for each.

MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017

**2017 Local Contestant Statement of Understanding
Other Competitions**

Adherence to the rules and guidelines detailed in the Miss America 2017 Local Contestant Contract is critical to our program's success. The following clause details the rules regarding other competition/pageant systems. This is to confirm that you do not currently hold a title or are associated in any way with another competition system. Once you have read the full clause, please sign the affirmation of understanding statement below.

2.7. Contractual and Other Obligations.

2.7.3. Other Competitions. If I win, I will continue to hold the title of Miss _____ until my successor is selected or appointed. I agree that, during my service in that role and until after the scheduled completion of the full term of the position of Miss _____ for which I was selected, I will not associate in any way with, promote, perform, judge or become a contestant or participant in any other regional, national or international competition or preliminary competition of a similar nature to the National Finals, including but not limited to the National Sweetheart Pageant/Competition in Hoopston, Illinois. I also represent that I am not a contestant, participant or titleholder in any other regional, national or international competition or local or state preliminary competition of a similar nature to the National Finals.

This Other Competitions Form is to be completed, signed and approved by the Local Executive Director. I understand that failure to observe and fully comply with the contestant contract, including but not limited to, Other Competitions, is a violation of this agreement.

Contestant Statement

Contestant Name: _____

Local Preliminary: _____

Contestant Affirmation: I have read and understand the Other Competitions clause. I affirm that I do not hold a title with a any other competition/pageant system and that I will not enter or associate in any way with, promote, perform judge or become contestant or participant in any other program's local, state, regional, national or international competition or preliminary competition of a similar nature to the National Finals, including but not limited to the National Sweetheart Pageant /Competition in Hoopston, Illinois. I understand the consequences if I am not forthright in my disclosure statement.

Contestant's Signature: _____

Local Executive Director: _____

Local Executive Director's Signature: _____

Date: _____



National Contestant Platform Statement Instructions

This is your opportunity to explain to the national judges what your chosen platform is and why it is important for the Miss America Organization to embrace this platform. In addition, it should explain how your platform will further the Miss America Organization "brand" to the public.

It is important that these instructions are followed, even when using the preformatted page included. Any items incorrectly submitted that do not meet the criteria may be submitted to the judges without an opportunity to correct.

1. Go to the word processing program of your computer.
2. Start a "new" document.
3. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type using the Times New Roman font style.
4. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name.
5. Then, move to the next line and type "**Title:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your state title.
6. Double space down. Set your justification to "center". Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
7. Double space down. Write what you feel is critical for the judge's to know about your platform and why it is necessary for you to have the job of Miss America to promote this issue. What you write will be what the judges know about your platform, your role in successfully dealing with this issue, and the role the Miss America Organization may play in your plan.
8. This essay **may** include some of the following items (this is not to be meant as an exhaustive list):
 - A clear definition of the platform and the specific issues you wish to address
 - A plan on how you have or will create awareness of the platform
 - The way in which you have or will change attitudes regarding the issue
 - The way in which you have or will change behaviors related to this issue
 - The way in which your platform issue will move the Miss America Organization forward
 - Your media plans
 - Your marketing strategy
 - How you propose to fund your ideas/plans
 - Any significant accomplishments you have made in regard to your issue
9. At the bottom of the page, set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line, type Signature/Date and after printing **sign and date the document**. If you forget to sign and date, we will need to return the document to you as it cannot be accepted without your signature. Thank you.

It is important that you sign and date the document as shown in the attached sample prior to submitting

Name:
Title:

(Type Platform Title)

Signature/Date

Name: Jane Smith

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.

Signature/Date



National Contestant Resume Instructions

This is your opportunity to demonstrate to the national judges why they should consider you for the job of Miss America. You may list as many or as few items under each category as you desire. Your only restriction is that it must follow the established format and it must fit on one (1) page. This page, combined with the Platform Statement, will comprise your entire application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted. Any item incorrectly submitted that does not fit the established criteria may be submitted to the judges without an opportunity to correct.

