

Mr and Miss Zane Trace Commemoration Local Preliminary Contestant Competition

Rules & Guidelines for 2026

The following information details the single night local preliminary competition rules and becomes effective for all Ohio locals beginning May 2, 2026.

Evening Wear – 20%

The Tux-Evening Wear phase of competition is designed for the judge to assess the contestant's beauty, poise, grace, and commanding stage presence. These must be projected "across the footlights." The contestant's total look is considered. The Tux-evening wear (not the value of the evening wear) should complement the contestant's individuality.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING TUX-EVENING WEAR - Overall "first impression"; beauty; sense of confidence; personality and stage presence; walk, carriage and grace; sense of style and appropriateness of the tux-evening wear; and does he/she take command of the stage by simply walking onto it?

Evening Wear is the contestant's choice of a for the girls; gown, pant suit or cocktail dress; for the guys suit and tie, dress shirt with dress pants and jacket or tux.

Competition Rules & Guidelines – Mr and Miss Zane Trace Commemoration Local Pageants 2026

Talent – 35%

The Talent phase of competition provides an insight into the contestants preparatory and performance skills.

Consideration is given to whether the contestant's talent selection fits these skills and his/her personality. The Talent competition acknowledges the quality of the talent being presented, the technical skill level, and the stage presence of the contestant. The job responsibilities and requirements the local title holder presented during the orientation may also be considered as part of the scoring for Talent.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING TALENT - Overall "first impression", technical skill level; entertainment value;

stage presence; and will you be proud you selected this young man/woman when he/she performs her talent if he/she is selected as the titleholder?

The time limit for Talent competition is 1 minutes and 30 seconds Judges will be informed immediately if a contestant runs over her allotted time and instructed to adjust scores accordingly.

Contestants may not use live accompaniment, pre-recorded accompaniment only.

Contestants must turn in 2 competition CD's. If a contestant is not using CD accompaniment he/she must turn in 1 tape of her talent for timing purposes (ex. Piano, monologue, etc). The CD must have contestant's name on both the jewel case and the actual CD. Also there may only be 1 song on the CD.

A contestant may pre-record them self as a back-up vocalist or instrumentalist and use that tape to accompany his/her live talent performance here. However it cannot be announced to the judges that the accompaniment tape contains any performance by the contestant. He/She will be judged solely on what he/she is doing live, and no exceptions will be made to this. Talent be performed live, cannot be performed/presented electronically.

Regardless of the talent performed, the background CD cannot have voices, instruments, or other noises (such as taps) that mimic the talent of the contestant. (Example: vocalist can not have a CD containing background lyrics or a voice singing the melody line. Same is for instrumentalist or dancers).

If a contestant wishes to perform a double talent, i.e. singing and dancing, or singing and playing piano, he/she must do both live on stage. He/She will only receive points for what is done live.

- There can be no duplication of a talent performance among the contestants. Two vocalists may not use the same song or two dancers may not use the same song. This is determined on a first come, first serve basis. The first contestant to register his/her talent with the local director is the one who will have preference.
- A contestant may not include in a vocal medley the same song another contestant is planning to sing as a solo or as part of a different medley. The same song, though, may be played on a musical instrument by a second contestant or used as accompaniment for dance.
- No disrobing of any kind on stage – this includes removing any type of costume, etc – a contestant may go behind a screen on stage, out of site of the audience.
- Any props that a contestant has on stage must be used and provided by the contestant. The Local Pageant is not responsible for providing any props.
- Local programs are not required to provide instruments or props.

Competition Rules & Guidelines – Mr and Miss ZTC Local Pageants 2026

Talent (continued)

- No props will be permitted unless they are absolutely functional! A contestant may NOT use any of the following:
 - No mood setters or background enhancers.
 - No props that imitate those used in a Broadway or screen version of her music.
 - No props that require excessively large stage areas and complicated setting up.
 - No use of motion pictures, slides or projections of any kind.
 - No live animals
 - No props involving safety hazards such as: fire batons, sword twirling, knife throwing, archery, etc.
 - No lighting enhancements

Lifestyle and History – 15%

The Lifestyle and History is designed to see how well the contestant understands what ZTC is about whether he/she meets the public expectation of a titleholder, and whether or not he/she has the confidence needed to be a titleholder. The contestant's drive, energy, and presence are to be likewise considered.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING LIFESTYLE AND HISTORY - Overall "first impression;" knowledge of ZTC; sense of confidence and composure; display of drive, energy and charisma; and does he/she meet the public expectation of a titleholder?

- costume is the contestant's personal choice. Just be confident that the costume fit within our family-oriented presentation, or he/she may be asked to make a change. The Local Pageant Director has the right to refuse the contestant's costume.
- Only jewelry allowed is earrings.
- To wear footwear or not is the contestant's choice. Remember that costume is a very fast paced competition and there is a possibility that he/she might have to go up and/or down steps. Think of safety!
- NOT ALLOWED:
 - hosiery
 - oils or lotion on any part of a contestant
 - wrap-around skirts, pants, etc. – only thing to be worn is costumes of the era.

On-Stage Question(s) – 5%

The On-Stage Interview phase of competition is designed for the contestant to make an on-stage statement of his/her interests, opinions and aspirations.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING - Overall “first impression”; charisma and stage presence to be a spokesperson for the local organization; give special attention to whether or not the contestant answered the question in context and in the time allotted; did he/she answer the question and did he/she have the commanding presence to make the audience want to listen to him/her?

Contestants may be asked one or two questions. The question(s) may be platform related, from their resume or a general question. All contestants will be asked the same number of questions and the same style of questions.

MOST PHOTOGENIC

You will submit one photo of yourself with your application, make sure this is one you don't expect to be returned.

You will be judged on the most photogenic.

You need to be the only person in the photo.