

Miss Birmingham Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

Dear Contestant:

Welcome to the Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition! We are excited to have you as a contestant and are looking forward to crowning three who will represent the Birmingham & Cahaba Valley areas at the Miss Alabama Competition held in June.

As an official franchise of Miss Alabama and Miss America Organization - the largest source of educational scholarship funds to young women - we are proud to offer over \$4,000 in educational scholarships to the winners and runners up.

The first 20 completed packets (both email & mail items) received by the deadlines will be accepted. To ensure your place in our competition, a **\$50** no-show deposit is **required** for entry. Please make **checks** payable to Miss Birmingham. *Your check will be returned to you the day of the competition right before production rehearsals begin.*

Entry documents, along with instructions, deadlines, and information about the competition events are listed on the following pages. **Please read the entire packet to ensure all items are provided to the Director by the deadlines.**

If you have any questions about any portion of the competition, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you as we move toward crowning three winners, one of whom could go on to become Miss Alabama and Miss America!

Remember - compete only with yourself and do it better than the time before!

Warmest Regards,

Mrs. Victoria



Style Scholarship Service Success

Victoria Seale Sims

Executive Director

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River

www.missbham.com missbham@gmail.com

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET

2024 Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River
November 5, 2023 * Thompson High School * 6:30 PM * Tickets: \$20 General Admission

Every Contestant must register with Miss America here: <https://www.missamerica.org/register/>

New for 2024!

Health & Fitness:

- Miss Contestants now compete in the **Health & Fitness** phase of competition and **must** wear **red** Rebel Athletic Wear for local competitions. This phase is comprised of a modeling walk, and *not* a fitness routine. You may purchase your choice of fitness wear from the pieces available on the Rebel Athletic website: <https://www.rebelathletic.com/mao.html>
Important! Use the Miss Alabama code when checking out: **MAO-AL-MD9F-9ILU-DJYQ**
- Contestants must also submit a fitness introduction - 2-3 sentences on why you are heart healthy. This introduction is on the Contestant Information sheet in this packet, and will be read onstage as you model fitness wear.

Interview:

- Each Contestant is introduced by the panelist chair, will take her position, and immediately present a **brief 30-second introduction/Community Service Initiative (CSI) overview**.

The format for paperwork has also changed and samples are included in this packet. Do not mail items other than the ones listed below. Do NOT require a signature!

Important! Deadlines for the various items along with the format (email or mail) to send are in the checklist below:

<u>EMAIL to</u> missbham@gmail.com <u>Deadline</u> October 26th		<u>MAIL to</u> <u>513 Saint Lauren Way</u> <u>Birmingham, AL 35242</u> <u>Deadline</u> October 28th	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Interview Fact Sheet</u> <i>Word or PDF only</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Contract
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Community Service Essay</u> <i>Word or PDF only</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Scholarship Rules
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Headshot Photo</u> <i>High Resolution</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50 No-Show Check
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Rising Star Name & Photo</u> <i>Where Applicable</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Rising Star Information and \$35 Fee</u> <i>per Rising Star, Made out to Miss Birmingham</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Talent Music</u> <i>MP3 or MP4 Format Only</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Contestant Information Sheet</u> <i>Notarized Copy</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>State Contract & Copy of Birth Certificate</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Contestant Information Sheet</u> <i>Talent & Fitness Introductions are on this Page</i>		

Mandatory Local Orientation via Online Meeting: October 29, 2023 – 3 PM CST
(Link will be sent after the October 28th Deadline)

After October 28th, all Contestants will be emailed an updated competition day schedule.

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River

Miss Birmingham's | Miss Cahaba Valley's | Miss Hidden River's Teen

CONTESTANT INFORMATION SHEET

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

School/University: _____

SECTION A: ELIGIBILITY

I have registered to compete on the Miss America Website <https://www.missamerica.org/register/>

Age: _____

As of the date of this preliminary

Date of Birth: _____

Enclose a copy of your official birth certificate

SECTION B: TALENT PRESENTATION

Type of Talent (i.e., Vocal, Dance, Piano, etc.): _____

Name of Talent Selection: _____

Type of microphone preferred:

Cordless

Lavalier

Microphone with Stand

None

Talent Introduction:

Provide a short 2-3 sentence introduction for your talent presentation below:

SECTION C: HEALTH AND FITNESS PRESENTATION: CONTESTANTS MUST WEAR RED REBEL ATHLETIC WEAR

<https://www.rebelathletic.com/mao.html>

Use the Miss Alabama code when selecting items and checking out: MAO-AL-MD9F-9ILU-DJYQ

Fitness Introduction:

Provide a short 2-3 sentences describing *how you are heart healthy* to be read during your fitness presentation below:

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Miss Birmingham's | Miss Cahaba Valley's | Miss Hidden River's Teen

CONTESTANT INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION D: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY

By signing this Local Contestant Contract Acknowledgment of Understanding and Statement of Eligibility, I agree to abide by the complete Miss Alabama Local Contestant Contract. I understand all terms and conditions of this application and the complete Miss Alabama contract together with its attachments, as I request acceptance of my application to participate in Miss Alabama preliminaries.

