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**Miss Blackhawk Valley Competition Guidelines, Eligibility and Code of Conduct**

**Registering for a Local/ Fees**

Each candidate will need to register and pay an annual $35 membership fee through the Miss America website in order to be eligible to compete for a local. Miss Illinois will then send the candidate a packet of information, including how to find eligible local competitions (Miss BHV, etc.). Next, each Miss candidate will need to register and pay a $75 registration fee per local they wish to compete in. **THIS IS A REQUIRED STEP IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE.**

<https://shop.missamerica.org/products/miss-america-competition-membership-yearly-subscription?_pos=2&_sid=d1cee15b1&_ss=r>

**Spotfund**

The Miss America Organization is no longer partnered with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals and no longer requires donations to be made to this organization. However, scholarships are still being raised for MAO as a whole. All Miss and Teen candidate MUST create a spotfund account, but there is no minimum requirement. Participation is still highly encouraged. All donations raised will stay “in-house” for scholarships provided to candidates by MAO. Please use the correct links as Miss and Teen are different.

Miss: <http://spot.fund/missamerica2022>

Teen: <http://spot.fund/maoteen2022>

**Social Impact Initiative**

Miss Blackhawk Valley candidates are required to select a social impact initiative that has relevance in her community or society at large and about which she feels passionately about. She should research this subject and seek out at least one community service project and one not-for-profit organization with whom she could work to address or make an impact on this issue. She will write a one-page essay about this issue, the reason she chose it, how she has been involved in making an impact on the issue, and how it has changed or improved her community. The essay must be typed and will be included in the Judges’ Books.

 **Resume**

The candidate will prepare a resume in a style recommended by the Miss America Organization containing information about her education, career goals, scholastic achievement, leadership roles and other facts. This is the second document included in the Judges’ books along with her candidate photo.

**Phases of Competition**

**Interview**

There will be a 10-minute interview with the candidate standing behind or next to a podium before the panel of judges. There will be 9½ minutes of press style questioning by the judges with the option of a 30 second closing by the candidate. The interview is designed to evaluate her ability to communicate, her intellect, maturity, and personality. Attire for interview is business attire or that which is appropriate for a job interview. Interview accounts for 35% of the total score.

**Talent**

This is the performance of music, drama, art, dance, baton, or acrobatics and is limited to a maximum of 1½ minutes (90 seconds). Showmanship and entertainment value factor in the score with skill, interpretive ability, degree of difficulty and stage presence. The only props allowed with talent are those that can be carried on by the candidate. Then, the prop must be used in greater than half the performance. Recommend no props be used at all. This accounts for 35% of the total score. Please convert music, if desired to have, to an MP3 digital format to be submitted via email.

**On-Stage Interview/Social Impact Pitch**

In the on-stage interview phase of competition, the candidate will be asked a question formulated by the judges after the private interview and as such, is an extension of the private interview. The candidate will be asked 1 question. She will be evaluated on her ability to answer the question, charisma, expression and how well she “thinks on her feet.” In addition, a Social Impact Pitch will be presented to the audience. The social impact pitch should be a short presentation /explanation of the candidate’s social impact initiative and is between 10 and 20 seconds. This area of competition showcases each candidate’s intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for the titleholder’s job. This allows audiences to truly get to know the candidate and see the candidate’s greater ability to communicate, stage presence, and commanding presence. The question and pitch are worth 15% of the overall score.

**Red Carpet**

This phase of competition allows the candidate to wear “red carpet glamour.” It gives the judges a look into how the candidate exhibits her own personal style, attitude, personality, grace & confidence. This accounts for 15% of the total score.

The candidate with the highest number of points will be named Miss Blackhawk Valley.

**Eligibility**

A Miss Blackhawk Valley candidate must be a citizen of the United States; a resident, a full-time student or employed in Illinois and between the ages of **19 and 26**. See below for new age guidelines from MAO.

- “Must be at least nineteen (19) years of age on December 31st in the calendar year of the State Competition in which she competes

- Must not be older than twenty-six (26) years of age as of December 31st in the calendar year of the State Competition in which she competes.

