

National Miss Juneteenth

Scholarship Program Handbook

2025-2026



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NMJSP OFFICIAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

ALL MUST:

- Be between the ages of 15 and 19.
- Be of good health, moral character, and born female.
- Not consume any illegal substance(s) that renders harm to her body, mind, and spirit.
- Determine a social advocacy platform (a social issue/cause to which you are committed and can effectively advocate for change or development).
- Attend required engagements or events that pertain to Juneteenth, or the promotion thereof. (Advance notice will be provided in a timely manner.)
- Be ready, willing, and able to meet the time commitments and responsibilities of the one-year reign/tenure, as set forth in The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program Handbook.

*Failure to comply with the above requirements will constitute a relinquishment of the National Miss Juneteenth title. Therefore, all prizes (cash, scholarships, crown, and title) must be surrendered. The first runner-up will thereby assume the position for the remaining tenure. All other title holders will remain in their positions.

CHARACTER OF A QUEEN

The character of National Miss Juneteenth is a young woman of faith, courage, patriotism, being dutiful to her family, and her church community. There must be a distinct charm in her aspect and manner since, "She obtained favor in the sight of all of them that looked upon her." ~Esther 2:15

The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program insists on PROFESSIONAL HONESTY from its judging panel. Each judge is entrusted with the preservation and perpetuation of the goals, objectives, and spirit of fairness.

All National Miss Juneteenth candidates should possess the following "Qualities and Attributes:"

- She is a young lady sensitive to her environment and caring about some "troublesome issues" facing the world.
- She works in a defined way towards viable solutions.
- She works to use her crown and its celebrity to make a difference in the world
- She understands that she is chosen to be a role model.
- She strives to make achievements that distinguishes her as one of the top influencers amongst teens in the USA.

- She is a leader by virtue of her experiences
- She understands she is expected to be an independent, eloquent communicator with the "courage of her convictions."
- She shall maintain a confident and commanding presence.
- She is beautiful on the inside and out.

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It is important to understand the judges are not looking for the best gown, or the best interview. The judges recognize that all NMJSP candidates are all beautiful, talented, and intelligent. They are looking for the well-rounded young woman with drive, energy, charisma, great expression, and pride.

The scoring decisions of the judges are final.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The judges come from a diverse range of occupations. The common bond is that they are successful in what they do. They also have a great grasp of the importance of excellent communication skills, self-discipline, and personal/public image.

Judges are never, and will not be, connected to the participants or their families.

Areas of Judging:

- **Community Service** - This is an integral part of the scholarship competition. NMJSP prides itself on the service we give to our communities. It is only fit that we expect the same standards from our National Miss Juneteenth. Examples of community service encompass a wide array of opportunities: caring for the elderly at a nursing home; cleaning up a roadway and parks; working to keep the environment safe and healthy. Minimum of 168 hours of documented service is required.
- **Personal Interview & Projection Questions**
 - You should practice, but never rehearse your answers. Always be genuine, natural, and honest and answer with true conviction when responding to questions.
 - Expand your vocabulary. Practice things like reading, watching interviews, or the news. Use a dictionary and thesaurus when you are not sure of the meanings of words you come across. Expanding your vocabulary makes you more articulate and your answers will be more specific and interesting. Remember who you are! Do not be afraid to be passionate about your beliefs. Never say what you think the judge may want to hear; rather say what you feel. It is not what you say, it is how you say it. PRACTICE reading it!

- The personal Interview is an opportunity to gain as much information as possible about each delegate. Judges are determining the skills and attributes of each delegate towards becoming National Miss Juneteenth. The judges will assess their commitment(s) to advance themselves as role models; as well as their ability to express and distinguish their beliefs. Essentially, the judges are trying to assess their ability to fulfill the responsibilities of National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program. The judges will look for overall "first impressions." What sense of accomplishments, confidence, and presence do they hold? They will observe each personality, personal appearance, and charm. The interviews will be conducted prior to the pageant. Remember, one bad response to questions will not determine the outcome, so relax.
- **Talent Competition** - Judges will score each talent performance on interpretive ability, technical skill, and stage presence. The scores will be measured within the framework of each individual presentation.
- **Poise & Presence** - The Poise & Presence phase of competition is designed to project personality and beauty, while "in the spotlight." The total look is considered. The judges will again check for an overall "first impression," sense of confidence, stage presence and personality. The poise, confidence, sense of fashion/style, and stage presence will all be considered. The judges are looking for the qualities that radiate as each walks across the stage in their evening gown.