Contestant Signature: _____

SECTION E: NOTARY SECTION

Sworn and subscribed to before me this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Notary Public of _____ Signature _____

SECTION F: DIRECTOR'S SECTION

I have verified eligibility requirements for this contestant and this contestant may participate in this local competition pursuant to the terms of the complete Miss Alabama Local Candidate Contract and all attachments and the Local Preliminary Contract for my local competition.

Director's Signature: _____ Date _____

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Competition Items to Bring & Opening Number Attire

★*Important!* Local Orientation

Local Orientation will be conducted via online meeting on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 3 PM CST.

This meeting is mandatory for all Contestants so mark your calendars!

If for an unavoidable reason you are unable to attend, you must notify the Director of the reason at least 24 hours in advance, and your parent may attend in your place. The expectation is that you understand what was discussed and send the Director an email to that effect.

Opening Number Attire

- Black Pants & Black OR White Top
 - If the top is strapless, wig tape OR double-sided tape *must* be used to secure the bodice to ensure no wardrobe malfunctions happen
 - Coordinating shoes of your choice that you can dance in.
 - **NO Boots & NO Wedges**

Items You MUST Have with You on Competition Day

- Hard Copy of the Completed 2023 MAO State & Local Contestant Contract – the director will send in the hard copy of this contract to Miss Alabama if you are selected as one of our titleholders – **REQUIRED**
- Talent attire, props and a **backup copy of your talent music on your phone** (no exceptions)
- Competition wardrobe including all jewelry, shoes, and undergarments
- List of current obligations and Class Schedule – include information and dates for all extracurricular activities (including sorority, sports, church, etc.) and any family obligations – the winner will be asked for this the night of the competition
- All clothes, makeup, and other competition necessities
- **Robe** to wear backstage - **REQUIRED**

Other Important Things to Remember

- Please wear *comfortable* clothes when you arrive & remember that parents and friends must leave after helping unload
- No Contestants may leave the competition venue during competition day
- No outside hair or makeup artists are allowed – be prepared to do your own hair and makeup
- Dressing Room moms will be available to assist you & keep everyone on track for the next event – please be sure to thank them during the day
- All meals, water & snacks will be provided by the Miss Birmingham Organization
 - If you have specific food allergies, you may bring your own food/snack items; you **MUST** inform the Dressing Room Moms upon your arrival
- Please label anything that you wish to keep – *any items left without a label cannot be returned. If you realize an item has been left after the competition, please e-mail the director promptly*
- Please bring an electrical power strip, a lighted mirror and/or a full-length mirror
 - The competition will provide a limited number of power strips so please make sure to label any that you bring with you to the venue
- Garment racks are provided by the competition for hanging costumes and gowns
- **Dressing Room space is LIMITED – BRING ONLY NECESSARY ITEMS**

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Competition Events & Information

Each Contestant is judged by the selection panel immediately after each event. The score will range between 1 and 10. The high and low scores for each Contestant are discarded in each area of competition.

The three (3) Contestants with the highest overall scores at the end of the competition will be named Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River, respectively.

The Phases of Competition are listed below in order:

★NEW for 2024★ Private Interview with Judges - 30%

New for 2024: Each Contestant is introduced by the panelist chair, will take her position, and immediately present a **brief 30-second introduction/Community Service Initiative (CSI) overview**. Questions may range from current events to personal goals and interests and may be taken from the contestant's resume and CSI essay. At the 9-minute 30-second mark, the panelist chair will inform the contestant of the remaining time. The Contestant may choose to use the time to finish her response to the last question asked or proceed in a closing statement.

Wardrobe: Fashionable attire suitable for a professional job interview.

On-Stage Question/Conversation (OSQ) - 10%

A single question from **the Delegate's Community Service Project (CSI)** will be asked and the response should be no longer than 30 seconds.

Wardrobe: OSQ is completed immediately following the Opening number in Opening Number attire.

Health & Fitness - 20%

This phase of competition is where the Contestant showcases her commitment to health and fitness initiatives. A contestant's discipline and commitment to being physically healthy is a key to success in all other areas of life, and the rigors of representing the Miss America program is a national titleholder.

Wardrobe: Miss America **mandates** that competition attire be purchased from the Rebel Athletic product line, from the the Miss America Go-Red line of fitness wear. Shorts, skorts, leggings and any style top may be worn. Delegates are not required to purchase new attire for each competition!

Note: *All fitness wear choices must cover the part of the body fully to avoid any wardrobe 'malfunctions'.*

Performing Arts Talent or HERStory - 20%

Each Delegate will perform a talent presentation **not to exceed 90 seconds (1 minute 30 second)**. Talents may include but are not limited to – vocals in every medium, dance in all forms, gymnastics, baton, circus arts, instrumentals, and drama. The talent competition distinguishes each delegate's skills and personality, interpretive ability, technical skill level, stage presence, the ability to capture the audience's attention, and totality of all elements. *There will be no repeated talents in the competition. If two delegates wish to perform the same song, the first Delegate returning all completed paperwork will reserve that song.*

Wardrobe: Costume of the delegate's choice that is appropriate and in good taste for the chosen talent.

