

Who and What is the Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Organization (MMSOTeen)?

Background

Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Organization was organized to encourage positive achievements by helping to nurture and build the scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living and community involvement of our state's youth.

Among its initiatives, the Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Organization hosts a state competition intended to encourage and reward the talent, communication skills, community service and academic achievement of girls between 13 and 17 years of age.

The Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Organization has also established community-based initiatives and mentoring programs aimed at helping our state's youth build character and gain skills necessary for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, community and business leaders, as well as participants from the state competition, the Organization continues to implement programs aimed at helping young people develop strong values, leadership skills, social conscience, self-worth and conviction about their own potential.

The Organization's mentoring and community-based initiatives are available to all young people between the ages of 13 and 17. The Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Organization awards scholarships to individuals on a basis of academic merit and civic and social achievement. Scholarships are awarded without condition or obligation to provide future services.

Funds raised by the Organization are being used to fund scholarships for deserving young women according to guidelines established by the Organization's Board of Directors in accordance with Internal Revenue Service rule and regulations. Funds are also being used to establish and develop the Organization's mentoring programs and community-based initiatives.

Miss America Scholarship Fundraising

The Miss America Organization's mission is to prepare great women for the world and prepare the world for great women.

The public perception of Miss America is often that it's a one-night telecast, but in reality it's so much more. This unique program is a 365-day-a-year opportunity for women to earn scholarships, grow their networks, learn valuable life and career skills, and make a difference through their social impact initiatives. The Miss America Organization is committed to building the community advocates and leaders of tomorrow.

For nearly 100 years, women and volunteers from across the country have given their time, energy, and talents to bettering themselves and the communities around them. Building on their service and higher education, Miss America women advance into careers ranging from elected officials and high profile lawyers to nationally recognized journalists and budding entrepreneurs. As this time-honored organization approaches its 100th anniversary, we are committed to continue helping women gain the skills and scholarships necessary to achieve their goals.

To continue providing these valuable opportunities, we need your help!

For instructions on registering for Spotfund, visit:

<https://www.miss-mississippi.com/register-for-spotfund-teen.html>

MAOTeen candidates must register on Spotfund; however, MAO Teen Candidate **fundraising remains optional.**

Becoming Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen

In order to become Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen a potential candidate must:

- Enter, compete and win a local, or "open/sweeper" local title. For specific information and deadlines for local competitions, including their dates and locations, please check the Miss Mississippi website.
- Once a local title is earned, the contestants begins the preparation process to compete for the title of Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen title.

The Role of Miss Local/State's Outstanding Teen

Miss Local/State's Outstanding Teen will have many roles during her year of service. She will represent her Local/State Organization, the National Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization, the young women she competed with, and all young people her age, as well as promoting her chosen Platform Issue and acting as an ambassador for our the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program. She must accept these responsibilities by always conducting herself in an "Outstanding" manner.

Miss Local/State's Outstanding Teen may be called upon to appear at a variety of functions throughout her state, where she will be asked to speak, possibly perform her talent, and interact with people of all ages. At all of these appearances, she must be gracious, well-spoken, attractive and well-groomed in an age-appropriate way, approachable and friendly in order to meet the public's expectation of a titleholder.

Competition Categories

As stated in the State/Local Contestant Application and Contract, all State/Local Candidates must compete in all phases of the competition at Miss America's Outstanding Teen State/Local competitions.

The judging categories and the applicable percentages for each category on the Local level are as follows:

- Private Interview – 25%
- Lifestyle & Fitness – 15%
- Talent – 35%
- Evening Wear/On-Stage Question – 25%

The judging categories and the applicable percentages for each category on the State level are as follows:

- Private Interview – 25%
- Scholastic Achievement – 10%
- Lifestyle & Fitness – 10%
- Talent – 35%
- Evening Wear/On-Stage Question – 20%

Private Interview

The Private Interview phase of competition is an opportunity for the judges to learn as much as possible about the contestant – her personal qualities and attributes to be Miss Local/State's Outstanding Teen; her level of communication skills; her opinions; her sense of accomplishment, poise, and presence as well as her ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the position the judges have been requested to fill.

