



The Virginia Black History Month Association

Miss Black History Month

Scholarship Pageant



Inaugural winners will be crowned by Virginia's own Miss America 2010 Caressa Cameron-Jackson

What: The Virginia Black History Month Association **Miss Black History Month Scholarship Pageant**

When: The scholarship application deadline is Friday, January 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Winners announced at The Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala on Saturday, 29 February 2020 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Who: Any African-American Woman Between the ages of 20yrs old to 25yrs old enrolled in any Virginia College or University.

Why: To encourage young African American women on the importance of education, self-awareness and self-confidence.

The Monetary Award

Winner: \$2,000

1st Runner Up: \$1,500

2nd Runner Up: \$1,000

The Winner Will Receive:

- Monetary award from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- The Title of Miss Black History Month for the year of 2020.
- The Distinguished Miss Black History Month Crowne.
- The Special Miss Black History Month Sash.
- Two complimentary tickets to the Virginia Black History Month Gala 2021.
- Complimentary gift from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- Complimentary family portrait with a professional photographer at the Gala.
- A Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- A Personal Assessment of strong points to help excel your professional career.
- Flowers for participation in the pageant.
- Name, picture and biography in our souvenir bulletin.
- Professional coaching on scholarships and preparing for your career

Miss Black History Month Scholarship Pageant Registration Form

Applicant's Information

1. Applicant's Name: _____
2. Applicant's Home Address: _____
3. Applicant's Home Phone Number: (____) _____
4. Applicant's Contact E-mail Address: _____
5. Applicant's Signature & Date: _____
6. Parent's Cell Phone Number: (____) _____

Applicant's School Verification Information (Completed by School Official)

7. Applicant's College or University: _____
 - Applicant's School Year (as of fall of 2019): _____
 - Applicant's Grade Point Average (as of fall of 2019): _____
 - Applicant's School Activities:

 - Applicant's Plans After Graduation: (*check one*) Graduate School: Work:
 - Planned Graduate School: _____
 - Planned Career Field: _____
 - Planned Volunteer Work: _____
 - Date: _____

The Rules

- You must be single, never married, and have not given birth.
- You must be a natural-born female.
- You must be a United States citizen and live in the United States.
- You must be in excellent physical and mental health.
- This scholarship pageant is open to **Any African-American female** ages 20 yrs old to 25 yrs old, enrolled in **any Virginia College or University**.
- Pay the **non-refundable** entry fee of **\$250.00**, which includes one regular ticket to the gala.
- Participate in the VaBHMA Fundraising Ad Campaign for the Annual Souvenir Bulletin.
- Attend the two-day seminar on personal growth and career choices for professionals. (Optional)
- A maximum of **30 applicants** will be accepted and only **20 finalists** will advance to the gala.
- The Pageant will be limited to 20 finalists with the 1st eliminations scheduled **February 1, 2020**.
- The elimination is based on the "application score" and the final decision of the judges.
- Written entries should be limited to two pages, plus the registration form and cover sheet.
- Each entry must be signed by the student, school counselor, and all civic representative(s).
- The entry must be submitted on time. (No late entries will be accepted)
- Include the title of your entry on both the cover sheet and first page of the essay.
- The scholarship application deadline is **Friday, January 17, 2020** at 5:00 p.m.
- **How to Enter:** In 500 words or less, write your response to the following statement:
- **Essay:** *Name one African-American woman (past or present) who has made the most significant impact in your life and describe why she was/is important to you.*
- **Judging Criteria & Rules:** The winners will be selected by a neutral judging panel and will be rated in five main areas: Essay/Application, Presentation, Talent, Fundraising, & Questions and Answers.
 - a. **Criteria**
 - (1) From ages 20 yrs old to 25 yrs old
 - (2) Good Academic Standing
 - (3) Participation in local community activities through civic programs and volunteerism
 - (4) Plans to attend college after graduation from High School or already in college
 - (5) Quality of application and essay submission
 - (6) Fundraising efforts for the souvenir bulletin
 - (7) Professional Presentation
 - (8) Talent Performance
 - (9) Evening Gown
 - (10) Questions and Answers on current events
 - b. **Rules:** The management of the Scholarship Pageant will take place under the supervision of **Ms. Betty Banks, VaBHMA Scholarship Pageant Coordinator**. The **Lead Judge** of the Scholarship Pageant will be performed by former Miss America 2010, **Ms. Caressa Cameron-Jackson**. **Ms. Michelle Whitted Emerson** of **Harmony Business Solutions** Accounting Firm will tally the scores from each participating judge.
 - (1) Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges.
 - (2) All decisions are final.
 - (3) Participants are required to complete the entire process to be considered a finalist.
- Send a cover sheet with your entry and include the following information: Title of the entry, name, permanent home address and school address (if applicable), and telephone number(s).
Note: Mail all entries to: **The Virginia Black History Month Association Scholarship Pageant, P.O. Box 41924, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404**. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2020 to be eligible.
- The winners will be awarded during our Annual Black History Month Gala on **Saturday, February 29, 2020**. **Each contestant will receive one complimentary ticket to attend the Gala. The cost of tickets for additional attendees is: Adults: \$90.00, Students: \$60, and Children: (under 12 yrs. old) \$25.00 (Note: Children under 5 yrs. old are free)**

