

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River Org

Dear Contestant:

Welcome to the Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River AND Miss Covered Bridge Competition! We are excited to have you as a contestant and are looking forward to crowning three young women who will represent the Birmingham & Cahaba Valley and Oneonta areas at the Miss Alabama Competition held in June.

The first **20** completed entries (both email & mail items) received by the deadline(s) will be accepted. To ensure your place in our competition, a **\$50** no-show deposit is required for entry. Please make **checks or money orders** payable to *Miss Birmingham*. ***Your check will be returned to you on the day of the competition, right before production rehearsals begin.***

Entry documents, along with instructions, deadlines, and information about the competition events are summarized on the *Become a Contestant!* page of our website (www.missbham.com) and listed in detail on the following pages. **Please read the entire packet to ensure all items are provided to the Executive Director by the deadlines.**

If you have any questions about any portion of the competition, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you as we move toward crowning three winners, one of whom could go on to become Miss Alabama and Miss America!

Remember - compete only with yourself and do it better than the time before!

Warmest Regards,

Mrs. Victoria



Victoria Seale Sims
Executive Director
Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River
www.missbham.com missbham@gmail.com

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge

★PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET★

Competition Date: November 10, 2024
Venue: Thompson High School

Time: 6:30 PM
Tickets: \$20 General Admission

Every Contestant **must** register with Miss America here (annual \$39.99 fee to MAO):

<https://www.club.missamerica.org/alabama-miss-america-registration-page>

★New for 2025!

Spotfund:

- Miss Contestants **must** create a Spotfund fundraising account and raise \$30 per local competition using the instructions in this link: <https://spot.fund/missamerica2025>

Health & Fitness:

- Miss Contestants now compete in the **Health & Fitness** phase of competition and **must** wear **red** Rebel Athletic Wear for local competitions. This phase is comprised of a modeling walk, and *not* a fitness routine. You may purchase your choice of **Go Red** fitness wear from the pieces available on the Rebel Athletic website: <https://rebelathletic.com/collections/curated-styles-for-miss-america-organization>
- Contestants must submit a fitness introduction - 2-3 sentences on why you are heart healthy. This introduction is located on the Contestant Information sheet in this packet and will be read onstage as you model fitness wear.

Interview:

- Each Contestant is introduced by the panelist chair, will take her position, and immediately present a **brief 30-second introduction** – this intro may be about your SI or simply about you.
- There will **no longer be a closing statement**. The interview will conclude at the ten-minute mark.

Paperwork:

- The format for paperwork has changed and samples are included in this packet.
- Do not *mail* items other than the ones listed below and do NOT require a signature.

★Important!

Deadlines for the various items along with the format (email or mail) to send are in the checklist below↓:

EMAIL to:
missbham@gmail.com
Deadline
October 30th

MAIL to:
513 Saint Lauren Way
Birmingham, AL 35242
Deadline
November 2nd

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Interview Fact Sheet</u> <i>Word or PDF only</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Community Service Essay</u> <i>Word or PDF only</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Scholarship Rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Headshot Photo</u> <i>High Resolution</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 No-Show Check |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Contestant Information Sheet - Signed copy</u> <i>Talent & Fitness Introductions are on this Page</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Rising Star Information and \$35 Fee</u> <i>per Rising Star, Made out to Miss Birmingham</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Talent Music</u> <i>MP3 or MP4 Format Only</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Contestant Information Sheet</u> <i>Notarized Copy</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Copy of the signed MAO State Contract &</u> <u>Copy of Birth Certificate</u> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Rising Star Name & Photo</u> <i>Where Applicable</i> | | |

Mandatory Local Orientation via Online Meeting: November 3, 2024 – 3 PM CST

(Zoom link will be sent after the November 2nd Deadline)

After November 2nd, all Contestants will be emailed an updated competition day schedule.

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge Contestant Information Sheet

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

School/University: _____

SECTION A: ELIGIBILITY

- I have registered to compete on the Miss America Website:
<https://www.club.missamerica.org/alabama-miss-america-registration-page>
- I have raised the mandatory \$30 to compete in this preliminary and have verified that it is in my Miss America/Go Red for Women Spotfund account (*only a single \$30 is required for all three titles*).

Age: _____

As of the date of this preliminary

Date of Birth: _____

Enclose a copy of your official birth certificate

SECTION B: TALENT PRESENTATION

Type of Talent (i.e., Vocal, Dance, Piano, etc.): _____

Name of Talent Selection: _____

Type of microphone preferred:

Cordless

Lavalier

Microphone with Stand

None

TALENT INTRODUCTION:

Provide a **short** 2-3 sentence introduction for your talent presentation below:

SECTION C: HEALTH AND FITNESS PRESENTATION: CONTESTANTS MUST WEAR RED REBEL ATHLETIC WEAR

<https://rebelathletic.com/collections/curated-styles-for-miss-america-organization>

Follow instructions for Give8 located on the Become a Contestant! page of the missbham.com website

FITNESS INTRODUCTION:

Provide a **short** 2-3 sentences describing *how you are heart healthy* to be read during your fitness presentation below:

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge Contestant Information Sheet

SECTION D: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY

By signing this Local Contestant Contract Acknowledgment of Understanding and Statement of Eligibility, I agree to abide by the complete Miss Alabama Local Contestant Contract. I understand all terms and conditions of this application and the complete Miss Alabama contract together with its attachments, as I request acceptance of my application to participate in Miss Alabama preliminaries.

