

## MAO Local Pageant Contestant Guide 2017

Greetings from the Miss South Dakota Scholarship Foundation. We invite you to discover the Miss America experience embodied in our local programs and realize the rewards of the world's largest scholarship program for young women. Whether you want to become a doctor, dancer, accountant, architect, etc., we offer an opportunity that will help bring you closer to achieving your goals, whatever they may be.

The Miss Rapid City and Miss Central States Fair local pageants are both preliminary events that will qualify the titleholders to participate in the Miss South Dakota Scholarship Pageant held in Hot Springs, South Dakota, in June. The young lady chosen in Hot Springs moves on to compete in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. For more information, visit [www.misssd.org](http://www.misssd.org).

Women ages 17 to 24 who are at least a senior in high school can participate. You must also be a resident of South Dakota, or a student attending school in South Dakota, or employed in South Dakota, for six months to qualify for participation. Some local pageants may have more restrictive geographical residency requirements, but ALL titles the Miss Rapid City Pageant and Miss Central States Fair Pageant will give out are unrestricted – anyone throughout the state meeting the state residency requirement may win any of the titles. For every four contestants per local pageant we have, we can give a title, for up to three total titles in each local pageant. Therefore, if we have 4-7 contestants in one local pageant, we will give one title; with 6-11 contestants we will give two titles, and with 12 or more contestants we will give three titles. The top-scoring contestants receive these titles, regardless of where they live, but the name of the title will be determined the night of the pageant. For instance, if we have enough contestants to give two titles at a local pageant, and the highest-scoring contestant is from east river and the second-highest scoring contestant is from Rapid City, the first will be given the Miss Rushmore title, and the second will be given the Miss Rapid City title. All titles qualify the recipients to compete at the Miss South Dakota Pageant in June in Hot Springs.

The Miss Central States Fair Pageant will be held the next day. It is a separate local pageant, with a separate panel of judges and separate competition segments. The format of the Miss Rapid City show will be virtually identical to the Miss Central State Fair show the next day. We will hold a rehearsal Friday night for both pageants, and we will use the same music, choreography, walking patterns, and show format for both shows.

As a titleholder, please keep in mind that you will represent this local pageant at the Miss South Dakota Pageant, be a spokeswoman for your platform, attend various functions, and be a positive voice for the entire state of South Dakota as well as the Miss America Organization.

Sara Frankenstein will be your contact person whose email address is [smfranken@hotmail.com](mailto:smfranken@hotmail.com). When your official contestant paperwork is fully completed and received by **December 11, 2017**, you will be placed as a contestant in this local pageant. Phone calls, e-mails requests, etc., WILL NOT be considered as official entries. Official paperwork includes the fact sheet and the contestant's contract. Return this paperwork to your contact person.

Please email your picture with the fact sheet to your contact person. This picture may also be used in the program book, the local newspaper or on posters.

You may also include a description of your platform, why you chose it and what you have accomplished with this platform.

1 MAO = Miss America Organization, the division for ages 17-24 (17 and a senior in high school – if you are 17 and not yet a senior in high school, you are in the Teen Division)

The Miss Rapid City Pageant will be held on January 7, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Performing Arts Center (previously the Dakota Middle School) in Rapid City, SD. The Miss Central States Fair Pageant will be held January 8, 2017 at 2:00pm at the Performing Arts Center. Please register for both, or just one if your schedule conflicts with doing both. Check with your Executive Director (Sara Frankenstein) or [www.missrapidcity.org](http://www.missrapidcity.org) for schedules and other information.

#### CAUTION TO ALL CONTESTANTS THAT USE SOCIAL MEDIA.

Many people use social media as a means to communicate with their friends. The Miss South Dakota Board would like to remind you that items posted on these sites can easily be viewed by others. Other viewers may include pageant judges and potential employers. Some postings may not portray the image you would like to have of yourself as you strive to become Miss South Dakota and Miss America. If you do choose to have a site, you may wish to password protect it to only close friends, or if you choose for it to be open, please remember that everything contained on the page (photographs, quotations, and friend comments) is a reflection of you as a Miss South Dakota contestant. Please make sure all public content adheres to the image Miss South Dakota should uphold, as detailed in the contestant contract.

