

Miss Heart of Dixie/Cotton State 2024 Contestant Information Packet

We are excited to have you join the Miss Heart of Dixie/Cotton State Family by participating in our 2024 local preliminary competition!

The 2024 Miss Heart of Dixie & Miss Cotton State Pageant will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2023, in the Auditorium of the Rowland Education Center on the Jasper Campus of Beville State Community College. Our theme will be, "Elvis!" You will need to plan to arrive around 8 a.m. and you will not be allowed to leave the venue until the pageant is over that evening. No one will be allowed to stay with you during the day. Lunch and snacks will be provided. You are also welcome to bring your own if you desire. NO ONE is allowed to have drinks (even water) or food in the dressing area! There will be a short orientation at 8:30 a.m. in which your parents are welcome to attend. Once orientation is complete, they must leave the venue. You will be in good hands for the entire day and well taken care of. This is YOUR performance and we expect you to enjoy each moment. A more detailed schedule will be sent out and given to you on pageant day.

In this packet you will find all the information you need to enter Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me! I'm here to help you! At our preliminary, we do not do a Rising Star Program. The Rising Star Program is a mentoring program through Miss Alabama and it is designed for you to foster interest in your younger peers. Creating, maintaining, and cultivating this relationship is your responsibility. Therefore, if you are selected as Miss Heart of Dixie or Miss Cotton State (or their respective Teen titleholder), it is up to you to select your Rising Stars to accompany you to the State Competition. Our local preliminary does not help with their fees. We do, however, recognize on stage our outgoing Titleholder's Rising Stars.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ENTRIES IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023! We are limiting the number of contestants so please do NOT wait to turn in your entry. All items listed in this packet are needed for your entry to be complete. Incomplete packets will not be accepted. Do not mail anything with "signature required" as I will not go to the post office to pick it up.

Further instructions are given on the Miss Alabama Website (missalabama.com). Please follow the instructions in this packet as well as the instructions listed there. There is no fundraising requirements as of the publishing of this packet. When mailing your packet and entry fee, please mail to the address listed below.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

Christopher Harris, Executive Director
Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State
3203 Fall City Road
Jasper, Alabama 35503
205-999-5193
missheartofdixiepageant@gmail.com
www.missheartofdixie.com

Wardrobe Requirements

Interview: Business attire that is appropriate for an interview.

Opening Number: Cocktail or Fun Fashion of the Contestant's Choice in any color!

Fitness: Contestants must wear the red Rebel Athletic Wear for our local competition. The Fitness Competition is now a "modeling walk" rather than a choreographed exercise routine. Please purchase these items from <https://www.rebelathletic.com/mao.html> and when you check out, you must enter the Miss Alabama Code: MAO-AL-MD9F-9ILU-DJYQ

Talent Costume: Whatever costume that the contestant chooses for her presentation.

Evening Gown: Evening Gown should be representative of the contestant's personal style. Please make sure it fits appropriately and is in good condition! In the past, we have had to delay this competition due to dresses malfunctioning. We do NOT want this to happen! Make sure it fits and is in good condition!

**You will need to make sure that ALL of your items are labeled with your name! Once the pageant is over, you will need to collect all of your items to leave. No male will be allowed into the dressing room at any time!!! A female may help you move your stuff into and out of the dressing area but will not be allowed to stay in this area at any time! We will not be held responsible for any items left after the pageant!

You may bring a garment rack and makeup mirror with you if you choose. Space is limited, so please do not bring any other clothing that is not needed!

ENTRY PACKET CHECK LIST!

