

The Miss Tombigbee Scholarship Program

The Miss Tombigbee Pageant is an official preliminary to the Miss Alabama/Miss America Pageant system. The Miss America Pageant is the world's largest source of scholarship assistance for young women. Each year over \$43 million in scholarships are made available to young women at the local, state and national levels combined.

In addition to the chance to win scholarship money, the Miss Tombigbee Pageant offers the opportunity for young women to grow as an individual. It is an experience that can be exciting and interesting. It can sharpen your talents, round your personality and strengthen your character.

A \$50 deposit is required by the application deadline. This deposit is not an "entry fee". There is no charge to compete in the pageant but there is a service requirement of \$ 100.00 to the Children's Miracle Network explained in the next paragraph. This \$ 50.00 deposit holds your spot in the competition and guarantees your participation in the pageant as long as all other criteria have been met. If you complete the pageant, the deposit will be returned to you the night of the competition. If you withdraw after the application deadline and fail to give a 48-hour notification of your decision not to compete, you will forfeit your deposit. A lot of time and money goes into producing this pageant and we look forward to your participation.

A \$100.00 Service Requirement for Children's Miracle Network. Service, one of the four points of the Miss America Crown, has always been important to contestants striving for the opportunity to be Miss America. To build on this, contestants competing at any level in the Miss America system will be expected to raise a minimum of \$ 100.00 to support the Children's Miracle Network and the Miss America Scholarship Fund. This is not an entrance fee, but rather a new service requirement to participate in Miss America sponsored pageants. Each contestant will log onto www.missamerica4kids.org to create her personal fund raising web page. There will be prompts for you to set a goal and email friends and relatives to ask for support. There will also be a tutorial to help you through the process. If you would rather complete this service requirement via paper check, please contact the director for more information.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

The Miss Tombigbee Pageant is judged as follows:

Personal Interview	-	25%
Talent Competition	-	35%
Swimsuit Competition	-	15%
Evening Wear Competition	-	20%
On Stage Question	-	5%

CONTESTANT PLATFORM:

Each contestant must have a platform issue that she would focus on as her field of service should she become Miss Alabama. Please complete the "Platform Issue Form" enclosed in the packet. Take some time to think about issues of importance to you, ones that you feel strongly about. Choose a topic of substance and value; an issue you think could influence people or make a difference in society. Some examples of past platforms include AIDS Awareness, Child Abuse Prevention, Breast Cancer Awareness, Organ Donation and the list goes on and on!! With the new service requirements for Children's Miracle Network, you might consider adopting CMN as your personal platform.

The best advice that we can give you is to choose a platform that can be supported by a 501(C)3 Non-profit Organization. A few examples of a 501(C)3 non-profit organization include: The American Red Cross, United Way, Children's Miracle Network, Make – A – Wish Foundation and the American Cancer Society. There are numerous non-profit organizations out there. It is just wise to select a platform that is marketable.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Contestants must accept scholarships won at the Miss Tombigbee Pageant in writing. The Miss Tombigbee Scholarship Committee must receive a letter of acceptance within thirty (30) days (July 31, 2009) of the award notification. Failure to submit this letter will result in forfeiture of the awards. The scholarships available include \$1,000.00 for the winner and additional scholarship monies for the 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up, 3rd Runner-up, 4th Runner-up, Talent Winner, and Swimsuit Winner. (There will not be a 2nd, 3rd or 4th runner ups if there are not enough contestants in the pageant.)

INTERVIEW COMPETITION

Wardrobe for interview should be:

- a. Business Attire
- b. Shoes

Be careful of the color you select. You will be very close to the judges. Check your make-up so that it is natural and attractive. Keep in mind "The All American Woman Look." This is not a "dress-up" playtime. No cocktail suits are allowed. Remember you are applying for a job!

Each contestant will have a **10-minute interview** with five judges. During this time, you will have an opportunity to talk about your interests, future plans, goals and your platform. The judges will have a copy of your platform questionnaire, as well as your contestant application. They will also be noting your vocabulary, voice, general knowledge, personal appearance and how you handle yourself on a one-to-one basis.

If you are asked something that you do not know, say so. Be yourself!! Don't be fake!

The time starts at the time you enter the room. You will stand at a podium across from the judges and the interview will begin. There will be no opening statement. The interview will last until the 9 minute 30 second point in the timing process. At the 9 minute 30 second mark, you will be asked if there are any additional issues that you would like to comment or clarify or close with something that you did not get to discuss in your interview. This segment will only allow for un-discussed issues. Additional questions may follow from the judges. If you have nothing more to discuss, the interview ends.

TALENT COMPETITION

You must perform your talent within a **ninety** (90) maximum time limit. There will be absolutely no exceptions to this ruling. The production staff will make all final decisions regarding talent presentations. Your talent will be timed during production practice.

Your talent presentation must be live; the use of film is prohibited. There will be no duplication of talent presentations during the entire pageant.

Examples: Two contestants singing the same song.

Two contestants dancing to the same song, etc...

If your music selection is a duplication, the pageant staff will immediately notify you. Remember to be smart – work on at least two pieces so you can be prepared. Talent selections will be approved on a first come, first approved basis so get your paperwork turned in early. The first contestant to get **all** of her paperwork in will have her talent approved. If you are performing a medley, each song within that medley must be listed on your application.

Please be specific on your application regarding your talent. The form asks, what type of talent will you present? Please be specific. Don't just put "Singing" or "Dancing". State the title of the song and any pertinent information.