Pageant Advertisement and Fundraising

The Fundraising Advertisement Rules:

1. All funding raised on behalf of the Virginia Black History Month Association (VaBHMA) must be submitted to the organization for deposit and credit towards the contestant's fundraising goal.
2. Contestants will be judged based on the amount of funding raised and the number of advertisements and/or business sponsor packages received.
3. Contestants will sell advertisement and/or business sponsor packages for the VaBHMA souvenir bulletin which will determine their overall score for the fundraising portion of the contest.
4. All paid advertisements and/or business sponsor packages are non-refundable.
5. Funds raised for the pageant help support the mission of the organization and their scholarships.
6. **Advertisement Sizes and Prices:** There are four different sizes of advertisement that a sponsor can purchase.
 - **FULL PAGE Ad (COLOR) – \$100 DOLLARS – (8 ½ BY 11 SPACE)**
 - **HALF PAGE Ad (COLOR) – \$75 DOLLARS – (8 ½ BY 5 SPACE)**
 - **QUARTER PAGE Ad (COLOR) – \$50 DOLLARS**
 - **PATRON SPONSORS (COLOR) Ad – \$25 DOLLARS**
7. **Business Sponsor Packages and Prices:** There are three different Business Sponsor Packages for any sponsor who would like to attend the gala and pageant.
 - **Dr. Carter G. Woodson Package (\$500 dollars) includes:**
 - 2 Complementary VIP Tickets in VIP Seating
 - Half page ad in the souvenir bulletin
 - **Harriet Tubman Package (\$250 dollars) includes:**
 - 1 Complementary VIP Ticket in VIP Seating
 - Quarter page ad in the souvenir bulletin
 - **Frederick Douglass Package (\$150 dollars) includes:**
 - 1 Complementary Regular Ticket in General Seating
 - Business Card Size ad in the Souvenir Bulletin
8. All advertisement must be camera ready needing very little graphic design.
9. All Checks and Money Orders are made out to: **Virginia Black History Month Association**
10. **Online Payments** can be made through our website at: **www.vabhma.com** or visit our **Eventbrite page at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-miss-bhm-scholarship-pageants-tickets-84543773703>**
11. Checks and Money Orders can be mailed to: **VaBHMA, (Scholarship Pageant)
P.O. Box 41924, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404.**
12. All advertisements and packages must be received by **5:00 pm on Friday, February 14, 2020.**
13. Advertisements and packages must be paid by the due date to receive credit towards their final score.
14. **Ad Requirements:**
 - Select the ad size and/or package you wish to purchase.
 - Make the payment for the correct ad and/or package: Check, Money Order or Online.
 - Note: The ad will not be designed until a payment is received.
 - **Email the advertisement to: Lourdes Lilly Designs** at: **vabhma@gmail.com**
 - Please use .jpg, .tiff, or .pdf file formats when sending ads.
 - The resolution of all the photos must be at least 300 dpi or higher.

