

Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant

Dear Contestant:

Let me take this opportunity to say that we at the Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant are delighted to have you as a contestant, and we are planning a day that should prove to be fun, exciting and enjoyable.

The winners of the Miss Birmingham & the Miss Cahaba Valley titles will have great opportunities to use their talents and speaking ability to promote the Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley, Miss Alabama, and Miss America Organizations while meeting new people throughout the community and will go on to represent Birmingham & the Cahaba Valley area at the Miss Alabama Pageant held in June.

As a franchise of the Miss Alabama Pageant, Inc. and part of the Miss America Organization - the largest source of educational scholarship funds to young women - the Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant is proud to offer educational scholarships to the winner and runners up.

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 pageant during Contestant Orientation.

Entry documents, along with instructions and information about Rising Stars, are listed on the following pages. *Your Resume & Platform Statement along with a 300 dpi resolution image for the program book are due via e-mail no later than **October 24th**, with notarized documents and applicable fees to be received at the pageant address via US Mail no later than **October 28th**.*

If you will be bringing your own **Rising Star** to the competition, please complete and return the Rising Stars entry form located on the **Rising Stars** page of the Miss Birmingham website along with the \$50 entry fee. If you would like for us to match you with a Rising Star, please let us know by checking the appropriate box on the Contestant Checklist.

If you have any questions about any portion of the pageant, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you at the pageant and getting to know you as we move toward crowning a winner who could go on to become Miss Alabama and even Miss America!

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

Warmest Regards,



Victoria Seale Sims
Executive Director, Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley
www.missbham.com • www.misscahabavalley.com

Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley Scholarship Pageant

Contestant Information, Forms & Instructions

*****PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET*****

2017 Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant * November 6, 2016 * Oak Mountain High School * 7 PM
Tickets: \$10 General Admission

Electronic Items via E-mail Deadline: October 24, 2016

(Resume, Platform Statement, Contestant Photo & Rising Star Photo)

Notarized Documents via US Mail Deadline: October 28, 2016

(State Contract Acknowledgement, Miss Birmingham/Cahaba Valley Contract, Scholarship Rules, Birth Certificate, CMN Qualification Report, No-Show Check, Rising Star Contract & Entry Fee)

IMPORTANT → *There will be no exceptions to these deadlines – it takes 4-6 days for mail to be received at the pageant address – please plan accordingly*

****USE THE CHECKLIST ON THE NEXT PAGE TO MAKE SURE ALL REQUIRED ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN BOTH THE E-MAIL AND THE RETURNED DOCUMENT PACKET****

This document is also located on the **2017 Entry Page** of the Miss Birmingham & the Miss Cahaba Valley websites:
www.missbham.com www.misscahabavalley.com

After October 28th, all contestants will be e-mailed an updated pageant day schedule.

IMPORTANT → All contracts & the scholarship rules should be reviewed thoroughly by each contestant and her parents/legal guardian to ensure a proper understanding of what is expected as the potential titleholder of Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley, and Miss Alabama

Entry Requirements:

1. You must be a U.S. citizen and must be one of the following: a) a resident of, b) a full-time student in, or c) work full-time in **Alabama** for at least 6 months prior to your entry in the pageant. You are required to provide proof by producing one of the items listed in the residency requirements of the contract acknowledgement.
2. You must be a female, never married, never have had children.
3. You must be a high school graduate by the date of the Miss Alabama Pageant in June.
4. You must be at least 17 years old (senior in high school) as of the date of the local pageant & no older than 24-years on December 31, 2017.
5. You must comply with all guidelines set forth in the state & local contracts for Miss Alabama/America and Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley
6. You must meet character criteria as set forth by the Miss America Organization

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley
Contestant Checklist for Items to EMAIL & MAIL
Ages 17 (Senior in HS) - 24

Contestant Name: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Talent: _____

E-mail Address: _____

School/University: _____

☺ I Have a Rising Star: YES: RISING STAR NAME _____ NO
(check one)

★ **E-MAIL** THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO MISSBHAM@GMAIL.COM NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 24th
(DO NOT MAIL ANY OF THESE ITEMS):

- Headshot Photo** in JPEG format (300dpi minimum resolution) for **Program Book AND Judges Book** *Can be the same or different photos. If different, you MUST specify in which item the photo is to be used.*
- Resume**
- Platform Statement**
- Talent Music** in MP3 or MP4 format
- Your Name, Address & CELL Phone Number**
- Rising Star Name & Photo** (300 dpi minimum resolution) for program book *(if you have a Rising Star)*

★ **MAIL** THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PAGEANT OFFICE BY OCTOBER 28th:

- 1 Completed Copy of this page – Contestant Checklist**
- Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Contract** *(signed & notarized)*
- Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Scholarship Rules** *(signed & notarized)*
- State Contract Acknowledgement** *(signed & notarized)*
- Official Pink or Blue Copy of Birth Certificate – DO NOT Send Original**
- Proof of Children's Miracle Network Service Requirement** (qualification report from www.missamerica4kids.org)
- \$50 No-Show Deposit Check** made out to the Miss Birmingham Pageant *(will be returned to you during orientation the day of the pageant)*
- Self-addressed envelope** for return of birth certificate *(stamp will be provided by Miss Birmingham)*
- COMPLETED Rising Star Forms and \$50 Entrance Fee** *(if you are choosing your own Rising Star)*

Mail ONLY the notarized documents & applicable fees that will complete your entry packet with the contestant name clearly printed on outside envelope to:

Miss Birmingham/Cahaba Valley Pageant – CONTESTANT NAME

513 Saint Lauren Way
Birmingham, AL 35242

DO NOT SEND EXPRESS OR PRIORITY!
DO NOT REQUIRE A SIGNATURE!

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley State Contract Acknowledgement Instructions

1. **State Contract Acknowledgement** – This form replaces the State and Local Contract. However, the newly crowned Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley will be required to complete the full State Contract in order to compete in Miss Alabama. All sections must be completed:
 - a. **Section A – Eligibility** – Check the box that applies to you for competition purposes. To compete in this or any official Miss Alabama Scholarship Preliminary pageant, you must have:
 1. Lived in the state of Alabama for at least six months prior to your entry into the pageant; OR
 2. Have completed at least one semester as a full-time student (12 semester credit hours) in Alabama; AND be presently enrolled; AND be attending classes on a full-time basis at an accredited college or university in Alabama; OR
 3. Been employed in the state of Alabama, full-time (at least 40-hours per week) for at least six months.