Evening Gown - 20%

Allows judges to have a look into how the Delegate exhibits her own personal style, attitude, personality, grace presence and confidence. Scoring is based on how the delegate carries herself, not on the actual gown she is wearing or the perceived cost of that gown.

Wardrobe: Evening wear of the Delegate's choice, with complementary shoes and accessories

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley

Miss Hidden River

Competition Day Rules

- 1. RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS:** Treat everyone involved with the competition the way you want to be treated. Our volunteers have put in a lot of work to get everything ready for today. Make sure you thank them!
- 2. HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS AND SMILE!**
- 3. NO VIDEOS OR PHOTOS IN THE DRESSING ROOMS – NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 4. CELL PHONES:** Cell phones are strictly prohibited in the dressing rooms. Phones may be used outside the dressing room during breaks. At all times, cell phones must be on silent/vibrate during competition day
- 5. NO FRIENDS OR FAMILY ALLOWED BACKSTAGE, IN DRESSING ROOMS, OR IN THE HALLS OUTSIDE OF THE DRESSING ROOMS**
- 6. NO OUTSIDE HAIR OR MAKEUP ARTISTS ALLOWED:** You should come to the competition prepared to do your own hair and makeup.
- 7. NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM OR DRESSING ROOMS:** We want to avoid spilling anything and respect the facility guidelines. All food & drinks will be provided for you by the competition in a designated area.
- 8. PAY ATTENTION DURING REHEARSALS:** We have a tight schedule and much to cover in a short period of time.
- 9. TALENT MAY BE REHEARSED TWICE ONLY:** Each Contestant will receive a scheduled time allotment to rehearse her talent selection through twice. If any Contestant chooses to forfeit one or both rehearsals, the next Contestant will be called and the missed rehearsal may be completed at the end of all rehearsals only with the express consent of the Director, and only if time permits.
- 10. BE PREPARED:** Know your resume/fact sheet & community service essay – copies of these items are provided to each judge for use during the interview. Be familiar with current events & social issues.

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Tentative Competition Day Schedule

The times below are TENTATIVE – the schedule is subject to change based on participation and a final schedule will be sent to all contestants after the deadlines have passed.

Important!★ **LOCAL ORIENTATION** will be held via *online meeting the Sunday prior to the Competition – October 29, 2023 at 3 PM CST*. During this mandatory meeting, competition order will be selected & the director will answer any questions you have!

10:30	11:00	Contestants Arrive & Unload
11:00	12:00	Production Rehearsals (opening number, health & fitness, onstage question & evening gown)
12:00	1:30	Miss Lunch Available Compliments of Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley
12:00	12:30	Group 2 – Talent Rehearsal
1:30	3:10	Group 1 - Interviews
3:30	5:10	Group 2 - Interviews
4:30	5:00	Group 1 – Talent Rehearsal
5:30	6:00	Miss Opening Number & Rising Star Rehearsal
5:00	6:15	Miss Dinner Available Compliments of Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River
6:25		All Contestants Backstage & Ready
6:30		Miss Competition Begins!

Below is a **tentative** schedule for talent rehearsal and interviews – please note – *this schedule is subject to change depending on the number of Contestants*. **After** October 29th, all Contestants will be e-mailed an updated competition day schedule.

While you are waiting for your talent rehearsal time or your interview – you will have time to get ready for your next event, eat, and get to know the other Contestants!

Contestant	Talent Time	Interview Time
1	4:30	1:30
2	4:33	1:40
3	4:36	1:50
4	4:39	2:00
5	4:42	2:10
6	4:45	2:20
7	4:48	2:30
8	4:51	2:40
9	4:54	2:50
10	4:57	3:00
Judges' Break – Interviews Only		
11	12:00	3:30
12	12:03	3:40
13	12:06	3:50
14	12:09	4:00
15	12:12	4:10
16	12:15	4:20
17	12:18	4:30
18	12:21	4:40
19	12:24	4:50
20	12:27	5:00
Doors Open 6:00 PM Competition Begins at 6:30 PM Tickets - \$20 General Admission		

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River Rising Star Information

Rising Stars

Each Contestant in Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River may have a Rising Star the day of the competition. The Contestant may choose her own Rising Star, or one may be assigned to her on Competition Day (subject to participation).

On Competition Day, Rising Stars will be presented onstage and introduced by Miss Alabama, directly following the Evening Gown Competition

Rising Stars are girls between the ages of 7 and 11 who are interested in getting to know about the Miss Alabama program and the Contestants who compete in it. We encourage you to choose your own Rising Star – the Miss Alabama office has a list at the ready of young girls who would like to take part. You may contact the office for that list at 205.871.6276.

An electronic photo (300 dpi minimum resolution) of EVERY Rising Star for the Program Book must be sent via e-mail to missbham@gmail.com no later than October 26th.

