

Miss Mississippi

Requirements and Forms

To become Miss Mississippi, a candidate must first win a local preliminary competition to be eligible to compete for the title of Miss Mississippi, a process requiring personal commitment, hard work, and talent. The role of a local titleholder is a great privilege that comes with great responsibility. We hope this information will serve as a guide to helping you understand the local competition process and answer questions you might have regarding the 2022-2023 local competitions. For specific information concerning when and where local competitions are scheduled please check the Miss Mississippi website (<https://miss-mississippi.com>).

For local competition deadlines including their dates and locations, please contact the specific local director for the competition of interest.

The Miss America Organization is 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. Miss America candidates contribute tens of thousands of community service hours annually and have raised over \$13 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and Miss America scholarships since 2007.

The mission of Miss America is to prepare great women for the world and to prepare the world for great women. As such, the Miss America Organization is dedicated to empowering young women to achieve their personal, professional, and educational goals.

The vision of Miss America is she can be whatever she wants to be. And yes, she is beautiful- beautiful in the way she is smart, principled, and passionate. Stunning in how she leads, commands a room and makes an impact. Striking in her authenticity, adaptability, and fearlessness. She is genuine and has the ability to take her power and use it to change the world. Never guided by what she should do but forever driven by what she could do. She has the confidence, the skills, and is empowered to make it happen.

The young women who compete in the Miss America system are intelligent, articulate, highly motivated, caring, talented, ambitious, and hard working. They are passionate about their social impact initiative and are major contributors to public service. They exemplify leadership skills, strength of character, and spirit – they touch lives.

Miss Mississippi candidates should be an example of the highest standards for young women in our state and represent the principles and vision of the Miss America Organization.

We are thrilled you have taken the first steps to competing and possibly winning the Miss America title.

Am I Eligible to Compete?

Please make sure you meet the following requirements to ensure your eligibility to compete in a Miss Mississippi Local Competition. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact the local director of the specific competition you are entering.

- Eligibility
 - Never Before Competed in any National Finals of the Miss America Organization
 - Age: Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by July 31 in the calendar year of the state competition in which she competes
 - Must be a high school graduate by July 31 in the calendar year of the state competition in which she competes
 - Must not be older than twenty-five (25) years of age as of the last day in the state competition's calendar year in which she competes (December 31). **The candidate cannot turn twenty-six (26) years of age at any time during the calendar year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31) in which she will compete at the state competition.*
 - Residence: Must reside in, be enrolled in, and physically attending classes on a full-time basis at an accredited college or university; or be employed on a full-time basis for at least six months in the state in which she intends to compete
 - Citizenship: Must be a citizen of the United States of America at the time she enters her first competition
 - Education: Must be a high school graduate or have successfully completed the GED testing program for high school equivalency or have successfully completed the academic requirements for entry into a college or university degree program by July 31, 2023 immediately preceding the National Finals
 - Employment: Must be a full-time employee working in the state for at least 40 hours per week, or be defined as full time by your employer and work no less than 32 hours per week for at least 26 consecutive weeks immediately preceding the date of the first local competition. This employment must be maintained through the state and national competition.
 - Additional Requirements
 - Must have never been married, nor had a marriage annulled
 - Must not be a parent or the adoptive parent of any child
 - Must never have been convicted of a criminal offense, nor have any criminal charges pending
 - Must be of good moral character and has not been involved in any act of moral turpitude
 - Must be in good health and can participate fully and without limitation in all program activities
 - Must not use or consume any illegal controlled dangerous substances or abuse the use of alcohol or other dangerous substances
 - Additional requirements may be expressed in local and state contestant contracts

Competition Requirements

As a Miss Mississippi candidate, you will be expected to advance your social impact initiative and serve as an ambassador for the Miss America and Miss Mississippi Organization, raising funds and awareness for scholarship.