You are required to provide proof of your residency by providing a copy of one of the following items in your completed Application Packet:

 1. Driver's license, automobile registration, current lease, or other official document that establishes residency for six months prior to the date of the pageant (Be dated on or before May 6, 2016); OR
 2. College transcript from the qualifying college or university showing enrollment as of May 6, 2016; OR
 3. Name, address, and phone number of current employer, along with job title and dates of employment.

Please note that you may be asked to provide additional proof if you are selected as Miss Birmingham/Cahaba Valley.
 - b. **Section B – Children's Miracle Network** – List the total number of hours and total amount of money raised for CMN. **IMPORTANT:** You must also send in proof that the Service Requirement for Children's Miracle Network has been met for this pageant by printing a copy of your **Qualification Report** from www.missamerica4kids.org website showing that you have raised the \$100 required for *this* pageant, or have raised a total of \$400 prior to this pageant.
 - c. **Section C – Community Service Information** – Complete the community service information accurately on this form (if your platform is different from CMN) as this information will be reported to the Miss Alabama & Miss America Organizations.
 - d. **Section D – Talent Presentation** – Complete all information about the talent selection being performed. Please note that your introduction must be 10 seconds or less, and must be written legibly. The same music or song cannot be used by different contestants during the pageant. The first contestant with completed application requesting a specific song will reserve that song for competition. In case of duplication, the second contestant will be notified that a different selection must be made.
 - e. **Section E – Notary Section**
 - f. **Section F – Director's Section (completed by local Director upon receipt)**
2. **\$50 No-Show Fee** - There is a \$50 deposit required for entry. A CHECK should be included with your completed entry packet made payable to Miss Birmingham Pageant. ***This check will be returned to you the day of the pageant during orientation.***
3. **Official Copy of Birth Certificate** – A pink or blue official copy - NOT the original – NOT a photocopy - your birth certificate is required to verify your age. You may obtain a copy of your birth certificate from any Alabama Department of Health office. **NOTE: We will make every effort to return Birth Certificates to the contestants immediately after the pageant (except for the winners). Any that are not picked up by a contestant on pageant day will be mailed back the week following the pageant in the self-addressed envelope provided in the entry packet by each contestant.**

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant Items to Bring & Opening Number Attire

Opening Number Attire

- Cocktail dress in a color of your choice - **except** all black or all white. Remember, the judges are seated *below* you, so make sure the dress isn't too short.
- Heels you can dance in (sandals, peep toe or pumps – no boots & no wedges)

Items You **MUST** Have With You on Pageant Day

- Talent attire & all props
- 2 copies of your talent CD in case there was a problem with the music received in your email (this has happened before so please make sure you bring *2 extra copies*)
- Pageant wardrobe
- **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 pageant**
- All clothes, makeup and other pageant 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 pageant venue during pageant day
- No outside hair or makeup artists are allowed – contestants must 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 pageant, please e-mail the director promptly.*
- Please bring an electrical power strip, a lighted mirror and a full length mirror
- Garment racks are provided by the pageant for hanging costumes and gowns

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Rising Star Information

Rising Stars

Each contestant in Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley will have a Rising Star the day of the pageant (*subject to participation*). The Contestant may choose her own Rising Star, or one may be assigned to her on Pageant Day.

The onstage presentation of the Rising Stars will follow 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 24th**.

If a contestant wishes to choose her own Rising Star, the Rising Star forms (located on the Miss Birmingham & the Miss Cahaba Valley websites) and the fee of \$50 should be *included* with the rest of the application packet notarized documents. These must be received at the Miss Birmingham Pageant 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 pageant 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.

On Pageant Day, Rising Stars will participate in the Opening Number, do a craft and have fun with their Contestant!

Each Rising Star will receive a goody bag and be introduced by Miss Alabama in their onstage walk at Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley.

All Rising Star forms along with a detailed Rising Star schedule may be found on the **Rising Stars page** of the Miss Birmingham & the Miss Cahaba Valley websites:

www.missbham.com/Rising_Stars

www.misscahabavalley.com/Rising_Stars

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant Day Rules

- 1. RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS:** Treat everyone involved with the pageant 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 DURING THE PAGEANT:** NO ONE can take pictures or videos during the pageant due to Miss Alabama pageant rules.
- 4. NO FRIENDS OR FAMILY ALLOWED BACKSTAGE, IN DRESSING ROOMS, OR IN THE HALLS OUTSIDE OF THE DRESSING ROOMS**
- 5. NO OUTSIDE HAIR OR MAKEUP ARTISTS ALLOWED:** You should come to the pageant prepared to do your own hair and makeup.
- 6. NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM:** We want to avoid spilling anything and respect the facility guidelines. All food & drinks will be provided for you by the pageant in a designated area.
- 7. PAY ATTENTION DURING REHEARSALS:** We have a tight schedule and much to cover in a short period of time. Please keep talk backstage and during the pageant to a minimum and remember to speak very softly backstage and in the dressing room.
- 8. 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 rehearsal may be completed at the end of all rehearsals only with the express consent of the Director, and only if time permits.
- 9. BE PREPARED:** Know your resume & platform – copies of these items are provided to each judge for use during interview. Be familiar with current & social events. Onstage questions will be categorized by current events and social issues.
- 10. CELL PHONES:** Must be turned OFF or SILENT during the pageant and must not be used by contestants during pageant day except during breaks. Selfies or other photos are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE DRESSING ROOM!**

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Competition 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 Top 5 names at the completion of the competition will be resubmitted to the judges who will each individually assign a ranking to the top five contestants. This final ballot determines the winner.

The Phases of Competition are listed below in order:

Interview - 25%

The panel of judges meets with each contestant for a 10 minute private interview. Questions may range from current events to personal goals and interests. Questions may also come from the contestant resume and platform essay. Criteria used for scoring the interview include: overall first impression, personal appearance, personality, intellect, vocabulary and grammar, and responses in context. The interview no longer requires an opening statement. Judges are given 9 ½ minutes to ask a variety of questions. At that point, the contestant has a brief opportunity (30 second maximum) to clarify an earlier answer or make a final statement.

What to Wear: Contestants should wear business attire (dress, skirt & top, pants) suitable for a professional job interview – PANTS ARE ALLOWED – NO SUITS

On-Stage Question – 5%

The on-stage question ballot is scored after the contestant answers the on-stage question based on a current event or current social issue. Judges keep in mind the qualities and attributes necessary to fulfill the duties of Miss Birmingham, Miss Alabama and Miss America.

What to Wear: The On-Stage question is completed immediately following the Opening number in Opening Number attire.

Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit - 15%

Criteria for scoring the swimsuit/fitness competition include: overall first impression, statement of physical fitness and health, and sense of confidence. The swimsuit (a modest one-piece or two-piece) and the young woman wearing it should complement each other. Contestants may not be on stage longer than 20 seconds.

What to Wear: Modest one or two-piece swimsuit & appropriate shoes. Absolutely NO thongs or string bikinis (a string bikini ties on the sides or has only strings connecting the front & back panels)! Suits should be well lined and have a built-in bra. Shoes should complement and not be bulky. Oil or Lotion is NOT permitted. We strongly recommend the use of Firm Grip or similar product to keep the bottoms in place. NO PANTY HOSE!

Talent - 35%

Each contestant will perform a talent presentation **not to exceed 90 seconds.**

Talents may include, but are not limited to – vocals in every medium, dance in all forms, gymnastics, baton, instrumentals, and drama. The talent competition distinguishes each contestant's skills and personality, interpretive ability, technical skill level, stage presence, and totality of all elements (e.g. costume, voice, choreography). There will be no repeated talents in the pageant...if two contestants wish to perform the same song, the first contestant returning all completed paperwork will reserve that song.

What to Wear: A costuming choice that is appropriate and in good taste for the chosen talent. Please note –Talent must be completed within 90 seconds.

Evening Wear - 20%

Criteria for judging the evening wear competition include: overall first impression, sense of confidence, personality and stage presence, posture, grace, appropriateness of the evening wear, and sense of attractiveness. The Evening Wear ballot is scored after the contestant models.

What to Wear: An appropriately fitting floor length evening gown, with complementary shoes and accessories

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Tentative Schedule

The times below are **TENTATIVE** – the schedule may change once all deadlines have passed.

	9:30	10:00	Contestants Arrive & Unload
	10:00	10:45	Orientation - Contestants Randomly Select Competition Order Review of Contract & Scholarship Rules
	10:45	11:45	Production Rehearsals (opening number, swimsuit, onstage question & evening gown)
	11:45	1:00	Miss Lunch - Compliments of Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley
	12:00	12:35	Contestants 13-24 Talent Rehearsals
	12:45	3:00	Miss Interviews - Contestants 1-12
	1:00		Rising Stars Arrive!
	3:30	5:45	Miss Interviews - Contestants 13-24
	4:30	5:10	Contestants 1-12 Talent Rehearsals
	5:30	6:00	Miss Production/Rising Star Rehearsal/Opening Number Rehearsal
	5:30		Miss Dinner - Compliments of Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley
	6:55		All Contestants Backstage & Ready
	7:00		Miss Pageant Begins!

Below is a **tentative** schedule for talent and interviews – please note – **this schedule is subject to change depending on the number of contestants. After October 24th, all contestants will be e-mailed an updated pageant day schedule.**

While you are waiting for your talent rehearsal time, or your interview – you will have time to meet & spend time with your Rising Star, make holiday cards for the kids at Children’s & Veterans at the VA, get ready for your next event, eat, and get to know the other contestants!

Miss Number	Talent Time	Interview Time
1	4:30	12:45
2	4:33	12:56
3	4:36	1:07
4	4:39	1:18
5	4:42	1:29
6	4:45	1:40
7	4:48	1:51
8	4:51	2:02
9	4:54	2:13
10	4:57	2:24
11	5:00	2:35
12	5:03	2:46
Judges' Break - Interviews Only		
13	12:00	3:30
14	12:03	3:41
15	12:06	3:52
16	12:09	4:03
17	12:12	4:14
18	12:15	4:25
19	12:18	4:36
20	12:21	4:47
21	12:24	4:58
22	12:27	5:09
23	12:30	5:20
24	12:33	5:31
Doors Open 6:30 PM Pageant Begins at 7:00 PM		

MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017

Name of Local Pageant: _____

Name of Contestant: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

College/School: _____

College Major: _____

Hometown: _____

SECTION A: ELIGIBILITY (See Section 2.2 of the complete contract for age requirements.)

Age as of the date of preliminary: _____ Date of Birth: _____ (Enclose a copy of birth certificate.)

Choose ONE of three from the boxes below (See Section 2.3 of the complete contract).

I have been a resident of the State of Alabama for at least six (6) months (copy of driver's license or lease must be enclosed) **OR**

I am claiming student status. I have successfully completed at least one semester as a full-time undergraduate student (at least 12 hours) or graduate student in the State of Alabama (copy of recent transcript must be enclosed) **OR**

I am employed on a full-time basis in the State of Alabama and have been for at least six months (see Section 2.3.3 of the complete contract) (Employer contact information must be enclosed - including phone numbers, address, and employment dates.)

SECTION B: CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

Note: To compete this year, you must register on the CMN web site in the 2017 Pageant Cycle.

of hours you have worked for CMN: _____ Amount of money you raised for CMN: _____

I have created my CMN profile on www.missamerica4kids.org **for this local pageant in the 2017 pageant cycle**. I understand that if I compete in more than one local pageant, I must update my CMN profile each time I compete in a different local pageant so that it reflects the current local pageant in which I am competing. **Initial:** _____

SECTION C: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (if different from CMN)

Name of Community Service Project: _____

of hours worked on Community Service Project: _____ Amount of money raised: _____

MISS ALABAMA LOCAL CONTESTANT CONTRACT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 2016-2017

SECTION D: TALENT PRESENTATION

Type of Talent (vocal, dance, piano, etc): _____

Name of Talent Selection: _____

Type of microphone preferred (if available): Cordless Microphone with stand Lavalier

Will you be using props? Yes No If yes, please describe: _____

Please write a short 2-3 sentence introduction for your talent presentation:

Contestant checklist of items to enclose with this page:

- Certified copy of birth certificate
- Six (6) copies of platform essay for judges' books
- Six (6) copies of resume for judges' books
- Six (6) black & white photocopies of 5x7 photo on 8.5x11 paper
- Photo (contact local pageant for additional photo requirements)
- CMN Verification Sheet (proof of the \$100 minimum CMN requirement)
- Local Contract (contact local pageant)

[Note: This refers to a different contract that is drafted by each local pageant and varies from pageant to pageant.]

In addition to the above, enclose **ONE** of the following:

- Driver's license or Lease Agreement (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as an Alabama resident)
- Copy of current transcript (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as an undergraduate or graduate student in Alabama)
- Proof of Employment (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as a full-time employee in Alabama)

By signing this Local Contestant Contract Acknowledgement of Understanding and Statement of Eligibility, I agree to abide by the complete Miss Alabama Local Contestant Contract for 2014-2015. I understand all terms and conditions of this application and the complete Miss Alabama Local Contestant Contract together with its attachments, and I request the Miss Alabama Pageant, Inc., to accept my application to participate in the Miss Alabama Preliminaries for 2014-2015.