If a Contestant wishes to choose her own Rising Star, the Rising Star forms (located on the Miss Birmingham website) and the **fee of \$35** should be included with the rest of the application packet documents. These must be received at the Miss Birmingham address no later than October 28th.

Contestants who do not turn in Rising Star information with their entry packet may have one assigned to them on competition day (*subject to participation*).

The Rising Stars paired with the winners of Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley will be crowned the respective winner's Rising Star and go on to accompany her winner to Miss Alabama in June.

All Rising Star information along with a detailed Rising Star schedule may be found on the Rising Stars page of the Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River website:

www.missbham.com/Rising_Stars

Miss Birmingham Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

Contract & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

Relationship:

The Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization (*the “Local Organization”*) is a non-profit organization whose express purposes for the winners of Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley, and Miss Hidden River (*the “Titleholder”*) are as follows:

1. The provision of scholarship funds
2. The representation of the Titleholder in the Miss Alabama Competition
3. The promotion of the Local Organization and the Miss Alabama & Miss America organizations
4. The promotion of the Titleholder’s community service initiative

As a result, there are several important principles which are basic to the titleholder’s year of service. The titleholder must recognize that for her year of service she will be a public figure who represents the Local Organization and its sponsors, the Miss Alabama and Miss America organizations along with the Birmingham and Cahaba Valley communities at all times. *Therefore, the titleholder understands, agrees to, and will abide by the following:*

I. General:

- a. Understands that her year of service is the period beginning the date she is crowned and ending the date she crowns her successor
 - i. Should she be selected as Miss Alabama, her year of service as the titleholder will end on the date she is crowned Miss Alabama
- b. Understands that the Local Organization is a supportive body, and will collaborate with and assist the Titleholder throughout her year of service to be her best at all times
- c. Will actively listen to advice from the Executive Director and Assistant Director, and have interactive discussions regarding furtherance of her community service initiative, appearances, fitness routine, interview skills, and talent presentation
- d. Understands that the Local Organization will strive to help the Titleholder represent the community to the best of her ability
- e. Understands that the titleholder is solely responsible for **a)** claiming any scholarship money awarded, and **b)** abiding by the *Scholarship Rules* governing scholarship awards
- f. Understands that failure to meet a scholarship deadline will result in the scholarship being forfeited
- g. Understands that she is a brand ambassador for the Local Organization and the Miss Alabama organization *at all times*, and will conduct herself appropriately, embodying the four (4) points of the crown and the five (5) pillars of the Brand
- h. Understands that she must always be gracious and respectful to the Local Organization, the public, friends, family, chaperones, and sponsors. *There will be no exception to this rule*
- i. Will maintain immaculate personal grooming and proper attitude wherever she may be – on campus, at an extracurricular activity, in public, while driving, at a scheduled interview practice, or at an appearance
- j. Will refrain from the use of profanity or other inappropriate language and all inappropriate conduct/behavior during her year of service – both public and private, including social media (as defined in §IV below)
 - i. Inappropriate conduct/behavior is defined as: *any conduct or behavior that includes, infers or implies sexual content of any sort, profanity, abbreviations that indicate profanity or bias, gossip, or politically-biased, racially-biased, sexually-biased or gender-biased behavior, language, material or content*
- k. Will refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and will maintain a healthy lifestyle, good physical fitness, and healthy eating habits throughout her year of service
- l. Will not drastically change her physical appearance (hair color or length, weight gain or loss, etc.) without first discussing with the Executive Director, unless ordered by a physician for health reasons
- m. Agrees to use sponsored gift certificates for photographs, wardrobe, and other items; will discuss with and obtain approval from the Executive Director if a sponsor is not preferred

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

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- n. Will provide the Executive Director with professionally photographed and edited, high-resolution digital (minimum of 300-dpi resolution) competition headshots *both with and without the crown*, within four (4) months or 120 days of being crowned as a Titleholder of the Local Organization
- o. Will meet with the Executive Director no less than weekly (either by phone, video conference, or in person) during her entire year of service
- p. Thank-you notes will be hand-written and mailed within 24 hours of an appearance and within 24 hours of receiving any donations from sponsors or gifts from supporters received at any time prior to or during Miss Alabama week, including those sent by the Local Organization
- q. Understands that if any information submitted to either the Local Organization or Miss Alabama is determined to be untrue – the title, the right to compete in Miss Alabama, and all prizes will be forfeited, and any scholarship funds and prizes must be returned to the local Scholarship Organization in full by the former titleholder
- r. Understands that any regression from the rules set forth in this contract and the state contract she has already signed can result in the title and the right to compete in Miss Alabama being forfeited
- s. Understands that while holding the title of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River, she is ineligible to compete in any other pageant or competition system (i.e., USA, National Sweetheart, etc.) according to section 5.4 of the MAO Application Agreement