As such, the qualities and attributes that judges are looking for include:

- Well-spoken with exceptional grammar and communications skills
- Intelligent
- Talented
- Enthusiastic
- Charismatic
- Energetic
- Approachable
- Innovative
- Competent
- Organized
- Flexible
- A team player
- Professional in her appearance both casually and on the job
- Engaging with people of all ages and all backgrounds
- Wants to be a positive role model
- Can articulate her job
- Understands, has a true belief in, and is ready to execute her social impact initiative each day
- Builds partnerships
- Understands and uses social media strategically and tactically

Local Competition Phases of Competition

- Scoring Percentages for all local competitions are as follows:
 - Private Interview – 35%
 - On Stage Interview/Social Impact Pitch – 15%
 - Red Carpet – 15%
 - Talent Competition – 35%
- Competition Specifics
 - Private Interview*
 - The 9-minute 30-second private interview is designed to allow insight into the candidate's ability to fulfill the responsibilities of being a local titleholder. It is an opportunity for the judges to learn as much as possible about the candidate's qualities and attributes, commitment to her social impact initiative, ability to be a role model, and ability to express and distinguish her beliefs. Questions can come from a variety of places including but not limited to candidate resume, social impact statement, current events, education, and personal opinions.
 - A candidate can have a 30-second closing statement where they will be able to share any closing comments with the judges. At the 9:30 mark, the judge will indicate that the time is up and the candidate will have 30 seconds to close her interview on any subject that she so chooses.
 - What to Wear – Candidates should look their professional best. You are applying for a job and should dress in a manner that is reflective of that job.
 - On-Stage Interview*
 - The on-stage interview is a continuation of the candidate's private interview and brings to the stage in an interactive energetic way to showcase each candidate's intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for the titleholder job.
 - This phase of competition allows the audience to get to know the candidate and enables the audience to see how these discussions take place in a public forum showcasing your ability to communicate, stage presence, commanding presence, and relatability. The audience gets to see that the candidate does not simply answer the question, but builds on a conversation from the personal interview.
 - This phase allows one to see how well the candidate can serve as a role model and is reflective of her generation.
 - What to Wear – Candidates should look their professional best. You are applying for a job and should dress in a manner that is reflective of that job.

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Social Impact Statement

- Immediately following the Onstage Interview, the candidate will deliver a 10-20 second Social Impact Pitch, which at her discretion can include a statement on the initiative's importance, her work and plans with the initiative, or other information.
- Each candidate must have a social impact issue that she will devote her time to promoting during her year of service. This social impact initiative is a cause or organization that the candidate is passionate about and volunteers her time to improve. Some examples of social impact issues include but are not limit to literacy, mentoring, Alzheimer's awareness, organ donation, etc. You should make your SII personal and make it unique to what is important to you.
- What to wear – Candidate's choice

Red Carpet

- The Red Carpet part of the competition allows a look into how the candidate exhibits her own personal style, attitude, personality, grace, presence, and confidence while making her own statement about her mission of the job.
- This phase allows a look into composure, confidence, the attention she captures on the stage, her command of the stage, presence, and how she appears in the spotlight. This phase of competition allows one to see how she carries herself on stage and how she presents her social impact initiative.
- What to Wear – Candidates should look their red carpet best.

Talent

- Each candidate will perform her talent live with a ninety-second (90) maximum time limit. There will be absolutely no exceptions to this rule.
- Talent competition provided an insight into the candidate's preparatory and performance skills. The judges are looking for the interpretive ability and technical skill level along with the stage presence and personality.
- Candidates will be allowed only two (2) practices of their talent presentation prior to the local competition. These talent rehearsals will be scheduled at the discretion of the local director.
- What to Wear – Candidates should select an outfit appropriate for their talent.