Criteria for Scoring in Private Interview:

Overall "first impression"; exceptional communication skills; including speech, vocabulary, and grammar; a confident and charismatic personality; ability to express and distinguish her beliefs; attractive and stylish in an age-appropriate manner; leadership and sense of accomplishment; and knowledge and understanding of her platform issue. Can the judge envision the public, and the especially young people, being positively impacted by the contestant?

Lifestyle and Fitness

The Lifestyle and Fitness competition is designed to determine the level of fitness of the contestant and to obtain a glimpse into her daily routine and lifestyle. The contestant's drive, energy and presence are likewise considered.

Criteria for Scoring in Lifestyle and Fitness:

Overall "first impression"; physically fit; dynamic presence and attractiveness; and sense of confidence and self-assurance. Can the contestant complete the presentation with vitality, energy, spirit and charisma? Does she meet the public's expectation of a titleholder?

Talent

The Talent phase of competition provides an insight into the contestant's preparatory and performance skills. Consideration is given to whether the contestant's talent selection fits these skills and her personality. The Talent competition acknowledges the quality of the talent being presented, the technical skill level, and the stage presence of the contestant.

Criteria for Scoring in Talent:

Overall "first impression"; technical skill level; entertainment value; interpretive ability; stage presence and on-stage personality; and total of all elements (music, costume, props, voice, choreography). Will the judge be proud that he or she selected this young woman when she performs her talent if she is selected as the titleholder? Did the judge enjoy the presentation?

Evening Wear/On-Stage Question

The Evening Wear/On-Stage Question phase of the competition is designed for the judges to assess the contestant's beauty, poise, grace, and commanding stage presence, as well as for the contestant to make an on-stage statement of her interests, opinions, and aspirations in answer to a question selected by the contestant. The judges will consider the contestant's answer to the question asked when scoring this phase.

Eveningwear should be appropriate, stylish, and elegant. Extremely low necklines and backlines are not appropriate. High skirt slits are not appropriate and can be embarrassing for the contestant and the judges.

Criteria for Scoring in Evening Wear/On-Stage Question:

Overall “first impression”; sense of confidence, composure, and poise, personality and stage presence; walk, carriage, posture, and beauty; sense of style and age-appropriateness of the evening wear. Does the contestant take command of the stage by simply walking onto it? Can the contestant handle the pressure of speaking on stage in front of an audience? Special attention must be given to whether or not the contestant answered the question she was asked, and did she have the ability to make the audience want to listen to her. The contestant’s total look, grace, charm, and ability as a spokesperson and role model must be considered.

Scholastic Achievement – MAOTeen State Competitions

In keeping with the MAOTeen Program’s mission, the MAOTeen Organization believes the “scholastic achievement” must carry some weight in the judging process.

Prior to the competition, the scholastic judges will be asked to review the following three documents from each contestant:

- Official Report Card (for 7th and 8th grade students only), or Grade Transcript
- ✓ The report card/transcript must come directly from the contestant’s school in a sealed envelope
- ✓ Documents for homeschooled students must come from the institution overseeing the contestant’s academic studies
- Contestant’s Resume – Fact Sheet
- Contestant’s Platform Statement

The Scholastic Achievement category is to be judged by a different panel of judges from the competition panel of judges. The Scholastic Achievement scores are not to be shared with the on-stage-pageant competition panel of judges.

General Information

Potential contestants should contact the local director of the specific pageant the contestant is interested in competing in for general information regarding location, time, rehearsal, deadlines, production issues and photos.

APPLICATION PACKET INTSTRUCTIONS

All forms **MUST** be typed

1. Local Contract

A parent or legal guardian must sign this contract. We would recommend that all contestants read the local contract and have your parent or legal guardian read it as well.