II. Communication:

- a. Understands that all communications and decisions will be made **solely** between the individual Titleholder and the Executive Director
- b. Understands that the Executive Director encourages frequent communication and will promptly respond to texts, emails or phone calls from the titleholder
- c. Will frequently and consistently communicate with the Executive Director for her entire year of service
- d. Will monitor texts and e-mails and will respond **promptly** (within a *maximum* of 8 hours) to all communication from the Executive Director
- e. Will communicate and develop relationships with her Rising Star, Teen and sister titleholders
- f. Will let the Executive Director know immediately if she feels uncomfortable with any appearance, wardrobe selection, talent selection, etc., and will bring any other concern to the immediate attention of the Executive Director so that a satisfactory resolution may be reached for all parties involved

III. Preparation:

- a. Understands that the Local Organization will provide ample preparation opportunities for the Miss Alabama competition. The titleholder must be willing and available to utilize these opportunities to develop her skills for success
- b. Will consult the Executive Director regarding any questions concerning state paperwork deadlines, appearances, wardrobe selections, competition events and performance requirements
- c. Understands, has a true belief in, and is ready to execute on her community service initiative every day
- d. Will attend weekly interview practice leading up to the Miss Alabama Competition, as scheduled by the Executive Director
- e. Will not have any type of coaching or outside help, advice, or influence in preparing for the Miss Alabama Competition, with the exception of talent coaching, **unless disclosed and approved in writing by the Executive Director**
- f. Understands that her talent selection for Miss Alabama must be approved by the Executive Director:
 - i. Each individual titleholder must discuss and perform her selection for, and obtain the Executive Director's approval, prior to Miss Alabama Contestant Orientation in March

Contestant Initials: _____

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IV. Social Media:

- a. Understands and uses social media tactically and strategically
- b. Will create and maintain a titleholder account for FaceBook and Instagram, and will post regularly to these accounts for fundraisers, community service initiative endeavors, appearances, and Miss Alabama social media calendar posts and competition information
- c. Will be added as an editor of the official FaceBook page for the Local Organization and will post regularly to that page as well as her titleholder and personal pages to ensure consistent publicity during her year of service
- d. Understands that she, as the titleholder, is responsible for creating and posting content *herself*, to the aforementioned social media accounts
- e. Understands that any and all social media accounts - such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Linked In, Twitter and Facebook - are public forums, that the reputation of the winner and the competition is affected by the content posted, and all accounts (personal and titleholder) will be monitored for content by the Executive Director
- f. Will promptly accept the Executive Director and each Board Member as a friend or follower
- g. Understands that use of inappropriate material on either personal or titleholder social media accounts is *strictly prohibited*:
 - i. Inappropriate material is defined as: *any post, tweet, text, meme, video, or photo – shared or authored – that includes, infers, implies or contains sexual content of any sort, profanity, abbreviations that indicate profanity or bias, or politically-biased, racially-biased, sexually-biased or gender-biased material and/or content*
 - ii. Any posts containing such material should be immediately removed from personal accounts prior to the Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River competition
 - iii. All social media accounts should remain free of questionable posts or inappropriate material during the entire year of service as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River

V. Miss Alabama Required Paperwork, Photographs & Functions:

- a. Understands that she, as the titleholder, is responsible for drafting all state materials and paperwork required for Miss Alabama *herself*, and that the Executive Director will review and suggest edits as needed during the approval process
- b. Will provide the Executive Director a copy of the folder contents received at Contestant Orientation via email and/or Google Drive
- c. Will send electronic copies of all state required paperwork (questionnaire, information sheet, fact sheet/resume, community service initiative essay, etc.) to the Executive Director, *and understands that all items must be approved before submission to Miss Alabama*
- d. Will meet all deadlines set forth by the Miss Alabama competition for all state materials, including but not limited to paperwork, photos, community service notebook, transcript, talent clearance, and contracts
- e. Will review & select all photos taken for use at the Miss Alabama Competition with the Executive Director and Assistant Director
- f. Understands that all photos (contestant line-up and ads) for the state program book must be approved by the Executive Director before being submitted to the Miss Alabama Office
- g. The Community Service notebook must be shown to the Executive Director at least *one week prior to submission*.
- h. The Titleholder understands that she is ultimately responsible for the preparation of the Community Service notebook
- i. Will arrive at all Miss Alabama required functions (orientation, workshop, gala, etc.) at least 15 minutes prior to start time or at the time set forth by the Director and agreed to by the titleholder
- j. Will immediately text or call the Executive Director and the Miss Alabama event coordinator (where applicable) if unforeseen circumstances will make her tardy to any function or prevent attendance. *There will be no exception to this rule*