- **FOR MISS and TEEN YOU MUST REGISTER AT www.missamerica.org/register There is a fee that is non-refundable (\$39.99).**
- **Once you have registered and paid the fee, you will then need to log into the contestant portal and choose our preliminary as one you plan to compete at.**
- **6 COPIES OF YOUR RESUME (INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE FOUND ON WWW.MISSALABAMA.COM)**
- **6 COPIES OF YOUR SERVICE INITIATIVE ESSAY (INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE FOUND ON WWW.MISSALABAMA.COM)**
- **6 COPIES OF A 5X7 HEADSHOT (COPIED IN BLACK AND WHITE)**
- **COPY OF YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE**
- **COPY OF YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE (or parents drivers license if contestant does not have one)**
- **STATEMENT OF ELEGIBILITY**
- **EMAILED COLOR HEADSHOT PHOTO TO missheartofdixiepageant@gmail.com**
- **EMAILED TALENT MUSIC TRACK (MP3 FORMAT) TO missheartofdixiepageant@gmail.com**
- **\$150.00 check made payable to "Miss Heart of Dixie Pageant" for Teen.**
- **\$50.00 No-Show check made payable to "Miss Heart of Dixie Pageant" for Miss.**
- **If you are claiming eligibility as a student: You will need to include a copy of your transcript from your school. If you are claiming eligibility due to working in the "closed" area, you will need to provide proof of your employment.**

- **If you are claiming eligibility due to residency in the following counties: Walker, Marion, Fayette, Lamar, Pickens, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Jefferson, Shelby, Talladega, St. Clair, Calhoun, Etowah, Blount, Cullman, Marshall, Morgan, Colbert, Franklin, Madison, Limestone, Lawrence, Lauderdale, and Winston. Your drivers license will suffice as evidence.**

Information is ever changing with MAO. More documents may be needed as the time comes. We will certainly handle those together in that event.

**Miss Heart of Dixie & Miss Cotton State 2024
Statement of Understanding – Local Contract**

Statement of Understanding Between: Heart of Dixie & Cotton State Titleholders and the Miss Heart of Dixie Scholarship Organization.

Relationship: The Miss Heart of Dixie Scholarship Pageant is organized as a not-for-profit organization whose express purpose includes:

1. The provision of scholarship funds.
2. The representation of the Walker County and North Alabama Areas in the Miss Alabama and Miss Alabama's Teen Pageants.
3. The representation of sponsors of the Miss Heart of Dixie Pageant.
4. The promotion of the Miss Heart of Dixie Pageant. As a result, there are several important premises, which are basic to Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State's year of service.

Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State must recognize that for their year of service they will represent the Walker County/North Alabama Areas, the Miss Heart of Dixie Organization and its sponsors. It is important that they maintain immaculate personal grooming whether on campus, going shopping, or any public appearance. In keeping with the #MissAmericaFit initiative, Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State should maintain a level of physical fitness to remain in the same physical condition or better than when she is awarded her crown.

Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State will: To ensure efficient management of Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State and their appearances will:

1. Refer ALL appearance requests to their director(s).
2. Refer ALL press, radio, or television requests to their director(s).
3. Honor and fulfill all scheduled appearances for Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State.
4. Prepare herself to successfully meet the requirements of the approved appearances.
5. Prepare herself in conjunction with the Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State Director(s) to adequately and successfully compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant.

The Miss Heart of Dixie Organization will:

1. Confirm all appearances and requirements pertaining thereto.
2. Forward to the titleholders an itinerary of each contracted appearance.
3. Screen all appearance requests and protect against undesirable appearances.
4. Provide time for study, rest, and vacations regarding the interests of Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State's good health and well-being.
5. Provide for adequate coaching, rehearsals, etc. for the role of Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State and their participation in the Miss Alabama Pageant and Miss Alabama's Teen Pageant.

In addition, Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State are required to appear at the following events during their year of service:

1. Miscellaneous appearances requested by Miss Heart of Dixie Sponsors and area events as determined by the director(s).
2. Miss Alabama Orientation and Workshops (dates to be determined by the state organization).

If for any reason Miss Heart of Dixie 2024 or Miss Cotton State 2024 is unable to complete her year of service, she will return all awards and prizes to her director. These will be given to the next eligible runner up who will then represent Miss Heart of Dixie or Miss Cotton State at the state level.