- For the avoidance of doubt, Candidate cannot turn twenty-seven (27) years of age at any time during the calendar year in which she could compete at the State Competition. (Calendar Year defined as January 1st through December 31st).

- For the avoidance of doubt, Candidate cannot be eighteen (18) years of age on December 31st in the year she could compete at the State Competition. If the candidate is eighteen (18) years of age on December 31st in the year she could compete at the State Competition, then she must compete in the MAOTeen program, unless she meets the Grandfather Clause below.

- Grandfather Clause for 2022 State and Local Agreements ONLY: Since age eligibility was revised after the start of the 2022 state & local competition season, Candidates who are:

1) eighteen (18) years of age on or after July 31, 2022 (the year of the State Competition) are eligible to compete in the Miss program, as long as the candidate is also a

2) high school graduate or equivalent by July 31, 2022

- Note, this grandfather clause will not be in effect for the 2023 State & Local Competition season.”

**Code of Conduct**

* The candidate named Miss Blackhawk Valley will serve for an entire year. She will represent the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program with her teen and princess(es), and they will make appearances, performances and parades as arranged by the Miss Blackhawk Valley staff during the year of service with the accompaniment of (one) BHV board member. Some of which have already been reserved for our new titleholders and it is highly important you make a strong effort to attend these appearances
* She will be professional in all appearances made and will be respectful of all organizations with whom she visits
* She will be a role model and mentor to the Outstanding Teen and Miss Blackhawk Valley Princess(es)
* Miss Blackhawk Valley will always possess high moral standards and professionalism
* She will sign a contract with the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program as well as Miss Illinois and must abide by any and all standards and rules included in these contracts
* Candidates, titleholders, family, and friends will be respectful of the time and efforts provided by the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program as we are all volunteers with other full-time obligations
* The Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program is an official Miss America preliminary competition. Miss Blackhawk Valley will compete for Miss Illinois in June 2022. The Miss Blackhawk Valley Board will be responsible for her preparation and will assist in the paperwork, wardrobe selection, interview, and other areas of preparation
* Be aware that not all expenses are covered by Miss Blackhawk Valley when it comes to wardrobe, hair, makeup, travel, etc. Miss Blackhawk Valley will be responsible for her wardrobe for appearances, but will be given a generous wardrobe allowance for the Miss Illinois competition by the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program as part of her prize package
* She will advocate for her social impact initiative throughout her year. These community service appearances will be sought out by the titleholder herself and should be a focus during her year of service. All appearances must be preapproved by our Board, however.
* Miss Blackhawk Valley will not be involved in any explicit behavior during her year of service, and she will not promote malicious, slanderous, negative, harmful, or other degrading behavior against the Miss Blackhawk Valley, Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Outstanding Teen, Miss Illinois, Miss Illinois’ Outstanding Teen, Miss America, or Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Organizations whether that be verbally, written, or otherwise
* She will be responsible for sharing her year through social media via the titleholder Instagram and Facebook accounts. Be mindful that all content shared on personal social media accounts directly reflects the titleholder, the Miss BHV, Miss Illinois, and Miss America organizations as a whole. Use the internet wisely before posting. Distasteful content is prohibited.
* All the candidates will receive a scholarship. Miss will also have the opportunity to compete for additional scholarships, such as Community Service if she so wishes to. Miss Blackhawk Valley will assist you to obtain these scholarship funds whether it be a cash scholarship from our organization or directing you to the Miss Illinois/ Miss America website for scholarship retrieval paid out by those organizations. However, it is the candidate’s responsibility to obtain necessary documentation and items in order for us to pay out the scholarship(s)
* The Miss Blackhawk Valley Board is here to help you. Should a problem or concern ever arise, please initiate communication promptly to resolve any issues. We are here to support you fully during your year and to assist in making this year memorable and beneficial
* Failure to abide by all rules and regulations as stated in this code of conduct and local/state contracts will result in disciplinary action, as determined on a case-to-case basis by the BHV team

The oldest continuous competition in the Miss Illinois system, Miss Blackhawk Valley has over 70 years of providing scholarships to young women. We are happy you have decided to be a part of our history!

Revised 10/01/2021