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

Contract & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

VI. Wardrobe:

- a. Will provide her own wardrobe for appearances and all phases of competition in Miss Alabama
- b. Will provide the Executive Director with a budget for her competition wardrobe to ensure that any recommendations from the Local Organization governing body are within that budget
- c. Understands the competition wardrobe is comprised of clothing for all competition phases, appearances and rehearsals during Miss Alabama week, including shoes, jewelry and *undergarments*
- d. Understands that appropriate **undergarments** must be worn at all appearances as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River, **and** during rehearsals and **competition** events at Miss Alabama. *There will be no exception to this rule*
- e. Understands that all wardrobe choices for the Miss Alabama Competition must be approved by the Executive Director:
 - i. Agrees to promptly schedule wardrobe shopping trips with the Executive Director and/or Assistant Director
 - ii. Will not purchase any item for state competition without prior approval from the Executive Director
 - iii. Understands that approval may be obtained electronically with proper photos of the selected item sent to the Executive Director via text while shopping, and receiving approval prior to purchase
 - iv. Understands that any changes to the approved state competition and appearance wardrobe must be communicated to the Executive Director immediately and approval of new selections obtained
- f. Will properly groom each item and return it to the sales floor or sales representative while shopping. No clothing will be left in the dressing room
- g. Will promptly schedule alteration appointments with a pre-approved alterations individual or company as soon as possible after purchasing her competition wardrobe
- h. Will have needed wardrobe items selected and either purchased or on layaway no later than March 31st of the year she will compete in Miss Alabama

VII. Appearances:

- a. Will cultivate and build relationships for the Local Organization and will build partnerships for the future
- b. Will seek out appearance opportunities that promote and support her community service initiative
- c. Will arrive dressed appropriately and with appropriate hair and makeup *at least 15 minutes prior* to any engagement or at the appointed time prior to an appearance as set forth by the Director. *Tardiness is not acceptable*
- d. Will immediately text or call the Executive Director if unforeseen circumstances will make her tardy to any appearance. Leaving late is not considered an unforeseen circumstance and will not be considered an acceptable reason for tardiness
- e. Will maintain enthusiasm & approachability at each appearance, engaging with people of all ages and all backgrounds
- f. Will discuss and develop a plan for appearances to further her Community Service Initiative with the Executive Director
- g. Will discuss all appearance opportunities with and understands that all appearances must be cleared and approved by the Executive Director before each is scheduled
- h. Understands that for her protection, a member of the Local Organization, a parent, or an approved alternate chaperone must accompany the title holder on any official appearances unless pre-approved by the Executive Director
- i. Will provide her own transportation to and from scheduled appearances unless the Executive Director has made other arrangements
- j. Will properly prepare herself to successfully meet the requirements of all approved appearances
- k. Will properly rehearse and prepare for any presentation of her talent during her year of service – including any/all appearances and the Miss Alabama Competition
- l. Will never take advantage of the host's hospitality at an appearance

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

Contract & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

- m. Will never give the impression that she is sick, tired, or bored during any appearance, and will maintain interest, enthusiasm, and sparkle during the entire appearance event, *even as she is walking to her vehicle*
- n. Will not cancel any appearance for any reason other than illness or school requirements
 - i. The Executive Director *must* be informed *immediately* if a conflict in scheduling arises
 - ii. Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River will write a letter of regret and offer to reschedule immediately if any appearance must be rescheduled or canceled
- o. Will not refuse or decline any appearance request prior to discussing with the Executive Director
- p. Will make required appearances listed below as scheduled by the Executive Director or the Miss Alabama Board. *Under no circumstances may the Titleholder cancel any of the following (with exception of illness or school obligations discussed with the executive director prior to the scheduled appearance):*
 - Helena Christmas Parade (1st Saturday in December)
 - Miss Birmingham's/Miss Cahaba Valley's/Miss Hidden River's Teen - Best Wishes Reception
 - Miss Alabama's Teen Competition – Introduction of Miss Alabama Contestants (March)
 - Local Organization Boot Camp and Local Wardrobe Check / Approval with Executive Director (usually the weekend prior to Miss Alabama workshop)
 - Miss Alabama Contestant Orientation (March – same weekend as MALOT)
 - Miss Alabama Contestant Workshop (early-to-mid May)
 - Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River Best Wishes/Sendoff Reception (May/June)
 - Annual visits to Veterans Hospital(s) and Alabama Veterans Home as scheduled
 - Miss Alabama Competition (June/July)
 - Miss Alabama Top Ten Fashion Show (if in Top 10)
 - Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River Competition – to crown successor (1st Sunday in November)
 - Other appearances as scheduled by and at the discretion of the Executive Director
 - Other appearances as scheduled by and at the discretion of the Miss Alabama Board

The undersigned Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River Contestant will:

- By submission of both the Local and State Agreements attests that the Contestant lives, works, or attends school in the state of Alabama
- Be no younger than age 18 and no greater than age 28 on December 31st of the year she would compete in Miss America
- Provide a \$50 check to the Miss Birmingham competition as a good faith effort to secure her spot as a contestant. *I am aware that the \$50 check will be returned to me the day of the competition.* I understand that I must notify the Executive Director of my decision not to compete at least 72 hours *before* the day of the preliminary
- Be required to meet minimum fundraising requirements as set forth by the Miss America Organization as a contestant in Miss Alabama, if selected as a Titleholder
- Claim all scholarship monies as indicated by the local Scholarships Rules and understands that any scholarship monies awarded that are not claimed according to the local Scholarship Rules will be forfeited by the contestant
- Allow the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River organization to post photographs and name on their public website