Miss Heart of Dixie, Miss Cotton State, Miss Heart of Dixie's Teen, and Miss Cotton State's Teen will:

1. Never have any type of coaching of outside help, advice, or influence in preparing for the Miss Alabama or Miss Alabama's Teen Pageants.
2. Provide her own wardrobe for appearances and all phases of competition at the state level.
3. Select her own wardrobe for the state pageants, however the director(s) must approve all competition and production clothing before the clothing is purchased. The director(s) reserve the final approval authority on all competition and production clothing.
4. Select her own talent to be performed at the state level and the director(s) must give final approval.
5. Maintain wardrobe in a cleaned and pressed condition.
6. Always maintain personal grooming, which reflects positively, i.e. a conservative wardrobe-no visible tattoos or body piercings (other than earrings) should be obvious to the public. Nails should always be groomed. Finger and toe nail polish should always match.
7. Show appreciation and write thank-you notes to contracting parties for all appearances and to all sponsors.
8. Have a behavior that is always beyond reproach.
9. Provide her own transportation to and from scheduled appearances. Unless the Miss Heart of Dixie Board has made other arrangements.
10. BE PROMPT! There is never an excuse for being late for any engagement. This will NOT be permitted at any time!
11. Never take advantage of the hosts' hospitality. Miss Heart of Dixie or Miss Cotton State must never give the impression that she is sick, tired, or bored. She must maintain interest and enthusiasm during the entire appearance.
12. Titleholders will submit to the Executive Director, once per quarter a typed essay on what she has done to further her Service Initiative as well as points of interest in her life. This essay will be published into our newsletter.

Contestants will:

1. Teen contestants will provide a \$150.00 nonrefundable competition fee. Miss contestants will submit a \$50.00 No Show (refundable) Check with their entry packet. A doctor's excuse will be required for a refund if you do not show up.
2. I understand that if I am unable to compete, I must provide an excuse from a doctor in order to receive the entry fee or No-show check back if cancelation occurs within 72 hours of competition. Competing and receiving a title at another preliminary prior to Miss Heart of Dixie and Miss Cotton State does not warrant a refund as preparations have been made for my participation in their program as well.
3. Allow the Miss Heart of Dixie Pageant to post photographs and biographical information on the preliminary's website and Facebook page.
4. I agree that the Miss Heart of Dixie Scholarship Pageant Board, Executive Director, Board of Directors, Sponsors, and anyone working with this preliminary will not be held liable should any accident occur during any rehearsals or during the pageant activities or during the community appearances as a titleholder.

I, _____, a Miss Heart of Dixie/Miss Cotton State contestant, have read the agreement, and understand all conditions, rules, and regulations set forth by the Miss Heart of Dixie Pageant, and if selected as a titleholder I will be able to follow and fulfill all the rules and requirements set forth in this the Local Contract. I understand that if violation of any part of this contract, the director(s) have full authority to pull my title and a successor will be named to compete in the state pageant in my place. In addition, all awards and prerequisites pertaining thereto will be passed on to the successor, who will receive all the benefits to which I would have otherwise been entitled.

Contestants Signature

Parent's Signature (If Contestant is under the age of 18)

Notary Signature/Date

CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DEADLINE TO BE
CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE FOR EACH COMPETITION.**

CHECK EACH COMPETITION FOR DEADLINE.

EMAIL the following items to the local preliminary director before the deadline.

- Scanned copy of birth certificate (PDF format)
- Your **RESUME** and **SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVE** (PDF format) along with your **HEADSHOT** to the director to forward to judges.
- Supplemental Information Form (this form)

In addition to the above, email ONE of the following to the local preliminary director:

- Copy of Candidate Driver's License displaying current address (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as an Alabama resident.), or
- Copy of Electric Utility Bill displaying current address (**ONLY** if claiming eligibility to compete as an Alabama resident.) or,

NEEDED FOR TALENT (Email to the local preliminary director before the deadline):

- MP3 or MP4 of your talent music.