#### SERVICE REQUIREMENT

Service has always been important to contestants striving for the opportunity to be Miss America. To build on this, contestants competing at any level in the Miss America system are required to raise a minimum of \$100 per local pageant to support Children's Miracle Network and the Miss America Scholarship Fund. This is not an entrance fee, but rather a service requirement to participate in Miss America sponsored pageants. This service requirement will not only continue the Miss America Organization's legacy of service and scholarship assistance, but also raises funds and awareness for the Children's Miracle Network.

Before participating in local, state and national Miss America pageants, each contestant will log onto [www.missamerica4kids.org](http://www.missamerica4kids.org) to create her personal fundraising web page and set a fundraising goal (minimum \$100 per local, \$250 state, \$500 national). Once registered, contestants may e-mail friends and relatives to ask for donations to support Children's Miracle Network and the Miss America

Scholarship Fund. Friends and relatives can then log on to their contestant's personal fundraising web page to make secure online donations using a credit card.

To get started go to [www.missamerica4kids.org](http://www.missamerica4kids.org) and click on the "New Contestants" link to register. Then follow the step-by-step instructions to create your personal contestant web page and send e-mails to relatives, friends and neighbors. You will be able to view your fund raising progress by going to your personal page. The full \$100 MUST be raised before midnight the night before your local pageant.

If you compete in both Miss Rapid City and Miss Central States Fair, you will only need to raise \$100 for Saturday's pageant – Sunday's Miss Central States Fair does NOT require any fundraising.

The split of monies raised is 60% to MAO and 40% to Children's Miracle Network after expenses. The split of the 60% to MAO varies between the National Pageant and the local or state pageant. In the case of a Local pageant, the Local retains 20% and MAO-national gets 40%. State pageants retain 30% and MAO-national gets 30%. Like any program, costs associated will be deducted and used to pay for expenses, printing, credit card processing fees, etc. The overall percentage is expected to be small. As the program matures, the percentage of expense is expected to decrease which is what has happened in other programs Children's Miracle Network has developed.

#### THE JUDGING PROCESS:

The Miss America competition judging system is designed to promote diversity, individuality and overall achievement among all contestants. Judges score the individual contestants immediately following each phase of competition. Contestants are scored on a 1-10 point scale, in whole numbers, within each category (more than one contestant may receive the same score.) All five judges have been educated about the Miss America judging system and represent a variety of professional sectors within their communities.

#### WEIGHTING OF SCORES, SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPETITION ATTIRE, AND HELPFUL HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPETITION:

Interview is 25% of your score.

Wear a suit or dress of choice – something you would wear for a job interview. Your personal taste should dictate all your clothing choices, but avoid extreme styles. Typically, contestants choose suits or dresses with above-the-knee skirts, but you may choose a longer skirt or pants suit. Busy patterns, styles, or excessive jewelry and scarves may distract the judges' attention from what you are saying, so keep them minimal. General fashion rule – if navy or black suit, navy or black shoes are fine, but for most other colors, nude or beige heels are preferred with nude nylons. Despite the current fashion to go without nylons, many judges say they expect nylons to be worn and often mention or note when contestants do not wear them!

Areas of criteria are qualities and attributes of a Miss America, first impression, personality, intelligence, opinions, articulation, confidence, style, and charisma. Questions may come from your fact sheet, current events, controversial issues, issues relevant to women, career goals, and your platform.

The interview time will be a total of ten minutes. There will be nine minutes and thirty seconds of interview by the judges and then a thirty-second closing statement by the contestant. The contestant will enter the room and the judge designated to ask the contestant her first question will begin the interview. Be prepared with some thoughts for your closing statement. A podium may be used.