SIGNATURE PAGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

**Contract & Statement of Understanding Between
Miss Birmingham *and* Miss Cahaba Valley *and* Miss Hidden River
and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization**

I, _____, a Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River contestant, by initialing each page and signing below, attest that I have read this agreement and contract in its entirety, and understand all conditions, rules, and regulations set forth therein. I further understand that if found in violation of any part of this local contract, the Executive Director has the authority to revoke the title of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River and a successor will be named to compete in the Miss Alabama competition as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River. In addition, all awards, scholarships, and prerequisites pertaining thereto will be returned and passed on to the successor, who will receive all of the benefits to which I would have otherwise been entitled.

Signature of Local Contestant

Date

Notary Public

Date

My Commission Expires: _____, 20__

Miss Birmingham
Miss Cahaba Valley
Miss Hidden River
SCHOLARSHIP RULES

If awarded a scholarship in the Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition, I agree to the following:

1. I will provide the Executive Director of the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River Competition with an email accepting my scholarship, to **missbham@gmail.com**, **no later than 60 days following the local competition date** - **in order to receive any scholarship monies awarded to me.** This email should contain the following information:
 - a. Acceptance of scholarships in detail (title & amount - including preliminary & other awards)
 - b. Name of University or Lender (student loans) & Address where monies are to be mailed
 - c. Student ID or Loan Number
 - d. Login Credentials (user ID/password) & Website (for online payments)
2. I understand that monies not claimed within the 60-day time frame outlined in Rule 1, will be forfeited by the recipient and returned to the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River Scholarship Fund.
3. I understand that all scholarship monies won will be paid directly to my college or university, or lender if a student loan is in play. The acceptance email required in Rule 1 should indicate the bursar's office address of the college or university or the lender address and should also indicate the student account number or loan number of the recipient. In no instance will the money be paid directly to the recipient.
4. I understand that all scholarship awards to contestants other than the winner, will be available to be disbursed upon the timely receipt (see Rule 1) of the acceptance email from the recipient.
5. The winners' scholarship award(s) will be disbursed on the following schedule upon timely receipt of the acceptance emails:
Payment 1) 50% upon receipt of the acceptance email
Payment 2) 50% after the Miss Alabama Competition, upon receipt of the 2nd acceptance email
6. **In the event that the winner is named Miss Alabama, no successor will be named.**
7. If the winner resigns in good standing, from the position of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River prior to her appearance in the Miss Alabama competition, she will forfeit any further scholarship winnings to which she would have been otherwise entitled. Her successor will be entitled to the winner's scholarship amounts not yet disbursed.
8. If the winner resigns the position of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River after representing her title in the Miss Alabama Competition, there will be no successor named and she will forfeit any remaining scholarship amounts to which she would have otherwise been entitled.
9. If the Executive Director of the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River competition, due to a contract violation, removes the winner from the position, that winner will forfeit all scholarship amounts awarded her by the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River Organization during her tenure as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River. Any funds previously awarded her must be repaid to the Miss Birmingham/ Cahaba Valley/Hidden River Scholarship Fund.

Signature of Contestant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian
(If contestant is under 21 years of age)

Date

Notary Public

Date

My Commission Expires: _____



COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE (CSI) ESSAY

Miss America's Community Service Initiative (CSI) is an integral part of the interview phase of competition, supporting one of the branded elements of Miss America as outlined by the "Four Points" of the crown. The "Four Points" are Style, Scholarship, Service and Success. CSI is specific to the SERVICE point of the crown.

The CSI initiative allows you, as a participating Delegate, to showcase and deploy your interests and creativity, to outline a plan or effort to engage within your local community or state existing programs. You may also design your own program for your community or state.

This ONE PAGE submission in a font style of your choice, font sizes from 11-14 only, should include the following:

- Your name and local title must be in the upper lefthand corner.
- A description of your Community Service Initiative passion or interest
- Why you chose this particular initiative
- How you've partnered or will partner with local/state communities to create momentum
- Any social media or marketing strategies that will best support your CSI
- Any activities you have planned or participated in with respect to this CSI

Use of Graphics

You may use "header only" graphics approximately ½ inch from the top of the 8.5 x11 page. Graphics may include existing organizations' logos, taglines or other creative efforts. You may use bullet points within your essay.

Signature and Date REQUIRED

Please sign and date your submission at the bottom righthand corner. No submissions will be accepted without your signature. Electronic signatures are acceptable.

Name: Jane Smith
Title: Miss Local Title

Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

It is imperative that this nation face and embrace its cultural diversity. While many people have talked about this issue, I believe that most of them have only paid lip service to the true necessity of what needs to be addressed related to this issue. There is a false truth in merely accepting and tolerating cultural diversity. I intend to prove that in order to accept and understand people of other cultures; one must be willing to step out of a personal cultural comfort zone and identify the origin of their prejudice. I will specifically focus on three areas: Children, Communities, and Businesses.