Contestant Signature: _____

Parent Signature (ONLY if contestant is under the age of 18): _____

SECTION E: NOTARY SECTION

Sworn and subscribed to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public of _____ Signature: _____

SECTION F: DIRECTOR'S SECTION

I have verified eligibility requirements, including the \$100 minimum CMN requirement, for this contestant, and this contestant may participate in this local competition pursuant to the terms of the complete Miss Alabama Local Contestant Contract and all attachments, and the Local Preliminary Contract for my local pageant.

Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant

Contract & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & the Miss Birmingham/Cahaba Valley Pageant Organization

Relationship:

The Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Scholarship Organization is a non-profit organization whose express purposes include:

1. The provision of scholarship funds
2. The representation of Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley in the Miss Alabama Pageant
3. The representation of the sponsors of the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Scholarship Organization
4. The promotion of the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant, Miss Alabama & Miss America

As a result, there are several important premises which are basic to Miss Birmingham's & Miss Cahaba Valley's Year of Service. Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley must recognize that for her year of service she will represent the Miss Birmingham Scholarship Organization and its sponsors. It is important that she maintain immaculate personal grooming and proper attitude whether on campus, going shopping, or any public appearances.

Both Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley represent the Birmingham/Cahaba Valley communities and the Miss Alabama pageant system at all times. Therefore, the winner of Miss Birmingham & the winner of Miss Cahaba Valley understands, agrees to, and will abide by the following:

- Agrees to use sponsored gift certificates for photographs, wardrobe, and other items; will discuss with and get approval from Executive Director if a sponsor is not preferred
- Will provide the Miss Birmingham Executive Director with one digital color copy and one digital black and white copy of a professionally photographed pageant headshot in a **minimum of 300dpi resolution, wearing her crown within 30 days of being crowned Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley**. No publicity/press releases/autograph pads, etc. can be generated without this photo
- Will schedule time with the Executive Director to review all photos taken for use at the Miss Alabama Pageant. She understands that all photos (contestant line-up and ads) for the state program book **must be approved by the Miss Birmingham Executive Director *before being submitted to the Miss Alabama Office***
- Understands that all communication will be solely between Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley and the Executive Director
- Will monitor texts and e-mails and will respond promptly all communication from the Executive Director and any Board members
- Understands that all decisions will be made between Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley and the Executive Director
- The Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Board will provide adequate preparation opportunities for the Miss Alabama Pageant. The titleholder must be willing and available to utilize these opportunities.
- Will meet with the Director no less than every other week (either by phone, video, or in person) during her year of service as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley
- Will attend *weekly* interview practice as scheduled by the Director
- Will remain alcohol, drug, and tobacco free during her year of service
- Will maintain a healthy lifestyle, good physical fitness, and healthy eating habits
- Understands that her social networking accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) will be monitored for content by the Director. This includes accepting the Director as a friend

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Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant

Contract & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & the Miss Birmingham/Cahaba Valley Pageant Organization

- Use of inappropriate / questionable photos in conjunction with the pageant title is *prohibited*. Social Media accounts such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook are public forums and the reputation of the winner and the pageant is affected by this content
- Any use of profanity is *prohibited*. This includes the use of profanity on all social networking accounts. Any profanity should be immediately removed from these accounts prior to the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley pageant
- Will provide own transportation to and from scheduled appearances unless the director has made other arrangements
- Will provide own wardrobe for appearances and all phases of competition in the Miss Alabama Pageant
- Understands that all wardrobe choices for the Miss Alabama Pageant *must be* approved by the Executive Director. *Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley will not purchase any item for state competition without prior approval*. Any changes to the approved wardrobe must be communicated to the Director immediately
- Will not have any type of coaching or outside help, advice, or influence in preparing for the Miss Alabama Pageant *as mandated by the Miss Alabama & Miss America guidelines*.
- Will send electronic copies of all state required paperwork (resume, platform essay, etc.) to the Executive Director, and understands that all items must be approved *before* submission to Miss Alabama
- Will discuss all appearance opportunities with the Executive Director and understands that all appearances must be cleared and approved by the Executive Director. Under most circumstances, a member of the Board or an approved alternate chaperone must accompany the title holder on any official appearances
- Will keep a current calendar listing all appearances and review this list with the Executive Director every three (3) months during the year of her reign. In addition, a list of appearances through May 1st of her year of service will be reviewed with the Miss Birmingham Executive Director *no later than April 1st* to ensure all appearances are correctly documented.
- Will properly prepare herself to successfully meet the requirements of all approved appearances
- Will properly rehearse and prepare for any presentation of her talent during her year of service as Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley – including any/all appearances and the Miss Alabama pageant
- Will never take advantage of the Hosts' hospitality at an appearance. She must never give the impression that she is sick, tired, or bored. She must maintain interest, enthusiasm, and sparkle during the entire appearance event
- Understands that her Talent selection for Miss Alabama must be approved by the Miss Birmingham Executive Director. To do this, Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley must discuss and perform her selection for and obtain the Director's approval *prior* to Miss Alabama Contestant Orientation in March
- Community Service notebook *must* be shown to the Director at least *two weeks* prior to submission. Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley understands she is ultimately responsible for the preparation of the Community Service notebook
- Must be gracious to the public and sponsors at all times. Thank-you notes will be written within 24 hours of an appearance and within 24 hours of receiving any donations from sponsors or gifts from supporters. Thank you notes must also be sent for gifts received during Miss Alabama week. *There will be no exception to this rule*
- Will not cancel any appearance for any reason other than illness or school requirements. The Miss Birmingham Executive Director must be informed immediately if a conflict in scheduling arises. Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley will write a letter of regret and offer to reschedule immediately if any appearance must be rescheduled or canceled.

