**Preparation Information Guide for Miss and Teen BHV / Moline Competitions**

Welcome! I am so excited you are here and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you! You have officially become part of history competing for Miss Blackhawk Valley/ Miss Moline and Miss Blackhawk Valley’s/ Miss Moline’s Teen!

**Important Dates:**

Paperwork due October 4th by midnight

Rehearsal October 18th at Rockridge High School

Interviews October 18th at Rockridge High School

Competition October 18th at Rockridge High School at 4pm

**Eligibility:**

* Be a United States citizen
* Be a female
* Single (never been married)
* No legal dependents
* Age Eligibility:
  + Miss America: Delegates must be no older than 28 years of age as of September 30, 2026, and no younger than 18 on September 1, 2026.
  + Miss America’s Teen: Delegates must be no younger than 14 as of September 1, 2026, OR no older than 18 on September 30, 2026.
* Residency:
  + Delegates qualifying by residence must provide proof of at least 120 consecutive days of residency within the state prior to the date of competition.
* Employment:
  + Delegates qualifying by employment must submit documentation of full-time, in-person employment (minimum of 40 hours per week) held for at least 120 consecutive days prior to competition.
* Student Status:
  + Delegates qualifying through student status must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university located in the state. Full-time status is determined by the institution.
* Miss Moline and Miss Moline’s Teen are **CLOSED** to those who reside/attend school/work in the **309/861** and **815/779** area codes.
* Miss Blackhawk Valley and Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Teen are **OPEN**.

**Dress Rehearsal and Competition Day:**

Interviews will take place on the morning/early afternoon of Saturday, October 18th at Rockridge High School. Delegate order and time for interview will be determined at a later date once all delegates are signed up. Rehearsal for the competition will be completed on the day of the competition. Please be prepared for a busy day. Lunch will be provided, but feel free to bring personal snacks/drinks if desired. A complete schedule will be given to you once all delegates are confirmed.

Tickets will be $10. Titleholders will enter free of charge.

**Pageant will be held at Rockridge High School on October 18th at 4pm**

**Rockridge High School**

**14110 134th Ave W, Taylor Ridge, IL 61284**

**Miss Blackhawk Valley/ Miss America Registration, Fees and Requirements:**

1. Please use the below link to **REGISTER TO COMPETE AT OUR LOCAL WITH MAO**

[**https://www.club.missamerica.org/club-membership**](https://www.club.missamerica.org/club-membership)

This should be the **first** thing you complete before any other documents are done.

For information on how to register, here is an overview video:[**https://vimeo.com/1064534005/6613ca5040?share=copy**](https://vimeo.com/1064534005/6613ca5040?share=copy)

\*Once this is completed, Miss America will send you additional emails and documents/links with directions on what to do next! You will also receive a link from them to pay the mandatory annual Miss America **$49.99 Club Membership fee** (teen and miss).

1. Miss Blackhawk Valley/ Miss Moline and Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Teen delegates will be required to pay a **$100 entry fee** to compete. You may pay via cash, check or Venmo @MissBHVOrg. Checks should be made payable to the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program. This helps to fund our program and provide scholarships year after year.

**Spot fund/ American Heart Association Fundraising Requirement:**

Miss America has partnered with the American Heart Association and all delegates are **required to raise $30 per local** for the AHA via Spot Fund. That amount was set for all local delegates by Miss America. Proof of this is required to submit via JotForm. \*Miss America will send you an email with a link to set up your spot fund and information on how to do this.

This link will provide education on how to successfully create a fundraising Spot Fund account once you receive the link from the MAO to do so.

* [**Creating a Spot Fund Account**](https://storage.googleapis.com/msgsndr/2kD74R4iVusddhxXy8hi/media/67fe7eed58e707d9cc3ebe52.pdf)

**People’s Choice Voting:**

Encourage your cheering section to bring cash to vote for your favorite delegate on the night of the competition! This will be voted on by the public and cash will be placed in the delegate’s jars at the competition. The delegate who has the most money wins this award and a scholarship. This is NOT mandatory.

**Delegate Application:**

This application is a JotForm designed by the Miss Blackhawk Valley Executive Director with general information about the delegate and acknowledgements prior to competing. Please use this link to access the application.

* [**Delegate Application**](https://form.jotform.com/212407020528141)

**Delegate Agreement/Contract:**

This agreement is a multiple-page agreement between the delegate and the Miss America Opportunity. It should be read carefully and completed fully. There will be sections within the document that need signatures and attachments provided. This agreement contract will be sent to the delegates via email from Miss America. Please see the document below with a video on how to complete the Delegate Agreement.