The title of Miss America, combined with the national media already looking at the surface of this issue, will allow me to create the national awareness that must exist. Currently, the term “Cultural Diversity” is well known in the halls of institutions of higher learning and, perhaps, even in the public school classroom because of the need for some to be politically correct. But, in order for us to make a true change in attitudes and behaviors of Americans, we must move beyond talk and into action and policy changes.

My plan is to motivate the media and to partner with the National Conference for Community and Justice. This organization has chapters in every major city in the nation and, in many cases, those chapters have community leaders involved who can, with encouragement and challenging, bring this issue out of hiding and into the public light in each of those communities.

Obviously, the media and the NCCJ already exist. However, what is lacking is a lightning rod to draw attention to this issue. This is where the Miss America Organization steps into the lead. What better role is there for Miss America than to be an agent of change in organizing our nation to accept our differences and to create an environment that values each person on individual characteristics rather than on stereotypes or assumptions?

For years, Miss America was seen as a young woman who cut ribbons and appeared in parades. It is time for “Miss America” to step out of the convertible and *lead the parade*. Our country’s ethnic make-up is changing rapidly and our citizen’s fear of terrorism can explode already existing, but deeply hidden prejudices. I want to be the leader that this nation needs.

This nation needs this issue addressed now and through the already existing NCCJ and its local and state organizations combined with the power of Miss America, we can make a concrete difference now, which will change the direction and the future of our nation.

Signature/Date



Interview Fact Sheet Instructions

- **Must be one single page**
- **Font size 11-14**
- **Margins to be standard 1"**
- **Single line spaced typed responses**
- **May not include any graphics or photos**

See sample on next page.

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River

OPTIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

★*OPTIONAL* Photo Competition:

Each year, we offer the opportunity for Contestants to submit photos that will be judged individually for the most photogenic Contestant overall. Contestants may submit as many different photo entries as they like, to show versatility. Each photo will be judged individually, and a winner selected prior to the competition.

The fees for this phase of competition are **\$100 for 8x10** and **\$50 for 5x7**.

All fees go toward the Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley Scholarship fund

Competition photos will be placed in the **Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Program Book** with your specified caption underneath, and you will receive a **complimentary** Program Book the night of the competition (\$10 value).

High Resolution Photos should be **emailed** to the Director at missbham@gmail.com by the deadline of October 26th to the address below.

ALL FEES may be paid by check – made out to Miss Birmingham & mailed to the address below

Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River – Photo Competition
513 Saint Lauren Way
Birmingham, AL 3524

Miss Birmingham Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River

Dear Friend:

The 2023 Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition will be held Sunday, November 5, 2023. As an official Scholarship Preliminary to the Miss Alabama and Miss America Competitions, we are seeking contributions from the businesses, merchants, and corporations of our Metro Area community to make this year's competition a success for the young girls and women who compete for both scholarships and prizes.

Scholarships are a vital part of the Miss Alabama Competition experience and the proceeds from your advertisement will be used to provide the winners of Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River with funds to further their education as each goes on to represent our city in the Miss Alabama Competition.

The Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition welcomes in-kind gifts as well as monetary donations. Below are our Program Book advertising rates and in-kind gift information.

Type of Ad or In-kind Gift	Price
Full Page	\$100
½ Page	\$50
In-Kind *	Gift Certificate

*All in-kind Contributors will be listed in the Program Book & a link to their website will be added to the competition's websites for one year

All Ads are to be received via e-mail *print ready no later October 26th*. The fee may be given to the Candidate or mailed to the address below:

Make checks payable to:

Miss Birmingham

Mailing Address:

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition – Ad Sales
513 Saint Lauren Way
Birmingham, AL 35242

E-mail to:

missbham@gmail.com

Deadline for receipt of all Ads and Fees is October 26th

All photos must be in JPEG, PNG or PDF Format and must be e-mailed to missbham@gmail.com

Thank You again for your support and generosity that makes the *Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley* a success!

Regards,



Style Scholarship Service Success

Victoria Seale Sims
Executive Director
Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River
www.missbham.com missbham@gmail.com

**Miss Birmingham
Miss Cahaba Valley
Miss Hidden River**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MISS BIRMINGHAM & MISS CAHABA VALLEY & MISS HIDDEN RIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NAME / BUSINESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CONTESTANT: _____ DATE: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ CHOOSE: AD or DONATION

CHOOSE SIZE OF AD:

FULL PAGE – \$100

HALF PAGE – \$50

IN-KIND (GIFT CERTIFICATE)

Make checks payable to *Miss Birmingham*

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR AD SALES IS OCTOBER 26th

For further information text or email:
Victoria Seale Sims: 205.410.6410 missbham@gmail.com

RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

(To be given to purchaser)

Ad or Donation by _____

Submitted by _____
(Candidate Name)

Amount _____ Date _____

**Miss Birmingham
Miss Cahaba Valley
Miss Hidden River**

An Official Scholarship Preliminary to the Miss Alabama & Miss America Competitions