2. Copy of Birth Certificate

You must include a copy of your birth certificate to verify your age.

3. 1 COPY OF FACT SHEET

The copies will be given directly to the judges as you provide it to us. No changes will be made to the FACT SHEET you turn in.

4. 1 COPY-PLATFORM QUESTIONNAIRE

The Miss America Organization, the Miss Mississippi system, and Local Competitions encourage the young women who participate in the program to become involved in the community, to develop a Platform, and to speak out on issues of concern to them, their communities, and to the nation. If you are selected as a local titleholder, you should have an issue to focus on during your Year of Service. Your Platform Questionnaire can be no longer than one page.

5. Proof of Residence

To compete in this pageant, you must have either:

- A. Lived in the state of Mississippi for at least six months prior to your entry into the pageant; OR
- B. Must be presently enrolled AND be attending classes on a full-time basis at school in Mississippi for an open title;

You must be able to PROVE your residency with ONE of the following:

Driver's license, automobile registration, current lease, or other official document that establishes residency for six months prior to the date of the pageant. You may be asked to provide additional proof if you are selected as one of our local titleholders.

- Do not complete the Candidate # on any of the forms included.

Candidate number/competition order will be drawn by local committee in advance for production/printing purposes.

6. 1 COMPLETED EMCEE FORM & 1 COMPLETED TALENT FORM

7. Picture You must send a 5"x7" COLOR picture with your completed application. Professional pictures are preferred. You should place a sticker with your name on the back of the picture if it is mailed. This picture will be used for the judge's book, and publicity.

PERSONAL DATA SHEET

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

School: _____

Platform: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Talent :(vocal, dance, piano, etc...) _____

Title of Song (if applicable): _____

Mother's Name and Cell Number: _____

Father's Name and Cell Number: _____

Mother's E-mail address: _____

Father's E-mail address: _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TYPING THE JUDGES RESUME

Remember this is your opportunity to demonstrate to the judges why they should consider you for the position of Miss Local's or Mississippi's Outstanding Teen. You may list as many or as few items under each category as you desire. This is a **ONE PAGE** document and anything over one page will NOT be accepted. This **one page**, combined with your Platform Statement will be given to the judges. The judges will receive your resume exactly as submitted. **Do NOT put your age on the Resume!**

1. 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 Times Roman font style.
2. With the justification set for left, type "**NAME:**" in **bold**. Following the colon (:), press the space twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is Mary Deborah Smith and you want to be known as "Deborah Smith", please type Deborah Smith).
3. Then, double space down. Type "**Title:**" in **bold**. Following the (:), press the space bar twice. Then type your Local title in the format of "**Miss Local's Outstanding Teen**".
4. Then, double space down. Type "**Hometown:**" in **bold**. Following the (:), press the space bar twice. Then type your hometown including city and the state.
5. Double space down. Type "**Education:**" in **bold**. Press the tab bar three times and then type your most recent school first. list in order with the most recent, all schools attended (high school, middle school, elementary school, etc.).
6. Double space down. Type "**Platform Issue:**" in **bold**. Press the tab bar three times. Type the TITLE of your platform, making sure it lines up with the information above it. Do not type anything other than the platform title.
7. Double space down. Type "**Scholastic/Career Ambition:**" in **bold**. Following the colon (:), press the tab bar once, making 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.
8. Double space down. Type "**Talent:**" in **bold**. Press the Tab bar four times. Type the type of talent you will perform and specific selection, making sure it lines up with the information above it. (E.g.: Pop Vocal – "Gold", Tap Dance – "Staying Alive", etc.)
9. Double space down. Type "**Scholastic Honors:**" in **bold**. Following the colon (:), press the space bar twice. Type your scholastic honors. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
10. Double space down. Type "**Leadership Roles:**" in **bold**. Following the colon (:), press the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
11. Double space down. Type "**Accomplishments:**" in **bold**. Following the colon (:), press the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;). *Do not include any previous local titles held in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program or placement!*