Scoring Values

Opening Act (5)

Community Service (20)

Personal Interview (20)

Talent Competition (20)

Poise & Stage Presence (20)

Onstage Question (20)

Essay (15)

Max Total = 120 Points

Fundraising Ads

All participants are required to raise funds by selling ads for the 2025-2026 National Miss Juneteenth Official Souvenir Program Booklet with a minimum amount raised of \$500.00.

Deadline for submission of ads is September 21, 2025

Essay Competition

All are responsible for submitting an essay that summarizes their platform topic and issues. Delegates shall also provide a statement and structural outline of how their platform could implemented during their reign as The National Miss Juneteenth. The following guidelines should be followed in preparing your essay:

- May not be less than 500 words
- Must be written in English.
- Must be typed and printed (handwritten essays will not be judged), double-spaced with one-inch margins, using Times New Roman 12pt font.
- Must be submitted electronically by email
- Must have a proper heading e.g., writer's full name, title of paper, address, telephone number, email address (State Director 's email), and date of birth.
- All submissions shall become property of NMJSP / National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program.
- Must be submitted to the scholarship director by or before August 29, 2025.
- Essay Contest winners shall be announced during the official National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant

Preparing for the Pageant

Punctuality and preparedness are key elements to the success of NMJSP. This year the pageant director or designee will keep tally of the following details, and these details can make or break the final decision:

Punctuality: has been on time to all activities.

Preparedness: is prepared and dressed in the required outfit of the day.

Queen's Travel/Survival Kit

Purse or Tote

Crown

Sash

Driver's License

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Journal with pen
Emergency Cash
Safety Pins
Copies of your Paperwork (essay/community service hours etc)
Cut of your Talent Music
Sunglasses
Eye Drops
Contact Case

Breath Mints

Panty Hose
Sewing Kit Books

Feminine Products
Hand Sanitizer Tissues
Tweezers
Aspirin/Ibuprofen
Medicines
Lotion

Luggage

Robe and Slippers
Blanket and Pillow
Thank You Notes
Steamer
Clothes Rack
Tooth Brush
Tooth Paste Mouthwash
Floss
Hand Mirror
Bronzer
Baby Wipes
Face Wash
Acne Creams
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Razor
Perfume and Body Spray
Teeth whitener
Retainer
Undergarments

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Jewelry
Shoes
Hair Accessories
Props

STAGING

Stage right/Stage Left/Up stage/down stage/Center stage

FINDING YOUR LIGHT

It's important to learn to be aware of when a light is on your face and when a light is not on your face. The only way to learn that is to see it, feel it... do it and learn to be hyper aware of feeling it on their face.

For a Queen, it's not about upstaging anyone and dominating the conversation—it's being a part of the conversation.

PROPER INTRODUCTIONS

Your pageant introduction should showcase who you are and why YOU are capable of wearing the crown

Videos
News

Have Poise and Confidence
Connect With The Judges and Audience
Standing in Your Queen-Stance
Maintain Eye Contact
You Are Already The Winner... Act Accordingly
Projecting Volume
Speak Naturally
Speak From The Heart

SPOTLIGHTING YOUR GIFT(S)

Are you creative/analytical
Focus on your strengths (how have you grown over the past 3-5yrs)
Perfecting your talent
Perfect practice makes perfect.

HEALTHY LIVING

The power of the tongue

Your words will give life or can be the death of your self confidence and identity.

Daily affirmations are positive statements that reaffirm you and cause you to challenge and overcome self-sabotaging and negative thoughts. Harnessing the power of your thoughts helps cultivate the positive reflection of your actions and attitude.

Servanthood and Leadership

..."We all can be great because everyone can serve." ~ Dr. MLK, Jr.

