

**Miss Blackhawk Valley Competition Guidelines**

**Pageant Year 2020**

**Platform/Social Impact Initiative**

Miss Blackhawk Valley candidates are required to select a platform, also known as 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 called a Platform Statement 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.

**National Platform**

The Miss America National Platform is the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. A local candidate will register at [www.MissAmerica4kids.org](http://www.MissAmerica4kids.org) as part of the Application. She needs to obtain $100 in donations prior to the local competition in order to be eligible to compete. Select Miss Blackhawk Valley as the Local and 2021 as the “crowning” year.

**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**

In this present year, the Miss America Organization is undergoing changes. We will use the new Miss America format.

**Interview**

There will be a 10 minute interview with the candidate standing behind 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. Business suits are prohibited. Interview accounts for 25% 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 contestant. Then, the prop must be used in greater than half the performance. Recommend no props be used at all. This accounts for 40% of the total score. Please convert music, if desired to have, to an MP3 digital format to be submitted via email.

**On-Stage Interview**

In this 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.” This represents 15% of the total score.

**Evening Wear/Social impact**

The candidate will model evening wear, sometimes referred to as “Red Carpet,” that suits her personality. The evening wear is not judged, only how well it reflects the young woman as she has presented herself throughout the competition. After she models the outfit, she will make a statement about the social impact of her platform. The statement should be around 10 seconds. This accounts for 20% of the total score.

The candidate in the top five with the highest number of points will be named

Miss Blackhawk Valley.

**Eligibility**

A Miss Blackhawk Valley contestant must be a citizen of the United States; a resident, a full-time student or employed in the Western Illinois Counties of Rock Island, Henry, or Mercer and between the ages of 17 and 25. She will be no older than 26 on December 31, 2020.

Miss Blackhawk Valley contestants may not compete for or hold any other pageant titles while competing for Miss Blackhawk Valley or during her year of service.

Miss Blackhawk Valley will compete for Miss Illinois June 17-20, 2020. The Miss Blackhawk Valley Preparation Team will be responsible for her preparation and will assist in the paperwork, wardrobe selection, interview and other areas of preparation. She will sign a contract with the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program as well as Miss Illinois.

The candidate named as Miss Blackhawk Valley will serve for an entire year. Since she will compete in the Miss Illinois pageant in June, much time the first months will be spent in preparation for Miss Illinois. She will be a role model and mentor to the Outstanding Teen and Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Princess(es). She will represent the Miss Blackhawk Valley Program with her pageant sisters, and they will make appearances, performances and parades as arranged by the Miss Blackhawk Valley staff during the year of service. She will also advocate for her social impact initiative and will support Miss America’s National Platform, Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

The Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program is an official Miss America Pageant preliminary competition. The winner of the Miss Blackhawk Valley title will win a scholarship, a wardrobe allowance in preparation for Miss Illinois and an opportunity to receive tuition grants from local colleges.

All the candidates will receive a scholarship. They will also have the opportunity to compete for additional scholarships such as Community Service and Academic Excellence, among others.

The oldest continuous pageant in the Miss Illinois system, Miss Blackhawk Valley has 71 years of providing scholarships to the young women of Western Illinois.

Revised 10/19/2019