

AMERICA'S ELEGANT MISS

OPTIONALS COMPETITION HANDBOOK



www.AmericasElegantMiss.com



AMERICAS ELEGANT MISS

OPTIONALS COMPETITION

All About Optionals

The Optionals area of competition allows contestants to show of their personality while getting comfortable on stage before the required events. We encourage contestants to be unique in their routines, but stick to the stage pattern!

Free Optionals

- SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY (COMMUNITY SERVICE LOG)
- ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Digital Optionals

- PHOTOGENIC
- PORTFOLIO
- PRINT MODEL
- SCRAPBOOK

Stage Optionals

- ACTRESS
- CASUAL WEAR
- DENIM & DIAMONDS WEAR
- FITNESS WEAR
- PATRIOTIC WEAR
- LIVE PRINT MODEL
- RUNWAY
- SPOKESMODEL
- STATE WEAR
- SWIM WEAR
- TALENT





All About Optionals

The Optionals area of competition is just that - optional! These events allow contestants to show off their personality while getting comfortable on stage before their required events. We encourage contestants to be unique in their routines, but stick to the stage pattern!

Contestants that compete in 4 or more optional categories (one being Runway), will automatically be entered to win the title of **America's Rising Star**. The winner is determined from their runway score plus three highest combined optional scores. Winner will receive a Marc Defang gift. You cannot win both America's Rising Star and America's Elegant Star.

Contestants that compete in 5 or more optional categories (one being Runway and one being LIVE Print Model), will automatically be entered to win the title of **America's Elegant Star**. This is a NATIONAL TITLE. The winner is determined from their 3 highest optional scores plus their runway, live print model, interview, and introduction scores.

Winners will receive

- America's Elegant Star national crystal crown
- embroidered sash
- photo shoot for print ready composite card
- industry standard modeling resume
- exclusive Branding Yourself class from Team EPIC
- modeling contract opportunities
- invitation to national divisional queen outings.

Winners will also walk for a designer at NYFW in September 2023 or February 2024!

Each optional is **\$100** and you may compete in optional categories up to two times (excluding free optionals, portfolio, and scrapbook).



Free Optionals

Open to ALL ages. Digital submissions will be sent to the national office prior to nationals using a link provided in the AEM Delegate Facebook group.

- **SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY (COMMUNITY SERVICE LOG)**
 - A log of the community service hours completed during state reign (Excel document available in AEM Delegates Facebook group under "Files").
 - One winner will receive a cash scholarship. Digital submission only. All submissions will be reviewed for the Presidential Service Award.

- **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**
 - Submit a copy of your current school transcript along with at least one teacher recommendation (no more than three). Winner will receive a scholarship. Digital submission only.



Digital Optionals

Digital photos will be submitted to the national office prior to nationals using a link provided in the AEM Delegate Facebook group.

- **PHOTOGENIC**

- Headshot image in color showcasing natural beauty of contestant. Judged on age appropriateness, originality, clarity of expressions, creativity, quality of submission, color, lighting, exposure, focus, and WOW factor. Digital submission only.

- **PORTFOLIO**

- 8-10 images showcasing modeling ability. Must include at least 1 headshot, 1 3/4 photo, and 1 full-length photo. Judged on organization of photos, age appropriateness, uniqueness of concepts, originality, clarity of expressions, creativity, quality of submission, color, lighting, exposure, focus, and WOW factor. Digital submission only.

- **PRINT MODEL**

- 3/4 Image. Color or Black and White is acceptable. Images should be high quality and magazine ready! Judged on age appropriateness, uniqueness of concepts, originality, clarity of expressions, creativity, quality of submission, color, lighting, exposure, focus, and WOW factor. Digital submission only.

- **SCRAPBOOK**

- Show off your year! This can be AEM related or it can just be all about you. Get creative and have fun! Judged on theme, organization of pictures, attractiveness, and table of contents. Digital submission only.



Stage Optionals

- **ACTRESS**
 - Monologue or commercial style presentation. 60 second time limit. Handheld microphone will be provided. Judged on selection, stage presence, delivery, attire, and overall presentation.
- **CASUAL WEAR**
 - Show us your personality! Jumpsuits, dresses, outfits are all okay. No jeans allowed. Off the rack or custom designs are permitted. Judged on theme of outfit, personality, modeling ability, and overall stage appearance.
- **DENIM & DIAMONDS WEAR**
 - Show us your personality with a pair of decorated blue jeans! Blue jeans should be a theme with matching top and accessories that compliments the idea of your designed jeans. Judged on uniqueness of concept, personality, modeling ability, and overall appearance.
- **FITNESS WEAR**
 - Age appropriate fitness attire to showcase your favorite fitness routine! May not include tumbling, gymnastics, etc. Judged on fitness routine, fitness wear appearance in outfit, fitness ability, energy, modeling, and personality. No swimwear.





Stage Optionals (cont.)

- **PATRIOTIC WEAR**
 - Show us your national pride! Outfits should include red, white, or blue, camo, or other patriotic themes. Outfits should be accessorized appropriately. Costume or outfit allowed - be creative! Judged on uniqueness of attire, personality, modeling, and overall appearance.
- **PRINT MODEL LIVE**
 - Show off your print-modeling skills in your favorite outfit during a live photo shoot with a professional photographer. Contestants will have 3 mins to show how they interact with a professional photographer. Judged on outfit choice, ability to follow instructions, professionalism, and ability to interact with camera and different angled-shots.
- **RUNWAY**
 - Black tank top, leggings, and nude heels. Contestants will give their all on the runway. This is a traditional runway routine (NOT the AEM stage pattern) like NYFW. Hair should be pulled back away from face and there should not be embellishments added. Judged on poise, elegance, walking technique, confidence, energy, and overall appearance. Walking one time up the runway and one time back.
- **SPOKESMODEL**
 - Speech that focuses on your platform or a topic you are passionate about. 90 second time limit. Stay away from politics, religion, and current events. Handheld microphone will be provided. Judged on overall presentation, speech content, originality, delivery, age appropriate attire, and overall appearance.



Stage Optionals (cont.)

- **STATE WEAR**
 - Showcase your state in a state themed costume or outfit. Be creative to show us all about where you're from! Judged on uniqueness, personality, modeling, and overall appearance.
- **SWIM WEAR**
 - One or two-piece swimsuit of your choice. Full rear bottom coverage and top must be full coverage style with straps from front to back or halter. Straps must be permanently attached NOT tied. Footwear and swimsuit should be age appropriate. Bare feet is acceptable. NO oil or glitter on body. This is a natural competition and will be judged on overall first impression, walk, posture, poise, and grace. Judges will be looking to see that the swimsuit compliments the contestant, their physical fitness, sense of confidence, energy and personality.
- **TALENT**
 - Talent of your choice. 2 minute time limit. Handheld microphone will be provided if requested. Judged on presentation, technical skill level, stage presence, delivery, and overall elegance. Props allowed if functional and integral to your talent. No tumbling or gymnastics, dangerous props, or animals allowed. If you have questions about your talent, please contact Miss Dana. Music must adhere to the values and image of AEM and the national office has the right to deny your music choice. All music is due one week prior to the pageant. Submit music selection in mp3 format with contestant's name and title to americaselegantmiss@gmail.com. BRING A BACKUP TO NATIONALS.