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- Will make required appearances as listed below. Under no circumstances may either winner cancel any of the following (with the exception of extreme illness or school obligations discussed with the director prior to scheduled appearance):
 - Birmingham - National Veteran's Day Parade (Nov 11th - if parade rules allow)
 - Annual Children's Hospital of Birmingham Visit (normally mid-December)
 - Helena Christmas Parade (December 5th)
 - Holiday Visit to Veteran's Hospital in Tuscaloosa (normally mid-December)
 - Annual Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Fundraiser
 - Annual Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley CMN Fundraiser
 - National Pancake Day at IHOP in Birmingham/Cahaba Valley Area
 - Miracle Treat Day at Dairy Queen in Birmingham/Cahaba Valley Area
 - Miss America Serves Day as scheduled by the Miss Alabama Pageant Office
 - Miss Birmingham's / Miss Cahaba Valley's Outstanding Teen Best Wishes Reception
 - Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen Pageant – Introduction of Miss Alabama Contestants
 - Birmingham Asian Cultures & Food Festival (usually 1st Saturday in April)
 - Pageant Workshop Day/Boot Camp held by Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley (April)
 - Local Wardrobe Check & Approval with Director (prior to contestant workshop)
 - Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Best Wishes/Sendoff Reception
 - Miss Alabama Contestant Orientation (March)
 - Miss Alabama Contestant Workshop (late April/early May)
 - Miss Alabama Pageant (June)
 - Miss Alabama Top Ten Fashion Show (Mid-August, if in Top 10)
 - Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant – to crown successor
- Will arrive neatly groomed and dressed appropriately **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
- When shopping for Miss Alabama wardrobe, Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley will properly groom each item and return it to the sales floor or sales representative. No clothing will be left in the dressing room. Any accounts opened with sponsors must be paid promptly and not be declared past due
- Will meet all deadlines set forth by the Miss Alabama Pageant for all state materials, including but not limited to paperwork, community service scrapbook, transcript, talent CD, and contracts. If any information submitted to either Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Alabama is determined to be untrue, the title, the right to compete in Miss Alabama, and all prizes will be forfeited; any scholarship funds and prizes will be returned to the Miss Birmingham Scholarship Organization
- Understands that any photos submitted to the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley organization will not be returned and will become the property of Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley
- Winner is solely responsible for claiming any scholarship money awarded and abiding by the Scholarship Rules governing scholarship awards. Understands that not meeting a scholarship deadline will result in the scholarship not being awarded
- 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

Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant

Contract & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & the Miss Birmingham/Cahaba Valley Pageant Organization

Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Contestant will:

- By submission of the application agree that the contestant lives, works, or attends school in the state of Alabama
- Be no greater than age 24 on December 31, 2017
- Provide a \$50 check to the Miss Birmingham Pageant in 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 pageant. I understand that if I am unable to compete, I must notify the Director of my decision not to compete at least 72 hours before the day of the preliminary. The contestant must provide an excuse from a doctor in order to receive the no-show deposit if cancellation occurs within 72 hours of the Miss Birmingham Pageant
- Be required to have \$100 (or \$400 cumulative) in her www.missamerica4kids.org website account before the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley competition begins, and will provide proof of monies raised for the Miss America National Platform – Children’s Miracle Network in the form of a copy of the **Qualification Report** from her personal account.
- Also agree to raise \$250 for the National Platform in order to compete in the state pageant. I understand that this money must be in my website account before the Miss Alabama competition begins in June
- Claim all scholarship monies as indicated by the Scholarships Rules and that any scholarship monies awarded not claimed according to the Scholarship Rules will be forfeited by the contestant
- Allow the Miss Birmingham Pageant to post photographs and biographical information on the Miss Birmingham & the Miss Cahaba Valley website

The Miss Birmingham Scholarship Organization will strive to help me represent the community to the best of my ability. I will let the Executive Director know immediately if I feel uncomfortable with any appearance, wardrobe, talent selection, etc. so that we may come to a satisfactory solution for all parties involved.

SIGNATURE PAGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS

Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

If awarded a scholarship in the Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant, I agree to the following:

1. I will provide the Director of the Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant with an email accepting my scholarship to missbham@gmail.com, ***no later than 60 days following the local pageant date*** - in order to receive any scholarship monies awarded to me.
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 Scholarship Fund.
3. I understand that all scholarship monies won will be paid directly to my college or university. The acceptance letter required in Rule 1 should indicate the bursar's office address of the college or university and should also indicate the student account number of the recipient. In no instance will the money be paid directly to the recipient.
4. I understand that all scholarship awards to participants, other than the winner, will be available to be disbursed upon the timely receipt (see Rule 1) of the acceptance letter from the recipient.
5. The winners' scholarship award(s) will be disbursed on the following schedule upon timely receipt of the acceptance letter:
 - 50% upon receipt of the acceptance letter
 - 50% the week following the Miss Alabama Pageant
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 prior to her appearance in the Miss Alabama pageant, 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. If the winner resigns the position of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley after representing her title in the Miss Alabama Pageant, there will be no successor named and she will forfeit any remaining scholarship amounts to which she would have otherwise been entitled.
8. If the Director of the Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley pageant, 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 Pageant during her tenure as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley. Any funds previously awarded her must be repaid to the Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley 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: _____

Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant
Publicity Consent Form
Under Age 18

I, _____, the Parent or Guardian of
(Print Parent or Guardian Name)

_____, a contestant in the Miss Birmingham/Miss
(Print Contestant Name)

Cahaba Valley Pageant, do hereby authorize the Miss Birmingham Scholarship Pageant and anyone duly licensed or authorized by it, to televise, photograph, broadcast, make audio or video recordings, internet website entries or motion picture recordings of my child individually or as part of a group and to use or re-use such photographs, recordings, video recordings, audio recordings, Internet websites and motion pictures in any and all media throughout the area and world. I agree that my child's name, likeness, physical depiction for any purpose in perpetuity, in an edited or unedited manner or fashion may be used as the Pageant in its sole discretion shall determine. All photographs, audio and video recordings containing any physical depiction, image or likeness of my child including, but not limited to, interviews, rehearsals, publicity events whether individually or as part of a group made for the use of advertising, trade and any purpose deemed necessary by the pageant shall become the property of the Miss Birmingham Scholarship Pageant.

Age Group (check one):

- 17 Year Old - Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Scholarship Preliminary
- Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Outstanding Teen (13-17)
- Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Rising Star (7-11)

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

Date: _____

Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant

Dear Friend:

The 2017 Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant will be held **Sunday, November 6, 2016**. As the largest open pageant in Alabama, and an official Scholarship Preliminary to the Miss Alabama and Miss America Pageants, we are seeking contributions from the businesses, merchants and corporations of our community to make this year's pageant a success for the young women who compete for both scholarships and prizes.

Scholarships are a vital part of the Miss Alabama pageant experience and the proceeds from your advertisement will be used to provide the winner of the Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley titles with funds to further her education.

The Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant welcomes gift certificates as well as monetary donations for scholarships, and will place an ad in exchange for a gift certificate for each of our winners. Our award-winning Program Book sells out every single year, and we look forward to having your business advertise with us! Rates for ads are listed below:

Type of Ad or Gift	Price
Full Page	\$100
½ Page	\$50
¼ Page	\$25
Gift	Gift Certificate

All **Ads & Fees** are to be received via mail or e-mail ***print ready no later than October 24th***. Please fill out the attached form and send it with your print ready ad and payment; OR give form and payment to Contestant who will mail to:

Mailing Address:

Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant – 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 24, 2016

Please make checks payable to Miss Birmingham

Ads are accepted in JPG or PDF format and must be e-mailed to missbham@gmail.com or mailed on a CD to the address above.

Thank you again for your support and generosity that makes the *Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley Pageant* a success!

Best Regards,



Victoria Seale Sims
Executive Director

Miss Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MISS BIRMINGHAM/MISS CAHABA VALLEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NAME / BUSINESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CONTESTANT: _____ DATE: _____

CHOOSE SIZE OF AD:

- FULL PAGE – \$100
 QUARTER PAGE – \$25

- HALF PAGE – \$50
 GIFT CERTIFICATE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AD FORM SUBMISSION:

1. Complete form.
2. Detach and retain *Receipt of Payment* for your records.
3. Print Ready Ads must be in JPEG or PDF formats and should be sent via e-mail to missbham@gmail.com
4. All photos must be in JPEG or PDF Format and must be e-mailed to missbham@gmail.com
5. Art graphics may be sent in JPEG, PDF or GIF formats and can be the size desired but limited by size of ad purchased and should be sent via e-mail to missbham@gmail.com
6. One form required for each ad sold.
7. Make checks payable to *Miss Birmingham*

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR AD SALES IS October 24, 2016

For further information please e-mail the Miss Birmingham Director at missbham@gmail.com

RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

(To be given to purchaser)

Ad or Donation by: _____

Submitted by: _____
(Contestant/Titleholder Name)

Amount: _____ Date: _____

Miss  Birmingham & Cahaba Valley

Scholarship Pageant



Instructions for Completing the National Contestant's Resume

Please remember this is your opportunity to demonstrate to the judges why they should consider you for the job of Miss America. You may list as many or as few items under each category as you desire. Your only restriction is that it must follow the established format and it must fit on one page. This page, combined with the Platform Statement, will comprise your entire application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted. Any items submitted that do not fit the established criteria will be returned for correction only once. Any items, which do not meet the criteria or are submitted after the deadline, will not be given to the judges. If your resume arrives on the day of the deadline, but does not meet the criteria, there will not be time to return it to you; therefore, it will not be given to the judges. The contestant may explain the lack of judging materials during her interview, if she so chooses.

1. Go to the word processing program of your computer.
2. Start a "new" document.
3. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type, using the Times New Roman font style. Please refer to the attached sample to verify you are following the requested format.
4. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is LaCricia Deborah Smith and you want to be known as "Deborah Smith", please type "Deborah Smith").
5. Then, move to the next line and type "**Title:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your state title.
6. Then, move to the next line and type "**Hometown:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar once. Then, type your hometown including the city and the state.
7. Move to the next line. Now set your justification to the right. Type "**Date of Birth:**" in bold. Hit the space bar two (2) times, and type the month, day, and year of your birth. (Ex. October 10, 1989)
8. Move Justification to the left. Double space down and type "**Education:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times and then type your most recent school first. If it is grad school, indicate it as such. List degree seeking (all on the same line as the name of the school), move to the line underneath that to list your undergraduate school and degree sought/achieved, and below that list your high school.
9. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Platform Issue:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the TITLE of your platform, **MAKING SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT. DO NOT TYPE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE TITLE.**
10. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Scholastic/Career Ambition:**" in bold. Hit the Tab bar once, **MAKING SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE OTHERS ABOVE IT.** Then type the type of degree/education you would ultimately like to achieve and beneath that, list your career ambition.



11. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type **“Talent:” in bold**. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the type of talent and specific selection. **MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT.** (i.e. Pop Vocal - “Crying”, Tap Dance - “Staying Alive”, etc.)
12. Double space down. Type **“Scholastic Honors:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
13. Double space down. Type **“Leadership Roles:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
14. Double space down. Type **“Accomplishments:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
15. Double space down. Type **“Interesting Facts:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
16. Double space down. Type **“Employment:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
17. Double space down. Type **“How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
18. Double space down. Type **“Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Pageant?” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
19. Double Space down. Type **“What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.

The entire form MUST FIT ON ONE PAGE using the Times New Roman font style. You must leave a 1" margin on all four sides of the page.

Use your best judgment on what is most important for the judges to know about you. Use your space wisely. Attached you will see an example of what it should look like.

This form will be given to the judges along with your platform statement. You will notice there is a **REQUIRED SIGNATURE LINE** at the bottom of the Platform Statement. When these two pages are put together, they will create your entire application. Your signature will cover the materials listed **ON BOTH PAGES**. Your signature verifies that everything on your forms is true and accurate. If it is proven that any information on these forms is not true, correct, and factual, you risk losing your local/state title.

Some spacing issues may arise. Simply follow the example provided.

DUE IN NATIONAL OFFICE FOUR WEEKS AFTER YOUR STATE PAGEANT

Name: Jane Smith
Title: Miss Local
Hometown: Anytown, America

Date of Birth: December 29, 1989

Education: University of State – sophomore – Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts
Frederick Douglass High School

Platform Issue: Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

Scholastic/Career Ambition: Obtain a Masters of Business Administration

Talent: Pop Vocal / “Fallen”

Scholastic Honors: Recipient of National Coca-Cola Scholarship; Recipient of the Metropolitan Urban League National Scholarship; Dean’s List; Member of the President’s Leadership Council at the UCF

Leadership Roles: Created and implemented a comprehensive Cultural Diversity Education Curriculum for grades K-12 in twelve Public Schools; University Student Body Senator; H.S. Sr. Class Pres.; College Sorority President.

Accomplishments: Recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Community; Recipient of the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award; Performer, Grand Ole Opry in Nashville; Piano Performance scholarship at State University.

Interesting Facts: First person on either side of my family to attend college; Youngest of five children with a 13-year gap between me and my next oldest sister and an almost 20-year gap between the oldest and myself.

Employment: Internship with a Law Firm; Internship with local ABC television affiliate; Student Assistant at State University.

How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?