It is important that these instructions are followed, even when using the preformatted page included:

1. Create a "New" document with your computer's Word program.
2. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type, using the Times New Roman font style. Please refer to the attached sample to verify you are following the requested format.
3. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is LaCricia Deborah Smith and you want to be known as "Deborah Smith", please type "Deborah Smith").
4. Then, move to the next line and type "**Title:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your state title.
5. Then, move to the next line and type "**Hometown:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar once. Then, type your hometown including the city and the state.
6. Move to the next line. Now set your justification to the right. Type "**Date of Birth:**" in bold. Hit the space bar two (2) times, and type the month, day, and year of your birth. (Ex. October 10, 1989)
7. Move Justification to the left. Double space down and type "**Education:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times and then type your most recent school first. If it is grad school, indicate it as such. List degree seeking (all on the same line as the name of the school), move to the line underneath that to list your undergraduate school and degree sought/achieved, and below that list your high school.
8. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Platform Issue:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the TITLE of your platform, MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT. DO NOT TYPE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE TITLE.
9. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Scholastic/Career Ambition:**" in bold. Hit the Tab bar once, MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE OTHERS ABOVE IT. Then type the type of degree/education you would ultimately like to achieve and beneath that, list your career ambition.
10. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Talent:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the type of talent and specific selection. MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT. (i.e. Pop Vocal - "Crying", Tap Dance - "Staying Alive", etc.)
11. Double space down. Type "**Scholastic Honors:**" in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
12. Double space down. Type "**Leadership Roles:**" in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
13. Double space down. Type "**Accomplishments:**" in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).



National Contestant Resume Instructions
Page 2

14. Double space down. Type **“Interesting Facts:”** in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
15. Double space down. Type **“Employment:”** in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
16. Double space down. Type **“How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?”** in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
17. Double space down. Type **“Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Competition?”** in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
18. Double Space down. Type **“What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?”** in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
19. Use your best judgment on what is most important for the judges to know about you. Use the space wisely. Attached is a resume example you can use as a guide.
20. The entire form must fit on one (1) page using the Times New Roman font style. You must leave a 1” margin on all four sides of the page. If spacing issues arise, simply follow the example provided.

This form is given to the judges with your platform statement. You will notice there is a REQUIRED SIGNATURE LINE at the bottom of the Platform Statement. When these two pages are put together, they will create your entire application. Your signature covers the materials listed ON BOTH PAGES. Your signature verifies that everything on the forms you submit is true and accurate. If it is proven that any information on these forms are not true, correct and factual, you risk disqualification from competing in the National Competition and losing your state/local title.

Name:
Title:
Hometown:

Date of Birth:

Education:

Platform Issue:

Scholastic/Career Ambition:

Talent:

Scholastic Honors:

Leadership Roles:

Accomplishments:

Interesting Facts:

Employment:

How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?

Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Program?

What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?

(Please note: the questions listed above are sample questions and subject to change)

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

Date of Birth: December 29, 1994

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 University

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 Sorority 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 oldest and myself.

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

How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?

I come from a loving, supportive family that has always taught me to work hard for the things I want to achieve. Growing up, my parents always encouraged us to get involved with our local community and help those who were less fortunate than us. They tried to instill good values in us and to always guide us on the right path. I think it is because of these lessons my parents taught me that I want to make a difference in today’s world. I aspire to be a woman of great influence, preferably working in the non-profit sector, where I can apply my talents for the greater good and help to change people’s lives. One person truly can make a difference, and I am on my way to proving that cliché. I also dream to one day have a loving family of my own, with beautiful children in whom I can instill the same core values that my parents gave to me.

Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Pageant?

Along with providing the financial assistance for young women to fulfill our educational goals, the Miss America Organization gives us the opportunity to bring national attention to a cause dear to our hearts. If I were to become Miss America, I know that my voice would be heard as a spokesperson for my personal platform, as well as the national platform. Raising awareness of important social and political issues has always been important to me, and Miss America provides the perfect arena for that.

What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?

Although I’m not sure I would consider it a social issue, I think technological advancements will have the greatest social impact on my generation. Technology is changing everything – the way we communicate, our lifestyles, access to information – it’s all right at your fingertips! That can be a double-edged sword. I believe we run the risk of losing both interpersonal and language skills due to the ease and speed of communicating electronically. I believe our educators should address this issue immediately, or it may, unfortunately, have the greatest impact on my generation and every generation to follow.