BRING THE FOLLOWING WITH YOU TO EACH COMPETITION YOU COMPETE:

- State Contract filled out in its entirety for the FIRST PRELIMINARY you enter.** If you compete in more than one preliminary, you will bring the 27-page original contract with the supplemental competition pages added to it for each preliminary you enter. Example: If you entered your fifth preliminary, you would bring the 27-page contract from your first preliminary and the two pages from the other four preliminaries you entered. This becomes your record for Miss Alabama of the number of preliminaries you have entered for the competition year. The new contract does **NOT** require a notary. You will also need to bring this contract with you to the preliminary. **If you win, this becomes your state contract.**

Make sure your contract has all the required documents attached (Driver's License, front and back of insurance card, etc. . . .)

Name of Local Competition: _____

Name of Candidate: _____

E-Mail Addresses: Candidate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Hometown: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

SECTION A: ELIGIBILITY

I have registered to compete at:
https://shop.missamerica.org/products/miss-america-competition-membership-yearly-subscription?pr_prod_strat=copurchase&pr_rec_pid=6580060487860&pr_ref_pid=6689967505588&pr_seq=uniform

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

SECTION B: 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:

By signing this Local Candidate Contract Acknowledgment of Understanding and Statement of Eligibility, I agree to abide by the complete Miss Alabama Local Candidate Contract for 2022-23. I understand all terms and conditions of this application and complete Miss Alabama Local Candidate Contract together with its attachments, as I request the Miss Alabama Organization, Inc., to accept my application to participate in the Miss Alabama Preliminaries for 2022-23.

Candidate Signature: _____

SECTION C: NOTARY SECTION

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

Notary Public of _____ Signature: _____

SECTION D: DIRECTOR'S SECTION

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

Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Miss Alabama

Candidate's Resume Instructions

This is your opportunity to demonstrate to the judges why they should consider you for the job of Miss Alabama. Your resume should list the following items at the beginning of the document:

- Name
- Hometown
- Date of Birth
- Education
- Social Impact Initiative
- Scholastic and Career Ambition
- Talent

On your resume, please include the following question:

If you were to win this local title, what are your plans for promoting this scholarship program during your year of service?

Beyond those required items, the rest of your resume can be whatever you want it to be. It may be **in color**, though it must have a white background. You can show your creativity, but remember that it should be a professional and clear presentation that is easily readable by the judges.

You must provide the local competition with 6 copies of your resume.

The resume **cannot exceed 1 page**, and you must **leave a 1" margin on all four sides** of the page.

This resume, combined with the Social Impact Statement, will comprise your entire application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted. Any resume incorrectly submitted that does not fit the established criteria may be submitted to the judges without an opportunity to correct.

Some areas of information you may consider incorporating into your resume include:

- Scholastic Honors
- Leadership Roles
- Accomplishments
- Interesting Facts

Miss Alabama

Instructions for Typing the Candidate's Social Impact Statement

Your Social Impact Initiative will be your cause for which you will work, alongside the Miss America Organization, during your Year of Service. This submission allows you to explain to the judges your subject matter choice, how you choose to advocate for it during your year and the metrics for you see for success at the close of your Year of Service. In addition, it should explain how your advocacy will further the Miss Alabama and Miss America Organization mission.

It is important that these instructions are followed, even when using the preformatted page included. Any items incorrectly submitted that do not meet the criteria may be submitted to the judges without an opportunity to correct.

1. Open Word in 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 social impact statement.
7. Double space down. Write what you feel is critical for the judges to know about your social impact statement 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 statement, 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 your social impact statement and the specific issues you wish to address
 - A plan on how you have or will create awareness of the issue
 - 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 advocacy issue will move the Miss America Organization mission 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, set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line, type Signature/Date and after printing **sign and date the document**. If you forget to sign and date, we will need to return the document to you as it cannot be accepted without your signature. Thank you.

It is important that you sign and date the document as shown in the attached sample.

Name: Jane Smith
Title: Miss Local Title

Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature/Date