You are what you eat & think

Time Management

Being present in each moment/Enjoy the ride

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media Audits will be conducted with each Queen. Zero tolerance for audits include but are not limited to: No vulgar language, derogatory and/or sexually explicit behavior, photos or reposts,

What/when/how to post

Dos and don'ts of social media

Rules of engagement on social media will often be messages of uniformity given from the Executive Director that each Queen will be scheduled to post simultaneously promoting the NMJSP, Juneteenth or one of the topics covered in our hand book.

WALK LIKE A QUEEN

The proper pageant walk will exude confidence. On stage it will be crown worthy but without this knowledge at best you will not stand out and at worst you will appear awkward on stage, which can cause judges to feel awkward for you. We call this "hand-me-down /second hand embarrassment."

CONTROLLING THE AUDIENCE

Making Eye contact

It creates a bond between the speaker and listener, a connection that is beneficial to both parties. When you look someone in the eye, they are more likely to look at you, listen to you, and buy into your message.

Body language/nonverbal communication

Maintains the flow of conversation and gauges the other audience interest and response.

Know your place (in a group) Requires understanding stage placement, your placement on stage and your contribution to the process.

Poise & Stage Presence Competition

Other than selecting the gown for the individual, the best way to prepare for the evening gown competition is to make sure you are comfortable walking & sitting in the dress and in heels. Once you have your dress, you should make sure that it is appropriately fitting (not too tight) and altered to fit to perfection! You should then practice walking in the dress with your heels on. Also, practice walking downstairs in heels, and video tape yourself and watch yourself on screen, if possible.

The most important thing about an evening gown is that you are comfortable. If you are uncomfortable it will show. You should choose a hairstyle that flatters you and your dress. Make up should be light and natural looking.

Wardrobe Information

Registration, Workshops & Rehearsals

Clothing for registration and rehearsals should be very casual. Sweats, t-shirts, aerobic wear are all acceptable. It is important for you to be comfortable! When choosing comfortable clothing, choose modest (clothing that is not revealing) apparel. You should always be prepared to rehearse/practice in heels.

IMAGE/GROOMING

DRESS FOR SUCCESS/DRESSING FOR YOUR BODY TYPE

• The five main body type shapes are **rectangle, inverted triangle, hourglass, pear and apple**. To discover your specific body shape, stand in front of a full-size mirror with no clothes on, or just your underwear.

HAIR/MAKE UP DO'S AND DON'TS

Color analysis (best color clothing and make up for your skin tone)

HOW TO BE PHOTOGENIC

- Practice posing in front of the mirror or use your camera's self-timer. Looking good comes with feeling comfortable
- Know your angle
- Show some emotion
- Make slight adjustments and light adjustments

Opening Performance

Contestants must be on time, prepared and dressed in the designated attire. Promptness is paramount and those intricate details could make or break the final decision.

Evening Gown

The candidates personal style – the current trend is simple elegance. The gown can be plain or ornate. The important thing is to pick a gown style and color that is flattering to you.

The judges will score the individual not the gown. Gowns should reflect their personality with a youthful flair. Choose a dress that walks well and shows well on stage.

Too much jewelry is not recommended; usually fashionable earrings are enough. Neutral pantyhose are sufficient under your gown.

Interview Competition

Choose a professional business suit, pantsuit, or dress. Be sure to choose a color and style that best suits the personality and flatters your body type. Do not choose an outfit that is too trendy as it might be distracting. Do not choose cocktail attire. There should be no abundance of beads, sequins, etc. The key factor in selecting your interview outfit is to look professional and businesslike. The outfit should make you feel confident, and make the statement “I can do the job!” Select shoes and pantyhose that compliment your outfit, not “define” you, nor your attire.

ANSWERING PROJECTION QUESTIONS/NAILING JUDGES INTERVIEW

Initiate discussions with people around you and broaden your perspective

Practice. Anticipate the questions and prepare answers

Have a pool of “sound bites” that may come handy as a clincher Develop a positive aura

Get trained by professionals

RADIO/TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

Speaking like a Queen/Communication is Key in establishing a foundation of respect and understanding from your audience.

DOING THE WORK/HISTORY

The Freedom Documents

Emancipation Proclamation General Order No.3 13th Amendment

Communicating the Freedom Documents clearly is as important as being familiar with them. Use your imagination and intellect to creatively construct your presentation.