The Virginia Black History Month Association
Miss Black History Month Scholarship Pageant (Essay & Application Criteria)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Accepted Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>
Quality of Application	Application must be completed in full, along with \$250 entry fee to be considered.	Application, transcripts, essay, and all documents submitted on time, and entry fee paid.
Application delivered <u>on time</u> before the cutoff date	Must be posted marked before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2020.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Essay Submitted with Application	Received essay and application.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Word Count Limitation	500 words or less.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Clearly Address the Essay Topic (Max 5 points)	Name one African-American woman (past or present) who has made the most significant impact in your life? Describe why she was/is important to you?	Essay Question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly Addressed the Questions – 5 points • Answered Most of the Questions – 4 points • Answered Half of the Questions – 3 points • Well defined – 2 points • Vaguely defined – 1 point
Spelling and Proper Grammar (Max 5 points)	Spelling and Proper Grammar.	Spelling and Grammar Errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four or Less Errors – 5 points • Between 5 – 7 errors – 4 points • Between 8 – 10 errors – 3 points • Between 11– 13 errors – 2 points • More than 14 errors – 1 point
Grade Point Average (GPA) Report Card/Transcripts (Max 5 points)	Will accept any of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application w/signatures • Official Sealed College Transcripts • Official Report Card • Signed Letter from the School 	Grade Point Average <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 & above GPA – 5 points • 3.5-3.9 GPA – 4 points • 3.0-3.4 GPA – 3 points • 2.5-2.9 GPA – 2 points • 2.0-2.4 GPA – 1 point
Community or Civic Activities (Max 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Hospitals, Scouting, or Organizations 	One point for each <u>current</u> activity (up to 5)
Leadership Experience (Max 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Student Government, Class President or Team Captain 	One point for each <u>current</u> activity (up to 5)
Sports Activities (Max 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Volleyball, Soccer, or Swimming 	One point for each <u>current</u> activity (up to 5)

The Virginia Black History Month Association
Miss Black History Month Scholarship Pageant (Overall Pageant Performance)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>
1. Completed Application and Essay (Max 30 points)	Application must be completed in full, along with the \$250 entry fee to be considered.	Application <input type="checkbox"/> Application Received on Time <input type="checkbox"/> Entry Fee Paid on Time <input type="checkbox"/> Essay Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Documents Received
2. Fundraising efforts for the souvenir bulletin (Max 20 points)	Solicit financial support and donations from patrons to purchase ad space in the souvenir bulletin for encouragement during your participation. (Minimum raised is \$500 dollars and Maximum is \$3,000 dollars)	Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000 - \$2,500 (20 points) <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,499 - \$2,000 (18 points) <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,999 - \$1,500 (15, points) <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,499 - \$1,000 (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> \$999 - \$500 (5 point)
3. Professional Presentation (Max 20 points)	(Business Attire) Perform a 5-minute presentation to introduce yourself to the judges. Questions: Who are you? Where do you attend school? What are your plans for the future? Do you plan to attend graduate school? What is your career goal?	Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding (20 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Impressive (18 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent (15 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Good (5 points)
4. Talent Performance (Max 20 points)	(Casual Attire) Perform a special talent in 5 minutes or less. All acts, lyrics, dancing, costumes, attire, language and behavior must be appropriate for all ages. Talent may include one of the following: Singing, Instrument, Dancing, Poetry, Special Performance, etc.	Talent <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding (20 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Impressive (18 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent (15 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Good (5 points)
5. Evening Gown Questions and Answers on current events (Max 20 points)	(Formal Attire) The contestants will select a question pulled from a sealed container, which will ask an open-ended question about current events within the African-American community. The question will be asked the night the Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala. Contestants must wear the appropriate long evening gown attire appropriate for the gala.	Questions and Answers <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding (20 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Impressive (18 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent (15 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good (10 points) <input type="checkbox"/> Good (5 points)

Disclaimer: Members of the VaBHMA Pageant Selection Committee may not participate in the selection process if their children, grandchildren, or any relatives plan to apply for any VaBHMA scholarships. They must recuse themselves from the decision-making and their name removed from the application.

Scholarship Pageant Schedule

Time	Date	Location	Activity	Remarks
9:00am-3:00pm	*(Sat) Jan 26, 2020	*Strayer University	*Professional Seminar	Casual Attire
9:00am-3:00pm	*(Sat) Feb 2, 2020	*Strayer University	*Professional Seminar	Casual Attire
9:00am-5:00pm	(Fri) Feb 28, 2020	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center	PowerPoint Presentation	Business Attire
9:00am-5:00pm	(Fri) Feb 28, 2020	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center	Talent Presentation	Business Attire
3:00pm-5:00pm	(Sat) Feb 29, 2020	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center	Gown Presentation	Formal Attire
3:00pm-5:00pm	(Sat) Feb 29, 2020	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center	Question & Answers	Formal Attire
8:00pm-9:00pm	(Sat) Feb 29, 2020	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center	Crowning	Formal Attire

*Indicates optional attendance