12. Double space down. Type “**Interesting Facts:**” in **bold**. Following the colon (:), press the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;). *Do not include any previous local titles held in the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Program or placement!*
13. Double space down. Type “**Marketing Plan:**” in **bold**. Following the colon (;), press the space bar twice. In sentence form, explain how you would market the **Miss America’s Outstanding Teen “brand”**. Please include any relevant experience you have which may uniquely qualify you to serve in this position. Please be aware that a portion of the titleholder responsibilities include marking the **Miss America’s Outstanding Teen** program to potential sponsors, educational institutions, and organizations.
14. Double space down. Type “**Legacy:**” in **bold**. Following the colon (;), press the space bar twice. This should be typed in sentence form. Please write what your legacy, as **Miss Mississippi’s Outstanding Teen** will be. This statement should answer the questions, “A year after giving up your title as **Miss Mississippi’s Outstanding Teen**, what will people remember about your year of service?”
15. Double space down. Type “**Why should I be Miss Mississippi’s Outstanding Teen 2020?**” in **bold**. Following the colon (;), press the space bar twice. Explain to the judging panel why you should be selected as **Miss Mississippi’s Outstanding Teen** this year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONTESTANT RESUME

- Please remember that the entire form **MUST FIT ON ONE PAGE** using Times Roman font style.
- You must leave a 1” margin on all four sides of the page.
- Use your best judgment on what is most important for the judges to know about you.
- Any variations from the formatting requirements will be returned to you with **ONE** opportunity to correct the document.
- Your materials will not be retyped. The judges’ will receive your original work.
- Check spelling and grammar!
- This resume, your platform statement, and the Miss Mississippi’s Outstanding Teen Program book will be the only documents the judges’ will receive about you. By submitting these forms to the Miss Mississippi’s Outstanding Teen Pageant, you certify that everything on your forms is true and accurate. If it is proven that any information on these forms are not true, correct, and factual, you risk losing your title and your scholarships.
- Some spacing issues may arise. Simply follow the example provided. Depending upon the set-up of your document, you may need to press the “tab key” fewer or more times than indicated above.
- Do not attempt to change margins, font, size options, or deviate from the required criteria.
- Use plain white paper for the document. No logos, crowns, names, titles, etc. it will not be accepted if it is printed on anything other than plain paper.

Name: Deborah Smith - **EXAMPLE**

Title: Miss Anytown's Outstanding Teen

Hometown: Vicksburg, Mississippi

Education: Vicksburg High School
Vicksburg Middle School
Vicksburg Elementary School

Platform Issue: Celebrating Inclusivity

Scholastic/Career Ambition: To obtain a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance
To pursue a career in the Performing Arts on Broadway

Talent: Broadway Vocal – “Can’t Help Loving That Man”

Scholastic Honors: Straight A Student; Advanced Math Award; Honor Society

Leadership Roles: Member of Girl Scouts for eight years; Student Body Representative;
Freshman Class President; Middle School Student Body President

Accomplishments: Perfect Attendance K – Present; Recipient of the River Valley Achievement Award; performer of Grand Ole Opry in Nashville

Interesting Facts: The oldest of eight children; Member of Family Vocal Group; members of our household are from 8 months old to 76 years old

Marketing Plan: My plan for extending inclusivity in all facets of life can only open more doors for Miss America's Outstanding Teen. Inclusivity allows us to better understand not only ourselves, but also those around us. I have a five-step role playing activity that can quickly explain.

Legacy: My hope at the end of my year of service as Miss America's Outstanding Teen, is that I have helped teens, their parents and siblings, and other people in the United States and around the world understand how important it is to be inclusive.