Contestants will be allowed only one (1) run through of their talent presentation. If time allows following interviews, we may be able to run through talents again, but we do not make any promises.

If your talent requires accompaniment, you must provide us with a CD.

A clavivova keyboard is available for pianist.

We will furnish you with the microphone we deem necessary for your talent act:

1. Hand Held
2. Stand Microphone
3. Lavalier Microphone (although not suggested)

Lighting will be done by the production staff.

Dancers, Bibb Graves Auditorium has had many professional companies perform on this stage. Remember, a good dancer can handle a bad floor. Choreograph your dance for approximately a 32' x 22' stage. (This may change according to sets used). Be a professional and choreograph for small changes if needed.

Costumes should be in good taste. Costumes with ornaments, beads or anything that would drop on the stage needs to be corrected. This may be dangerous for yourself and other contestants.

Coaches, friends or family members may not at any time assist you during the pageant! The pageant production staff will be there to help you in any way we can. Absolutely no parents and friends will be allowed in Bibb Graves Auditorium at any time except in the audience for the actual performance.

ABSOLUTELY NO PROPS WILL BE PERMITTED UNLESS THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO YOUR ACT.

TALENT INTRODUCTION SHEET:

In your packet of information, you have a Talent Introduction Sheet. You must type your own introduction for your talent. This introduction may not exceed 10 seconds. You may leave a blank space for your contestant number to be inserted. The following is only an example:

_____, Jane Doe will sing “Title of Selection” by “Author”.

Depending on your talent, you may need more information, but keep it short and simple!

Send a talent CD to the Miss Tombigbee Post Office Box 1289. We must receive the music so that we can get the sound ready for that day. Please call if you need to make arrangements to get the music to me personally. (Carl – (205) 499-1599 or (205) 652-9583 We have included the music as part of our paperwork requirement for our deadline.

SWIMSUIT COMPETITION

Swimsuit Style

Swimsuit may be one or two piece swimsuits of your choice – no particular brand or designer. There will be **no** thongs or bikinis allowed. All swimsuits must be in good taste and approved by the production committee at check-in. We do not permit the use of oil on a contestant’s arms, legs or back in Swimsuit Competition. Stockings are prohibited.

Swimsuits will be checked for compliance with competition rules following check-in.

To remain consistent with the Miss America regulations, you may decide to wear heels, sandals or go barefoot during the swimsuit competition.

Swimsuit Competition Walk

Physical Fitness in Swimsuit Competition counts as 15% of the overall total points. Swimsuit competition is limited to a 20 second walking, turn and pause.

Work hard on your figure. Tone your body with a workout and diet. Remember your walk – confident and graceful.

EVENING WEAR COMPETITION

Traditionally, evening wear has consisted of a long gown. For your information, most contestants choose to wear long gowns. However, the Miss Alabama Pageant guidelines define evening wear choices as:

1. After-five apparel of any length (Max. 4 inches above the knee)
2. Long gowns
3. Evening Pants, Dresses, or Cocktail Clothes (No Suits)

We want you to feel good and comfortable. The judges are instructed to judge you on Overall “First Impression”; Beauty and Sense of Attractiveness; Sense of Confidence; Personality and Stage Presence; Technique (Walk, Posture, Carriage and Grace); and Appropriateness of Evening Wear. This counts as 20% of overall judging.

On Stage Question

Miss Tombigbee, Miss Alabama and Miss America now spend most of their hours addressing groups both large and small. As an advocate of your platform and ambassador of the Miss Alabama program, your ability to speak is critical. The evaluation process at each level of competition should include segments in which each contestant has the opportunity to speak extemporaneously before an audience on some subject of which she has knowledge.

Contestants will be required to answer one question on stage, and this question will relate to current events. This question will be drawn from a bowl and these answers are scored. Smile – show your personality and energy. Project and be natural. Enjoy yourself!!!

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Miss Tombigbee Pageant is a Miss Alabama preliminary. We are very fortunate to have access to wonderful facilities on The University of West Alabama campus. We would ask all contestants to behave in an orderly and lady-like fashion while you are a guest of the University of West Alabama.

Once we have received your completed entry materials, you will receive an itinerary of the day’s events.

Interviews will be conducted in the afternoon, so you can make plans to arrive in comfortable clothes and shoes. We will run through talent rehearsals in the morning and production either late morning or following the interviews.

Feel free to bring a pillow and blanket in case there is any free time and you want to rest prior to competition. You may want to bring a robe to wear backstage.

Please label all of your belongings. Be organized, and keep all of your items together. **WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PERSONAL ITEMS.**

PRODUCTION NUMBERS:

For the opening number, we ask that you bring a black cocktail dress and appropriate shoes.

IMPORTANT: NO PARENTS, COACHES, FAMILY OR FRIENDS WILL BE ALLOWED AT REHEARSALS, LUNCH, PRE-PAGEANT ACTIVITIES OR BACKSTAGE.

If anyone would like to send you flowers or gifts, the local florist is:

Dogwood Florist
(205) 652-2423

Flowers can be sent to Contestants Name, The University of West Alabama, Bibb Graves Auditorium backstage to be delivered Saturday, January 23.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

The best motel in the area is the Comfort Inn in Livingston (205) 652-4839. It is located right off of I-20/59 at the Livingston Exit.

Disclaimer

This information may change without notice so all questions must be directed to the Miss Tombigbee Local Executive Director