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**Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Outstanding Teen Competition Guidelines & Eligibility**

**Registering for a Local Pageant/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. Next, the teen candidate will need to register to compete for Miss Blackhawk Valley. **THIS IS A REQUIRED STEP IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE.**

<https://members.missamerica.org/register>

**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 the 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: LINK WILL BE PROVIDED SOON

Teen: LINK WILL BE PROVIDED SOON

**Social Impact Initiative**

Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Outstanding Teen candidates are required to select a social impact initiative that has relevance in her community or society at large and about which she deeply cares. 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’s Outstanding Teen 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. This can be modern and has no true format required. A traditional and modern example have been linked on our website.

**Sponsor**

Each candidate must have a sponsor who will pay the sponsor fee of $100. Please see sponsor form document.

**Phases of Competition**

**Interview**

There will be an 8-minute interview with the candidate standing behind or next to a podium before the panel of judges. There will be no opening, no close. The judges will evaluate her ability to communicate, express her views, and the passion that she displays about her Social Impact Initiative. Attire for interview should be what she would choose for a job interview. The interview accounts for 30% of the total points.

**Talent**

The talent portion of the competition is a performance of the candidate’s choice lasting 1½ minutes (90 seconds). Music, costume, and choreography must be age appropriate. 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. Talent accounts for 40% of the total points.

Please convert music, if desired to have, to an MP3 digital format to be submitted via email.

**Lifestyle and Wellness**

The attire for this phase of competition is a type of aerobic/active-wear clothing and NOT a swimsuit. She will perform an aerobic routine during this phase of competition that she will be taught by Miss Blackhawk Valley staff. The candidate will be evaluated on how she maintains good physical health as well as her energy, on-stage personality, overall physical fitness, and her sense of confidence and self-assurance. This accounts for 10% of the total points.

**Evening Wear and On-Stage Question**

The candidate will model evening wear. She will be evaluated on her confidence, composure, poise, grace, personality, walk, sense of style and age appropriateness of the selected evening wear, and her overall stage presence. The candidate will be asked one question; this question may concern these topics: teen issues, general knowledge, and your Social Impact Initiative. She will be evaluated on her ability to answer the questions and ability to make the audience want to listen to her answer. This accounts for 20% of the total points.

The candidate with the highest number of total points shall be named Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Outstanding Teen.

**Eligibility**

A Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Outstanding Teen candidate must be a citizen of the United States; resident or full-time student of Illinois and between the ages of **13 and 18**. See below for updated age guidelines from MAOTeen.

- 1. Must be at least thirteen (13) years on the first day of the State Competition in which she competes

- 2. Must be no older than eighteen (18) years of age as of December 31st in the calendar year of the State Competition in which she could compete.

- For the avoidance of doubt, Candidate cannot turn nineteen (19) years of age at any time during the calendar year in which she could compete at the State MAOTeen Competition (January 1st through December 31st).

**Code of Conduct**

* The candidate named Miss Blackhawk Valley’s OT will serve for an entire year. She will represent the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program with her Miss and princess(es), and they will make appearances, performances and parades as arranged or approved by the Miss Blackhawk Valley staff during the year of service with the accompaniment of (one) BHV board member/ trusted adult. 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 Miss Blackhawk Valley Princess(es)
* Miss Blackhawk Valley’s OT 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’s OT will compete for Miss Illinois’ OT 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’s OT will be responsible for her wardrobe for appearances, but will be given a generous wardrobe allowance for the Miss Illinois’ OT 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’s OT 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 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 07/27/22