Ways to prepare for interview:

Read the newspaper or a news magazine regularly. Compile statistics relating to your platform. Become an expert in your specific area of concern with your platform. Learn facts, trends, differing methods, etc. that exist in our state or nation and know which methods persuade you most. Ask yourself every possible question you can think of and formulate responses in your head. Know your opinion on controversial subjects in the news or related to your platform. Practice with someone acting as a judge. Get constructive criticism and use it to your benefit. Watch yourself speak in front of a mirror or on video. Remember judges do not want to hear a wishy-washy response. Know your opinions and why you believe the way you do.

Life style and fitness in swimsuit is 15% of your score.

Swimsuits can be 1 or 2 pieces but keep it in good taste. No thongs or lingerie-looking swimsuits. Remember to wear a suit that shows off your physical fitness and makes you feel confident. Wear medium heels or sandals in beige, nude, gold, clear or other tones that will not be a distraction. Make sure you can walk easily and confidently in them. Neutral colors for your shoes will make your legs look longer.

For swimsuit ideas and thoughts on which suits look best on certain body types look up the website [www.Venus.com](http://www.Venus.com).

Judging criteria will be first impression, physical fitness and health, physique, walk, posture, grace, presence, and CONFIDENCE. Swimsuit competition lasts only about 20 seconds.

Talent is 35% of your score.

If you need special props other than microphones, please let the local ED know. They will inform you if they can accommodate you.

Your attire should complement the performance you are delivering.

Judges are looking for your personality, interpretive ability, skill level, stage presence, and entertainment value.

Your talent time is limited to one and a half minutes (90 seconds) for both MAO and Teen divisions. Your talent does not have to be exactly 90 seconds but it cannot go over.

No live accompaniment is allowed. All background music must be on CD only. You must bring TWO CDs of your background music with you to rehearsal. Backup voices are allowed only if there is no melody being sung on the accompaniment CD. Your talent must be demonstrated on stage as a live performance. It should be memorized. Talent accompaniment on anything other than CDs will NOT be allowed. You can find 90 second accompaniment tracks at [www.musicalcreations.com](http://www.musicalcreations.com), or create your own. Bring your back up CDs to rehearsal with your name and cell phone number, written with a felt-tip marker. Any other form including labels may damage the CD. Only one song is allowed on your talent CD (your talent song).

Evening Wear is 20% of your score.

Your choice should be a gown that shows YOU off, not the GOWN. Cost is not the factor here. Scoring areas are qualities and attributes of a Miss America, first impression, sense of confidence, stage presence, posture, sense of style, and attractiveness.

On Stage Question is 5% of your score.

Two questions are generally taken from your interview. Judges are looking for how you handle the pressure of speaking on stage in front of an audience consisting of your family, friends, and strangers. They want to hear your answers to the questions in the context in which they were asked.

Production Attire for the Miss Rapid City Pageant and Miss Central States Fair Pageant

Other than your competition outfits, you will need black leggings, black shoes, and a nude tank top or camisole for the opening numbers. We will hand out sparkly tops at rehearsal Friday night, but they need a nude tank top underneath. Make sure you can do choreography in your outfit and shoes (keep the heels low to medium).

We also will have a fun dance after intermission for which you will need a black or darker colored or jewel toned gown. You will also need a "masquerade" mask. This dance is to the song Masquerade from Phantom of the Opera. For ideas, google Masquerade and get an idea of the look. You can order a masquerade mask online or make them (craft stores sell such masks and feathers, ribbons, sequins, etc.

that you may want to add to it). Wear a long gown, the bigger the skirts the better. Do not buy a new dress for this, as this is not meant to be a financial burden.

Please bring along things such as a portable hanging rod to hang up your dresses (otherwise there is limited place to hang up your gowns at the Performing Arts Center) robe, steamer, curling iron, firm-grip, or whatever else you think you'll need. We will not have any such items there other than what you bring.

We hope this information helps prepare you for competition in our upcoming local pageants. We thank you for your interest and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

The Miss South Dakota Scholarship Foundation