* [**How To Complete the Delegate Agreement**](https://storage.googleapis.com/msgsndr/2kD74R4iVusddhxXy8hi/media/680008da768a581ade67e7bd.pdf)

**Community Service Initiative:**

Delegates are required to select a community service initiative that has relevance in her community or society at large and about which she feels passionate about. She will write a one-page essay about this issue. The essay must be typed and will be included in the Judge’s Books. Be prepared to answer questions in your interview regarding this document. The document generally should include what your CSI is, why it is relevant, what have you done with it, and what do you plan to do with it.

* Instructions/layout: [**CSI**](https://storage.googleapis.com/msgsndr/2kD74R4iVusddhxXy8hi/media/64ee6c75f6f755e92ac181bb.pdf)

**Interview Fact Sheet:**

Delegates will prepare a one-page fact sheet in a style laid out by the Miss America Opportunity and will be included in the Judge’s Books. Interview questions will be pulled from this form.

* Instructions/layout: [**FACT SHEET**](https://storage.googleapis.com/msgsndr/2kD74R4iVusddhxXy8hi/media/64ee6c75ba2ab03f26752d96.pdf)

**Paperwork:**

The following should be submitted on or before **October 4th by midnight** (NO EXCEPTIONS):

* Register to compete for Miss Blackhawk Valley with the Miss America Opportunity (link above)
* Register with the MAO & pay the $49.99 Club Membership fee (link from Miss America)
* Create Spot Fund and raise $30 for the American Heart Association (link from Miss America)
* Provide proof of Spot Fund fundraising (JotForm)
* Pay $100 Miss and Teen BHV/Moline entry fee
* Delegate Application
* Headshot (JotForm)
* Contract/Delegate Agreement with necessary attachments and signatures (JotForm)
* Interview Fact Sheet (JotForm)
* Community Service Initiative Statement (JotForm)
* Music for talent, if using (JotForm)
* Evening Gown Bio (JotForm)

Submit those labeled “JotForm” by clicking this link:[**Paperwork Submission**](https://form.jotform.com/242046015113137)

**All documents must be labeled with “First and Last name\_Document title”**

**Ex: Jaryn Dennehey\_Music, Jaryn Dennehey\_CSI, Jaryn Dennehey\_Interview Fact Sheet, etc.**

**Opening Number:**

Introductions/opening number walking pattern and dance (NOT judged) will be done in a cocktail dress of any style and color at the beginning of the show. Shoes and jewelry can be whatever color the delegate wishes. \*All delegates will complete their On-State Conversation phase of competition in this same outfit, so be mindful of what you are choosing as the question/discussion is judged. There will be a simple dance/walking pattern during opening number. You will announce yourself on stage during this time.

**Phases of Competition/Scoring:**

* **Interview - 30% of the score**
* Miss: 30 second opening regarding your Community Service Initiative, 9-minute Q&A interview, 30 second OPTIONAL closing OR finish answering a question
* Teen: 30 second opening regarding your CSI, 7-minute Q&A interview, 30 second OPTIONAL closing OR finish answering a question

Wardrobe is your choice of stylish interview attire.

* **Talent or HERstory - 20% of the score**

This is a performance lasting NO MORE THAN **90 seconds**. Delegate may wish to use music during her talent but is not required.

* [**Please view the approved talent list here**](https://storage.googleapis.com/msgsndr/2kD74R4iVusddhxXy8hi/media/65cc39db190e874c0ded667d.pdf)
* Please view the [**Reference Guide**](../../Downloads/Talent%20Quick%20Reference%20Guide%20(1).pdf) when choosing your talent and music selection here
* **On-Stage Conversation - 10% of the score**

The actual questions may touch on an aspect of the Miss America or Miss America's Teen brand, mission statement, the four points (Style, Service, Scholarship, Success), the brand foundation of ’sisterhood', the delegate's vision of the effective marketing of the Miss America/Miss America’s Teen brand. Conversational Panel questions may be more open-ended and relate to the day's topics. The answer should not exceed 15-20 seconds. The delegates will wear their opening number attire.

* **Evening Gown - 20% of the score**

Delegates will model in an evening gown of her choice.

* **Health and Fitness - 20% of the score**

**ALL ITEMS (top and bottoms) must be purchased through REBEL ATHLETICS** for this phase of competition. Shoes can be any color, but white is preferred. Delegates will perform a highly energetic walk with movement and poses in fitness attire. This showcases the delegate’s commitment to fitness and health initiatives, #MissAmericaFit.

