



## **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 18 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 18. 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.

### **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 Social Impact Initiative and acting as an ambassador for 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.

## **Phases of Competition:**

### **Private Interview (30%)**

Each Miss candidate will have a 9 minute and 30 second private interview with the judges. Each Teen candidate will have 8 minutes private interview with the judges. The judges will receive the candidates resume and social impact initiative (SII). The resume is similar to a work resume and is limited to two pages in length. The SII is a one page essay about the candidate's social impact projects. For this phase of competition, the candidate should wear interview attire.

### **Lifestyle & Wellness (10%)**

This phase of competition is designed to see how well the candidate maintains a lifestyle of good physical health and whether or not she has the sense of confidence and self- assurance needed to serve as a titleholder. The candidate should demonstrate she takes care of herself and participates in activities which promote a healthy lifestyle. The candidates will wear a type of aerobic/active-wear clothing, chosen by the Local Organization, NOT a swimsuit.

### **Talent (40%)**

Each candidate will have 90 seconds to present their talent.

### **Evening Wear/On-stage Question (20%)**

This phase of competition is designed to assess the candidate's poise, grace, and commanding stage presence, as well as her ability to answer a question with eloquence and intelligence in front of a large audience.

## **General Information**

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

### Candidate Registration:

1. Each Teen 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>

6.

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.

### **Spotfund: 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.**

## Application Packet Instructions:

**All forms MUST be typed**

### 1. Local Contract

A parent or legal guardian must sign this contract. All candidates should 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 Resume

The resume is similar to a work resume and is limited to two (2) pages in length. The copies will be given directly to the judges as you provide it to us. No changes will be made to the Resume you turn in.

### 4. 1 copy of Social Impact Initiative (SII)

The Miss America Organization, the Miss Mississippi Organization, and Local Competitions encourage the young women who participate in the program to become involved in the community, to develop a Social Impact Initiative, 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 SII is a one page essay about the candidate's social impact project.

### 5. Proof of Residence

To compete in this competition, 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 SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVE

**Please remember. This is your opportunity to explain to the judges what your chosen platform (social impact initiative) is and why it is important for the local competition to embrace this platform. In addition, it should explain how your platform will further the Miss Local and the Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen "brand" to the public.** This **ONE (1) page, single-spaced** document combined with the Candidate'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 candidate may explain the lack of judging materials during her interview, if she so chooses.

Create a new document.

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.

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.

Double space down. Set your justification to "center". Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.

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.

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 Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen.

**Remember to single space the text that you are typing.**

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/MMSOT 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

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.

**SAMPLE SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVE**

**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.

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Signature/Date

**EMCEE FORM**

**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 among candidates 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 FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate # (competition 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate 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

## 2023 Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen Candidate Checklist

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 COMPLETED Local Contract and Scholarship Rules, **Signed by Candidate 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 Social Impact Initiative
- 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.