

PAGEANT GUIDE

Applications: ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE, NO EXCEPTIONS! **A DEPOSIT MUST BE PAID WITH THE APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS.** *If you have a different last name than your child, please note that in an email to us.* NO applications may be turned in at the pageant, even if you have paid by PayPal. Placement in the pageant is determined by when we receive your application. **If we offer an Early Bird Discount – it must be received by that date, not postmarked by that date.** Money may not be brought to the pageant and paid on pageant day. We prepare the script, the score sheets for the judges in advance and the contestant's registration fees must be received prior to this process.

REFUNDS: **NO refunds are given.** Your registration fee will be transferred to the next Sterling Miss Production Pageant or you may select the Sterling Miss Production pageant you would like the application fees applied to. *However, the pageant must be within the same calendar year.*

THIS IS **A SEMI-GLITZ PAGEANT:** Pageant dresses with stones are allowed. Spray tans are allowed. We do allow fixed pageant hairstyles and age appropriate makeup. We do not want LARGE, FAKE hairpieces. Please keep makeup age appropriate on baby, tiny and petite groups- meaning, we do not want the full glitz, overdone look. Little Miss & up may wear full makeup, but we do not want the hair and makeup to OVERPOWER the contestant. If you are in doubt, please call the director.

How do I prepare for the Pageant? The contestant should practice **smiling** and walking with the head up and shoulders back. The arms should be relaxed and hanging loosely down at your side as you walk. Practice walking slowly, at a relaxed pace. Make friendly eye contact with the judges while you are on stage. Judges will be seated at a table on the floor, directly in front of the raised stage. A diagram is available on the homepage of our website (www.SterlingMiss.org). If the contestant has competed before and has another pageant walk, please do NOT change it. However, each contestant must enter and exit the stage the same way. This is to help those that may not have competed before and don't know what to do. Contestants will NOT have points taken off for not walking from one point to the other in a particular route. **Contestants will have time to practice walking on the stage and stopping on the "X's" once they check in on pageant day.**

What is the attire for this pageant? *Your child is NOT judged on the outfit but on the presentation. It is suggested for Moms who will be escorting their baby / tiny contestants on stage, that the mom wear solid, dark colors, to serve as more of a "backdrop" for the child. Baby and Tiny Miss should wear short cupcake or Portrait Gowns. Petite may wear long or short gowns, unless the pageant calls for a long gown (Sterling Miss USA and River Region) and all other age divisions will wear long gowns.*

How early can I check in on Pageant day? Check in time is 45 minutes prior to the pageant start time. **Please make sure that your contestant arrives close to being dressed and ready to go onstage.**

We reserve the right to combine age divisions for 2 contestants or less OR adjust age division categories by ages to a more fair competition.

Will I be able to practice before the pageant? Once checked in, the contestant may go on stage to look for the stage "X" markings to show where they should walk during their onstage presentation and practice. A diagram of the basic walk is found on the homepage of our website at www.SterlingMiss.org. **If your child has competed before and has her own walk, that is fine. Judges are NOT looking at how the contestant makes her way to each "x"...just how she carries herself from point to point. Points will NOT be deducted for not following this walk pattern.**

During Competition: Moms will escort **Baby and Tiny** Contestants onstage. **ONLY ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN is allowed on the stage or in the staging area at any time.** Grandparents, friends, etc. must be seated in the audience once the pageant begins. For the Awards Presentation: **Mom or Dad must be on stage standing BEHIND the Contestant (Baby, Tiny) to assist us with recognizing the winners of our Optionals and Age Category Winners.** Once the child's name is called, the parent needs to bring the child forward to receive her awards.

For Petite Miss to Teen Contestants, the girls will enter the stage and model alone. During the Awards Ceremony, as your name is called, please take a few steps forward, so it helps us identify our winners. Please talk about this with your contestant so that she will

be aware of how this needs to be done. Often times, we can't see the contestant number on the dress and it delays the awards presentation.

PHOTOS: Please be courteous and not stand up during the pageant. **While taking photos, you MAY NOT stand near the judges' tables to do so. This is a distraction to the judges and can make them feel very uncomfortable. You will be asked to move, if this happens.**

AWARDS: In keeping with our policy, winners and alternates are determined by the number of entries in a particular age category. Our standing rule is three contestants remain meaning: If we have 5 in the age division, we would crown a Winner, a 1st with three left standing. If there are Nine Contestants, we would crown a Winner, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5 left standing.

What are Optional Categories? Optional categories offer extra opportunities for contestants to win awards. Optionals include a Themed Casual Wear (check your application and website for more information) and Photogenic competition. Winners receive crowns and sashes/or medals.