I come from a loving, supportive family that has always taught me to work hard for the things I want to achieve. Growing up, my parents always encouraged us to get involved with our local community and help those who were less fortunate than us. They tried to instill good values in us and to always guide us on the right path. I think it is because of these lessons my parents taught me that I want to make a difference in today’s world. I aspire to be a woman of great influence, preferably working in the non-profit sector, where I can apply my talents for the greater good and help to change people’s lives. One person truly can make a difference, and I am on my way to proving that cliché. I also dream to one day have a loving family of my own, with beautiful children in whom I can instill the same core values that my parents gave to me.

Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Pageant?

Along with providing the financial assistance for young women to fulfill our educational goals, the Miss America Organization gives us the opportunity to bring national attention to a cause dear to our hearts. If I were to become Miss America, I know that my voice would be heard as a spokesperson for my personal platform, as well as the national platform. Raising awareness of important social and political issues has always been important to me, and Miss America provides the perfect arena for that.

What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?

Although I’m not sure I would consider it a social issue, I think technological advancements will have the greatest social impact on my generation. Technology is changing everything – the way we communicate, our lifestyles, access to information – it’s all right at your fingertips! That can be a double-edged sword. I believe we run the risk of losing both interpersonal and language skills due to the ease and speed of communicating electronically. I believe our educators should address this issue immediately, or it may, unfortunately, have the greatest impact on my generation and every generation to follow.



Instructions for Typing the National Contestant's Platform Statement

Please remember. This is your opportunity to explain to the judges what your chosen platform is and why it is important for the Miss America Organization to embrace this platform. In addition, it should explain how your platform will further the Miss America Organization "brand" to the public. This **ONE (1) page, single-spaced** document combined with the Contestant's Resume, will comprise your entire application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted. Any items submitted that do not fit the established criteria will be returned for correction only once. Any items that do not meet the criteria or are submitted after the deadline will not be given to the judges. If your Platform Statement arrives on the day of the deadline, but does not meet the criteria, there will not be time to return it to you; therefore, it will not be given to the judges. The contestant may explain the lack of judging materials during her interview, if she so chooses.

1. Go to the word processing program of your computer.
2. Start a "new" document.
3. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type using the Times New Roman font style.
4. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:" in bold**. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name.
5. Then, move to the next line and type "**Title:" in bold**. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your state title.
6. Double space down. Set your justification to "center". Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
7. Double space down. Write what you feel is critical for the judge's to know about your platform and why it is necessary for you to have the job of Miss America to promote this issue. What you write will be what the judges know about your platform, your role in successfully dealing with this issue, and the role the Miss America Organization may play in your plan.
8. This essay **may** include some of the following items (**this is not to be meant as an exhaustive list**):
 - A clear definition of the platform and the specific issues you wish to address
 - A plan on how you have or will create awareness of the platform
 - The way in which you have or will change attitudes regarding the issue
 - The way in which you have or will change behaviors related to this issue
 - The way in which your platform issue will move the Miss America Organization forward
 - Your media plans
 - Your marketing strategy
 - How you propose to fund your ideas/plans
 - Any significant accomplishments you have made in regard to your issue
9. At the bottom of the page, you **MUST** set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line, you must type Signature/Date and after printing **sign and date the document**.

Once you have printed the document, it is important that you SIGN and DATE the document as shown in the attached SAMPLE

Name: Jane Smith

Title: Miss Local

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

Children's Miracle Network Contestant Guide

Each contestant must raise a minimum of \$100 for the Children's Miracle Network to compete in a Miss Alabama local pageant. If you compete in more than one local pageant, you must raise a minimum of \$100 for each local pageant you enter up to a total of \$400.

Once you have raised a total of \$400, you are not required to raise more money and can enter as many local pageants for which you qualify in the current pageant year. However, the \$400 is just a minimum; you may raise more money for CMNH if you wish to do so.

To administer the CMNH fundraising, each contestant must do the following:

1. Create your personal web page on the CMNH web site and designate it for the local pageant in which you are competing (see the CMNH MAO Guide.pdf below for details).
2. Raise the required funds for CMNH.
3. Print proof of registration and money raised to bring with you to the local pageant (or mail it in with your other paperwork). If you are personally donating to CMNH by check, please make the check out to CMNH (not the local pageant) and send it in with your other paperwork. *If possible, please try to avoid bringing a check with you the day of the pageant.*
4. If you compete in another local pageant, you must go in and update your CMNH page to reflect the next local pageant you are in.
5. ALL CMNH ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR MUST BE POSTED IN THE 2015 PAGEANT CYCLE.



The **Miss America Organization and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals** share a commitment to raise awareness and funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the country as well as the Miss America Scholarship Program. This partnership creates the following opportunities for contestants and Miss America titleholders:

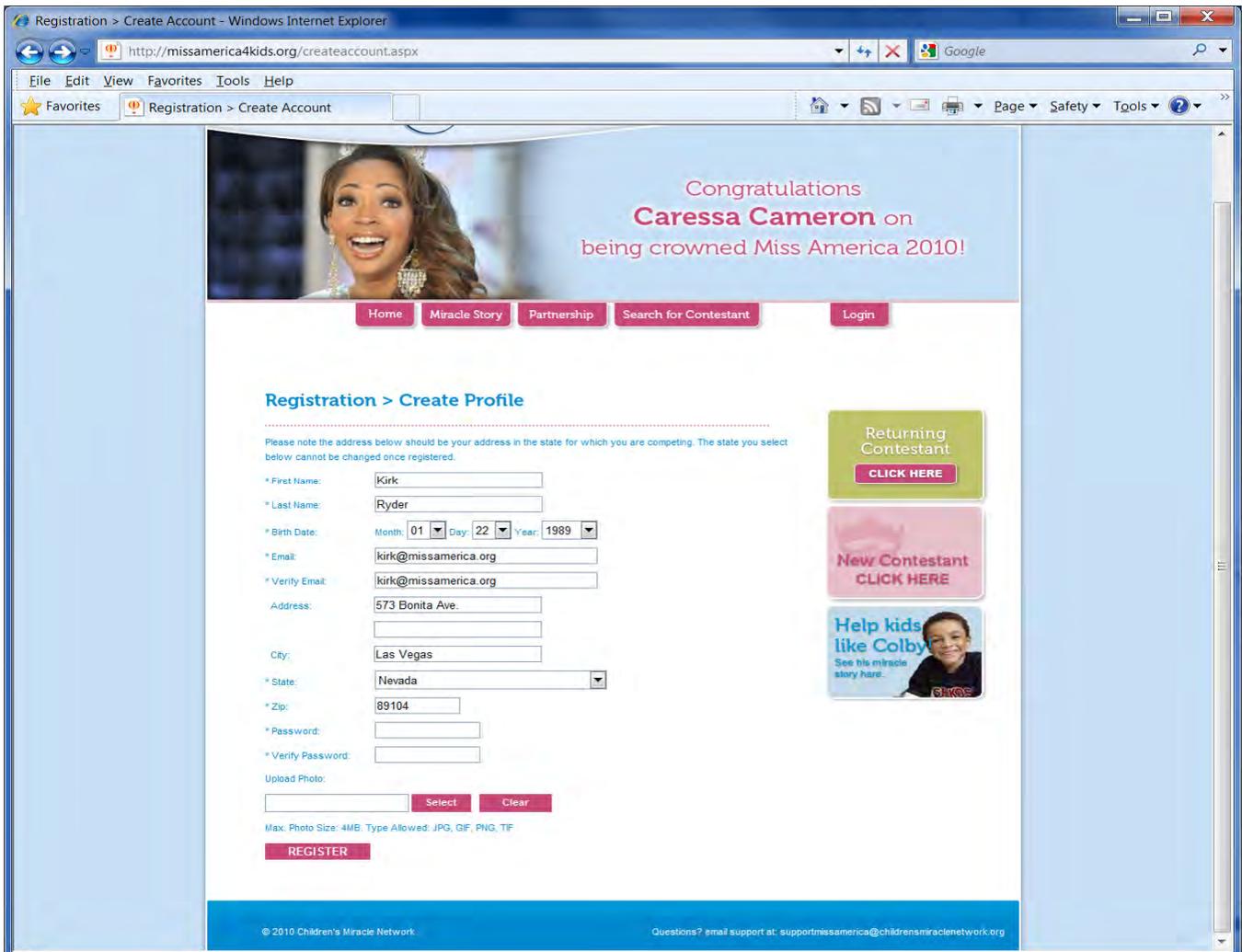
- Miss America acts as a goodwill ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals throughout her year of service.
- Miss America contestants at all levels raise money and awareness for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and the Miss America Scholarship Program.
- Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is the national platform for the Miss America Organization.
- The tradition of the personal platform continues and contestants and titleholders can raise awareness for their chosen advocacy cause.

Registration Instructions for Local Pageant Contestants

Congratulations on becoming involved with the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$43 million in scholarship assistance to young women.

How to Register as a Contestant of a Local Pageant

Each contestant is asked to register online at www.MissAmerica4Kids.org. At the right-hand side of the page about half way down is a button that says “New Contestant – CLICK HERE.” Click on that button and you’re well on your way to competing in the Miss America system. You will then see a screen like this:



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the registration page for Miss America 4 Kids. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://missamerica4kids.org/createaccount.aspx>. The page features a banner for Caressa Cameron, Miss America 2010, with navigation buttons for Home, Miracle Story, Partnership, Search for Contestant, and Login. The main content area is titled "Registration > Create Profile" and contains a registration form with the following fields:

- * First Name:
- * Last Name:
- * Birth Date: Month: 01, Day: 22, Year: 1989
- * Email:
- * Verify Email:
- Address:
- City:
- * State:
- * Zip:
- * Password:
- * Verify Password:

Below the form is an "Upload Photo" section with a "Select" button and a "Clear" button. A note specifies: "Max. Photo Size: 4MB. Type Allowed: JPG, GIF, PNG, TF". A red "REGISTER" button is located at the bottom of the form. On the right side of the page, there are three promotional buttons: "Returning Contestant CLICK HERE", "New Contestant CLICK HERE", and "Help kids like Colby See his miracle story here." The footer contains the copyright notice "© 2010 Children's Miracle Network" and contact information: "Questions? email support at: supportmissamerica@childrensmiracletnetwork.org".

Fill out the mandatory fields (marked by an asterisk *) and click REGISTER at the bottom of the page.

Choose from the drop-down list of pageants a local pageant....

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://missamerica4kids.org/createaccountpageants.aspx?ID=+8136DAA87CB>. The page features the Miss America logo and a banner for Caressa Cameron, Miss America 2010. Below the banner are navigation buttons: Home, Miracle Story, Partnership, Search for Contestant, and Login. The main content area is titled "Registration > Add Pageant(s)". It includes a form with the following fields:

- Pageant State: Nevada
- Fundraising Goal: 100 (with an UPDATE button and a help icon)
- Minimum Goal: \$100.00
- Pageants: A dropdown menu with an ADD button and a help icon.

The dropdown menu is open, showing a list of pageants with their names and dates:

Pageant	Pageant Name	Date
	Miss University of Nevada	3/14/2010
	Miss Reno-Sparks	3/14/2010
	Miss Carson City	3/20/2010
	Miss Douglas County	3/20/2010
	Miss Southern Counties / Miss Green Valley / Miss Centennial	4/10/2010
	Miss Northern Counties/Miss Truckee Meadows/Miss Lake Tahoe	4/17/2010
	Miss Mesquite	7/2/2010

On the right side of the page, there are three promotional buttons: "Returning Contestant" with a "CLICK HERE" button, "New Contestant" with a "CLICK HERE" button, and "Help kids like Colby" with a "See his miracle story here." link and a photo of a child.

Your fundraising goal is automatically raised \$100 every time you choose another local pageant, up to \$400. You may increase your goal to any amount over the minimum required amount.

Minimum Fundraising Goal for each Pageant

Local: \$100 State: \$250 National: \$500

(i.e. Registration for 3 local pageants requires a minimum goal of \$300)

Automatic Qualification Status: Raise \$400 or more at the local level and you are qualified for all local pageants. Once you have entered the pageants you plan to enter, you will see the pageant(s) listed.

Send Emails

Click on “Send Emails” on the left hand side and enter email addresses to send to your friends and family. **Tip:** send one email to yourself to your own email address, then when you get that email from the system, add a personal note to that email and forward that email to as many as you like within your own email system. You could ask for \$5, \$10, \$20 or whatever they can give to both great causes.

It is as simple as that. You may track your progress and see how you are doing. The more emails you send, the more funds you raise for both of these great organizations. Yes, these funds are for both entities – the donations help increase the future scholarship fund at the Local, State and National Levels, as well as go to supporting the children’s hospitals.

Please take a few minutes to register for the pageant in which you will be competing at:

www.MissAmerica4Kids.org.

If you have questions please contact:

Kirk Ryder

Director, Field Marketing / Liaison to Children’s Miracle Network
Miss America Organization, Las Vegas Office

kirk@missamerica.org

or

Children's Miracle Network

4525 South 2300 East

Salt Lake City, UT 84117

support@childrensmiraclenetwork.org