Why should I be Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen 2020? I would be a good choice for Miss America's Outstanding Teen because I possess the speaking skills, talent, confidence and poise that it takes to be a national titleholder. Also, I would love to have the opportunity to utilize the title of Miss America's Outstanding Teen to promote my platform of “*Celebrating Inclusivity*” throughout the country.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TYPING THE PLATFORM ISSUE STATEMENT

Please remember. This is your opportunity to explain to the judges what your chosen platform is and why it is important for the local pageants to embrace this platform. In addition, it should explain how your platform will further the Miss local pageants and the Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Pageant "brand" to the public. This **ONE (1) page, single-spaced** document combined with the Contestant's Resume, will comprise your entire application for this job. **The judges will receive exactly what is submitted.** Any items, which do not meet the criteria or are submitted after the deadline, will not be given to the judges. The contestant may explain the lack of judging materials during her interview, if she so chooses.

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 (:), remove **bold** and hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it.
5. Double space down. Set your justification to "center". Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
6. Double space down. With justification set for left and unbold, write what you feel is critical for the judges to know about your platform and why it is necessary for you to have the job of Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen 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's Outstanding Teen Organization may play in your plan.
7. Remember to include in the Platform Statement what **you** can do to get the message out and get more of your friends and other teens interested in the Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen program.
- 8. Remember to single space the text that you are typing.**
9. 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 Mississippi 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

10. At the bottom of the page. You MUST set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line you must type Signature/Date. Once you have printed the document, you must sign and date this document.

PLATFORM SAMPLE

Name: Jane Doe

Title: Miss Local

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 learner 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

MISS ON STAGE INTRODUCTIONS

SUBMIT VIA EMAIL ONLY!

This information is to be read during each phase of Competition – while you are on stage. (We reserve the right to alter descriptions only when necessary for appropriateness, to ensure clarity, for among contestants or to accommodate time constraints.)

Your Name as you want it announced for competition:

Please write your name phonetically: _____

Talent

(Not to exceed 90 seconds in performance length)

Please include type of talent, the author, composer or performer associated with recognition of it, any information concerning the number of years of study or other pertinent information

Type Here:

TALENT INFORMATION SHEET

NAME _____

CONTESTANT # (pageant will assign) _____

1. Type of talent that you will present (dance, sing, piano, drama, etc.):

2. Title of Selection: _____

3. Composer or Author: _____

4. Will you use an accompaniment track on CD?

(Please bring two (2) CDs to rehearsal on Saturday morning.)

5. Type of microphone that you will need for your talent (headset, Handheld/cordless, stand microphone, microphone for instrument): _____

Contestant Name _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Community Service Information

This form should list information/amounts earned for this local competition only.

Name of Candidate

Name of Local Competition

Community Service Project

Name of your other Community Service Projects

Number of hours worked for other projects

Amount of money raised for other projects

Total Hours and Amount Raised

Total number of hours worked

Total amount of money raised

Number of people directly impacted by your efforts

I do hereby swear that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that if any statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Candidate Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

2022 Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Candidate Checklist

Contestant: _____

Date of Birth: _____

- 1 COMPLETED Local Pageant Contestant Contract and Scholarship Rules, **Signed by Contestant and Parent**
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- EITHER 1 Proof of Residence-This can be your parent's utility bill, a copy of your driver's license or your parent's driver's license.
OR 1 Certified Letter by Educational Institution you attend.
- 1 COMPLETED Personal Data Sheet
- 1 COMPLETED Resume
- 1 COMPLETED Platform Sheet
- 1 COMPLETED Emcee Form (On Stage Introduction)
- 1 COMPLETED Talent Form
- Talent Music (if any) on CD only! 1:30 or less in length. **Please submit 2 CDs at rehearsal.**
- 1 5"x7" Color Picture, this will be used on the website, in the program, and for the Judges Books. **Please email photo to local director of the pageant you are entering.**
- 1 COMPLETED Community Service Questionnaire

Return all of the items on the list to the local director for the competition you are entering.