Most Photogenic Competition? **NEW! ALL PHOTOGENIC ENTRIES ARE TO BE EMAILED NO LATER THAN the WEDNESDAY prior to Saturday's pageant. Send to: SMPAGEANT@GMAIL.COM. In the email subject line, List the Child's NAME and AGE DIVISION.**

What is the People's Choice Queen? **The People's Choice Queens are the 2nd Highest Titles in this Pageant!** *We are big on community service and our charity of choice is Children's Miracle Network/Children's Hospital of Birmingham. Therefore, as part of the competition and 10% of your score is your minimum donation of \$10 to the People's Choice Awards. Above and beyond that donation, we award a **People's Choice Crown and Sash** for the Contestant in the Baby to Little Miss Division and the Pre-Teen to Teen Division contestants who raise the **most money** for the charity. Some parents put donation jars on their desks at work. Some contestants go door-to-door to solicit donations for their jar. Some have even had yard sales to add cash to their jars because the money goes to good causes. Jars with each contestant's name on it, will be set up at the People's Choice table located at the back of the hall the day of the pageant. Your required donation, along with any additional funds collected should be dropped in when you arrive, and friends and family can continue to make donations to the jar **until THE PAGEANT STARTS**. We **DO Double Crown** in this category. That means if the overall winner of the age division, also raises the most money for People's Choice, she will win both awards. Any checks collected should be made payable to **CMN and are tax deductible**.*

All judges' decisions are final.

What is the cost for admission to the pageant: The price for entry to the pageant is \$5.00 per person, excluding the contestant. Children under the age of 5 are free. **Please have exact change. If writing a check, please have it made out ahead of time to: STERLING MISS to speed up the check-in process. Tickets can be purchased online from our SHOP until 5:00 p.m., Thursday before the Pageant.**

If you pay by check and it is returned, a \$30 NSF fee will be charged. If you pay registration and other fees through Paypal and do a chargeback against Sterling Miss/River Region for any reason, we will pursue all legal avenues, including charges of fraud.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE --We will be in touch via email during Pageant Week to give any final instructions. Be sure to check your email.



**DBA: Sterling Miss Christmas/ River Region Pageant Systems/ Diamond3 Productions
105 Inge Place, Prattville, AL 36066**

By participating in a Sterling Miss Production (dba: Sterling Miss Christmas, River Region Pageant Systems/ Diamond3 Productions and/or Little, Teen, River Region), hereby reference as Sterling Miss entities, you (and, if you are a minor, your parents or legal guardians) understand and assume all risks of injury which may occur while competing in the above named pageant, and all of its activities, organized by the Sterling Miss Productions and Diamond3 Productions, LLC, or its entities: River Region Pageant Systems, Diamon3 Productions, Sterling Miss, Sterling Miss USA and/or Little, Teen, Miss/Mrs. River Region, its staff/volunteers or Saint Joseph's Catholic Church and it staff/volunteers.

You hereby grant full permission to use your name, picture, or likeness on any media including the Sterling Miss Entities (and any of the aforementioned websites, registration forms, programs, brochures, and any other record of participation in above named pageants for any publicity and/or promotional purpose(s) without obligation to you or your successors, assigns, et al., or liability by the publisher or promoter.

You also hereby release Sterling Miss Entities, Sterling Miss Productions, LLC, River Region Pageant Systems, Diamond3 Productions, Sterling Miss, Sterling Miss USA, and/or Little, Teen, Miss/Mrs. River Region, the afore mentioned Pageant Committee and Pageant volunteers, the host site of the pageant/program/trade show, actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, spectators, event officials, and participating sponsors and any of their respective parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, employees and agencies, and (collectively, the "Released Parties") from any liability whatsoever, and waive any and all causes of action, related to any claims, costs, injuries, losses, or damages of any kind arising out of or in connection with the Pageant/ talent show/trade show/fashion show (including, without limitation, claims, costs, injuries, losses and damages related to personal injuries, death, damage to or destruction of property, rights of publicity or privacy, defamation or portrayal in a false light, whether intentional or unintentional), whether under a theory of contract, tort (including negligence), warranty or other theory.

I have read the "Frequently Asked Questions" Sheets and understand the rules, as they stand for this pageant, including date and time deadlines for pageant entries, optional categories and judging.

You attest that you (participating contestant) are in good physical condition and capable of participating in the above-named pageant.

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have read this document; and, I understand its content.

Contestant Name (Printed) _____

Contestant Signature _____

Date Signed _____

I (we) hereby certify that I (we) have read this document, understand its content and are the
CONTESTANT'S legal parent(s) or guardian(s).

Contestant Name (Printed) _____

Contestant Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Date Signed _____

Contestant Parent(s) / Guardian(s) Date Signed _____