* Give back 7% to your state organization by following these steps and using code **MAOILGB -** [**REBEL GIVE BACK**](https://storage.googleapis.com/msgsndr/2kD74R4iVusddhxXy8hi/media/65f995a11a91953c0c8941d3.pdf)
* View and purchase the Miss America RED Rebel collection here: [**MAO Rebel Red Line**](https://rebelathletic.com/collections/curated-styles-for-miss-america-organization)

**Code of Conduct**

* The delegate named Miss Blackhawk Valley/ Moline will serve until the Miss Illinois state competition. She will represent the Miss Blackhawk Valley Organization with her Teen(s) and Bestie(s), and they will make appearances, performances and parades as arranged or approved by the Miss Blackhawk Valley staff during the year of service with the accompaniment of (one) BHV board member or an approved, trusted adult. Some of which have already been reserved for our new titleholders, and it is highly important you make a strong effort to attend these events.
* Following the state competition, the titleholder can resign from her title, or she may sign an addendum in the delegate agreement that allows her to continue her local title until the next local competition.
* She will be professional in all appearances made and will be respectful of all organizations with whom she visits.
* She will be a role model and mentor to the Teen(s) and Miss Blackhawk Valley Bestie(s)
* Miss Blackhawk Valley will always possess high moral standards and professionalism.
* She will sign a contract with the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program as well as Miss Illinois and must abide by any and all standards and rules included in these contracts, especially ELIGIBILITY.
* Delegates, titleholders, family, and friends will be respectful of the time and efforts provided by the Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program as we are all volunteers with other full-time obligations.
* The Miss Blackhawk Valley Scholarship Program is an official Miss America preliminary competition. Miss Blackhawk Valley will compete for Miss Illinois in June of the following year. The Miss Blackhawk Valley Board will be responsible for helping aid her preparation and will assist in the paperwork, wardrobe selection, interview, and other areas of preparation.
* Be aware that not all expenses are covered by Miss Blackhawk Valley when it comes to wardrobe, hair, makeup, travel, etc. Miss Blackhawk Valley will be responsible for her wardrobe for appearances and state. The Miss Blackhawk Valley Organization is grateful that we have multiple sponsors for the titleholders to use from year to year. This will be a part of the winner’s prize package and are apt to change.
* She will advocate for her social impact initiative throughout her year. These community service appearances will be sought out by the titleholder herself and should be a focus during her year of service. All appearances must be preapproved by our Board, however.
* Miss Blackhawk Valley will not be involved in any explicit behavior during her year of service, and she will not promote malicious, slanderous, negative, harmful, or other degrading behavior against the Miss Blackhawk Valley, Miss Blackhawk Valley’s Teen, Miss Illinois, Miss Illinois’ Teen, Miss America, or Miss America’s Teen Organizations whether that be verbally, written, or otherwise.
* She will be responsible for sharing her year through social media via the titleholder Instagram and Facebook accounts. Be mindful that all content shared on personal social media accounts directly reflects the titleholder, the Miss BHV, Miss Illinois, and Miss America organizations as a whole. Use the internet wisely before posting. Distasteful content is prohibited. Miss America is very specific about their social medica requirements. \*You will receive information on how to create a proper account via social media, requirements for profile photos, colors to use, etc. Following the competition, the director will request your title logo to be used for your account’s profile photos from Miss America.
* All titleholders will earn a scholarship. Some delegates can also win scholarships (people’s choice, Nancy Lee Memorial Scholarship, top interview). Miss Blackhawk Valley will assist you to obtain these scholarship funds by directing you to the Miss Illinois/ Miss America website for scholarship retrieval. However, it is the delegate’s responsibility to obtain necessary documentation and items in order for us to pay out the scholarship(s) which is typically a year from when you won the scholarship.
* If any of titleholders wish to compete for another pageant, she MUST resign her title 2 weeks prior to the event by writing a formal letter. It should be signed and emailed to missblackhawkvalley@gmail.com. If she wishes to compete for our local program again, but a different title, she must also resign 2 weeks prior to competing. She will then no longer be able to “crown her successor,” as she will be competing in our program at that time. Girls CANNOT hold the SAME title 2 consecutive years in a row.
* The Miss Blackhawk Valley Board is here to help you. Should a problem or concern ever arise, please initiate communication promptly to resolve any issues. We are here to support you fully during your year and to assist in making this year memorable and beneficial.
* Failure to abide by all rules and regulations as stated in this code of conduct and local/state contracts will result in disciplinary action, as determined on a case-to-case basis by the BHV team.

**Contact Information**:

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