Juneteenth 101

Black History 365. Juneteenth 101 is Our year round education-celebration of all things Juneteenth.

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Community Service is a prerequisite for our Queens. Charity begins at home so serving the community in which you live is apart of the core values of National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant. Each Queen is the Juneteenth Ambassador for her own community and should be visible as a community servant.

Talent Competition

Take time to think about the areas that make you happy and/or you enjoy doing – that can be the focus of your talent. The most valuable tip we can provide about the talent competition is that you choose something YOU are comfortable performing. While it is helpful to accept advice from friends and family, YOU are the one performing. Make sure you are comfortable with your choice. You will need to dedicate time and energy to practice your performance, since your score will be based on your confidence and ability while performing.

While preparing for the talent competition, you will be responsible for ensuring the following:

Your presentation is three-minutes, or less, in length.

Your costumes, audio and visual aids, music and props must be presented to the talent committee in advance.

The Talent Request Form: and the Talent Introduction Form MUST be completed and submitted by August 29, 2023.

What to Expect

Should you win the prestigious crown and Title of National Miss Juneteenth, CONGRATULATIONS will be in order, and you can expect your life to change! Your current obligations, such as school, job, and church will now also include special appearances and interview obligations. The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program understands that your school and family are especially important; but you will also be expected to become a well-organized titleholder in addition to focusing on being a gracious and charming representative of the National Miss Juneteenth Crown.

Throughout the year, you will be approached and asked to attend events, make appearances, and public speaking engagements. Please refer them to the Director who will function as your agent and publicist. Your appearances and arrangements will be confirmed through the Director's office. The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program family is exactly that ... one of caring, support and respect. We expect the same from you. We look forward to discovering who you are and all that you have to offer, during your reign as National Miss Juneteenth.

CROWNED QUEEN RULES

Ownership of Title: Delegates will understand and acknowledge that your National Miss Juneteenth Title is owned and controlled by The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program

Name and Likeness: Delegates understand and give permission and consent for the use of their name, image, likeness, and voice without charge for all publicity and commercial purposes and in the eventuality that you may appear on Television.

Criminal/Illicit Activities: Delegates MUST NOT have a CRIMINAL RECORD or have been involved in any illegal or illicit activities that will in any way dishonor the name of The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program .

Publicity All delegates give permission for their name and likeness to be used in conjunction with any publicity having to do with the Scholarship program; and agree to be interviewed by the press or associated media.

Events and Appearances All Titleholders will be required to make special appearances scheduled and arranged by NMJSP Director. Once crowned Queen of your State you are a forever Queen within National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program. Queens should be dressed appropriately at all events and appearances, in an evening gown, interview suit or appropriate outfits approved by the pageant director.

Illegal Drugs, Alcohol and Substances Delegates must not indulge in any Illegal drugs, alcohol or smoking under any circumstances. All Queens will only be permitted to drink non-alcoholic beverages in their capacity as Queens and will refrain from smoking while representing National Miss Juneteenth.

Titleholder's Responsibility All National Miss Juneteenth Titleholders shall radiate all the positive attributes and should represent The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program in its best possible light. Scholarship winners will hold their title for a period of 1 (one) year; and must be available to attend the next year's Finals to crown the new winner!

As the titleholder of National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Program, you agree that if you fail to operate or live up to the expectation or adhere to the rules, regulations and terms or obligations hereof, this could result in your disqualification and the relinquishing of your title. You would be expected to immediately return all cash prizes, scholarships, crown, and sash.

THE FIRST RUNNER UP WOULD THEN TAKE THE POSITION OF "NATIONAL MISS JUNETEENTH" AND PERFORM THE REMAINING DUTIES OF THE YEAR'S REIGN; AND RECEIVE THE TITLE, CROWN, AND REMAINING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.

PARENTAL/ GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT ARE MANDATORY. THE "NATIONAL MISS JUNETEENTH" SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT PROGRAM MUST HAVE PARENTAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE ONE -YEAR REIGN.

BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTICIPANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ENTIRE CONTENT OF THIS HANDBOOK. THANK YOU!

SIGNATURE:

_____ DATE _____ PARENT

SIGNATURE:

_____ DATE _____