Candidate Registration

1. Each Candidate will register once for the 2023 crowning year. [Click Here](#) for the Candidate Registration Link
 1. The information collected on this registration link includes:
 1. State
 2. Select Miss or Teen Competition
 3. Name
 4. Date of Birth
 5. E-mail address
 6. Phone number
 2. The registration process is completed when you pay \$35.
2. After completing Step 1, the Candidate will receive a receipt and the Miss Mississippi Office will receive the Candidate's information.
3. The Miss Mississippi Office will e-mail the Candidate a welcome letter along with a list of the local competitions that are scheduled.
4. To register for a local competition, use the [Candidate Local Competition Registration link](#) and pay \$75. (Only Miss candidates are required to pay the local competition registration fee. Teen Candidates please use discount code: TEENLOCAL.)
5. The candidate will receive a receipt and the Miss Mississippi Corporation will receive an e-mail confirmation that the candidate has paid to compete in the local competition.

Miss America requests that all candidates set-up an optional fundraising page on their Spotfund site using the profile setup link: <http://spot.fund/missamerica2023>

The candidates will need to complete the 2023 State & Local Miss Candidate Agreement that can be found at the bottom of our ["How to Compete"](#) page.

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 to register for Spotfund, visit:

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

All candidates competing in Local Competitions must raise a minimum \$100 per local, and an additional \$250 in fundraising to be eligible for their State Competition after winning a local.

All fundraising monies must be submitted no later than your interview on the day of the local competition. Proof of payment must be provided to the local director.

PERSONAL DATA SHEET

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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: _____

Candidate Resume

Candidates will submit a Resume. This, along with the Social Impact Initiative, will comprise the entire application for this job. This application is an opportunity to demonstrate to the judges why they should consider a candidate for the job of Miss Mississippi. The judges will receive these documents exactly as submitted.

Resume Instructions:

Create a professional resume detailing your education, activities, organizations, skills and accomplishments.

- The resume can be no more than two (2) pages
- In the style/format you feel best reflects interviewing for the job of Miss Mississippi 2023

Candidate Social Impact Initiative Statement Instructions

This is your opportunity to explain to the judges what your chosen social impact initiative is, why it is important to you, and to define its purpose. In addition, it should explain how your social impact initiative 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.

1. Create a new word document.
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.
3. With the justification set for left, type “**Name:”** in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name.
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. Double space down. Set your justification to “center”. Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
6. Double space down. 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 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.
7. 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
8. 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.

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

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

Name Pronunciation Form

Your Name as you want it announced for competition:

Please write your name phonetically:

Production Questionnaire

The information given below will be used in writing our script. The things that are said about you during Talent, and Red Carpet are taken from this sheet.

Name: _____

Talent (please specify vocal, tap, piano, etc.): _____

Title of Performance: _____

Accompaniment (check one): CD _____ None: _____ Other: _____

Please state exactly how you want your talent introduced: _____

Talents presentations must not exceed 90 seconds in length

Please state the exact time of your talent: _____

Complete listing of props needed for talent (only functional props will be allowed, that is, props that are actually used in your act). _____

Microphone (please select one): Stand _____ Hand _____ Lavalier _____ None: _____

Red Carpet: The following may be announced by our emcee during your evening wear/social impact presentation.

Parents: _____

School/Job: _____

Major: _____

Platform: _____

TALENT RESERVATION FORM
****Directors Discretion If Needed****

NAME _____

CANDIDATE # (competition will assign) _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone Number _____

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

2022-2023 Miss Mississippi Local Competition Candidate Checklist

Candidate Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

- _____ Completed Local Competition Contract and Scholarship Rules, Signed by Candidate and Parent, if applicable
- _____ Copy of Birth Certificate
- _____ Proof of Residence/School/Employment – Documentation will depend upon how you are claiming eligibility
- _____ Completed Personal Data Sheet
- _____ Completed Candidate Resume
- _____ Completed and Signed Social Impact Initiative Statement
- _____ Completed Community Service Form
- _____ Completed Name Pronunciation Form
- _____ Completed Production Questionnaire
- _____ Talent Reservation Form, if needed
- _____ Talent Music – Ask local director how he/she would prefer music to be submitted
- _____ 1 5x7 Color Picture, to be used for the judges’ books and other publicity. Ask local director how he/she would prefer the picture to be submitted.
- _____ Proof of MAO Registration and Payment Confirmation

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