Contestant Signature:

Parent Signature:
(if Contestant is under 18)

Note: By electronically signing this document, I attest that all information contained herein is true and accurate. Further, I understand that certain information will be used in the local competition script.

SECTION E: DIRECTOR'S SECTION

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

Director's Signature:

Date

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge

Competition Items to Bring & Opening Number Attire

★*Important!* Local Orientation

Local Orientation will be conducted via online meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 3PM CST. This meeting is mandatory for all Contestants so mark your calendars!

If for an unavoidable reason you are unable to attend, you must notify the Director of the reason at least 24 hours in advance, and your parent may attend in your place. The expectation is that you understand what was discussed and send the Director an email to that effect.

Opening Number Attire

- **White Pants/Slacks/ Jeans (NO RIPS) and a Colorful Top (not all black & not all white)**
 - Pants/Slacks can be skinny, straight, boot cut or wide-leg – whatever looks best on you!
 - Top/Blouse can have sparkle or be plain but *must* cover your midriff!
 - Coordinating shoes of your choice that you can dance in. **NO Boots & NO Wedges**

Required Items You MUST Have with You on Competition Day

1. Initialed & Signed Hard Copy of the Completed 2025 MAO State & Local Contestant Contract – the director will send in the hard copy of this contract to Miss Alabama if you are selected as one of our titleholders – **REQUIRED**
2. Official copy of your birth certificate - **REQUIRED**
3. Talent attire, props and a backup copy of your talent music on your phone (no exceptions)
4. Competition wardrobe including all jewelry, shoes, and *undergarments*
5. All makeup, and other competition necessities
6. **Robe** to wear backstage - **REQUIRED**

Other Important Things to Remember

- Please wear *comfortable* clothes when you arrive & remember that parents and friends **MUST** leave after helping unload
- No Contestant(s) may leave the competition venue during competition day - *No Exceptions*
- No outside hair or makeup artists are allowed – be prepared to do your own hair and makeup
- Dressing Room moms will be available to assist you & keep everyone on track for the next event – please be sure to thank them during the day
- All meals, water & snacks will be provided by the Miss Birmingham Organization
 - If you have specific food allergies, you may bring your own food/snack items; you **MUST** inform the Dressing Room Moms upon your arrival
- Please label anything that you wish to keep – *any items left without a label cannot be returned. If you realize an item has been left after the competition, please e-mail the director promptly*
- Please bring an electrical power strip, a lighted mirror and/or a full-length mirror
 - The competition will provide a limited number of power strips so please make sure to label any that you bring with you to the venue
- Garment racks are provided by the competition for hanging costumes and gowns. If you choose to bring your own, please label it clearly!
- **Dressing Room space is LIMITED – BRING ONLY NECESSARY ITEMS**

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge

Rising Star Information

Rising Stars

Each Contestant in Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River may have a Rising Star (RS) the day of the competition but a RS is **not required** to compete. The Contestant may choose her own Rising Star, or one may be assigned to her on Competition Day (subject to participation).

On Competition Day, Rising Stars will be presented onstage and introduced by Miss Alabama, directly following the Evening Gown Competition.

Rising Stars are girls between the ages of 6 and 12 who are interested in getting to know about the Miss Alabama program and the Contestants who compete in it. We encourage you to choose your own Rising Star – the Miss Alabama office has a list at the ready of young girls who would like to take part. You may contact the office for that list at 205.871.6276.

An electronic photo (300 dpi minimum resolution) of EVERY Rising Star for the Program Book must be sent via e-mail to missbham@gmail.com no later than October 30th.

If a Contestant wishes to choose her own Rising Star, the Rising Star forms (located on the Miss Birmingham website) & the **fee of \$40** should be included with the rest of the application packet documents. These must be received at the Miss Birmingham address no later than November 2nd.

Contestants who do not turn in Rising Star information with their entry packet may have one assigned to them on competition day (*subject to participation*).

The Rising Stars paired with the winners of Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley will be crowned the respective winner's Rising Star and go on to accompany her winner to Miss Alabama in June.

All Rising Star information along with a detailed Rising Star schedule may be found on the Rising Stars page of the Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River website:

www.missbham.com/Rising_Stars

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge

Competition Events & Scoring

Each Contestant is judged by the selection panel immediately after each event. The score will range between 1 and 10, whole numbers only. The high and low scores for each Contestant are discarded in each area of competition.

The three (3) Contestants with the highest overall scores at the end of the competition will be named Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River, respectively.

The Phases of Competition are listed below in order:

★NEW for 2025★ Private Interview with Judges - 30%

Each Contestant is introduced by the panelist chair, will take her position, and immediately present a **brief 30-second introduction – this intro may be about your CSI or it may simply be about you.** Questions may range from current events to personal goals and interests and may be taken from the contestant's resume and CSI essay. ★New for 2025 → **There will no longer be a closing statement**★. The interview will end promptly at the ten-minute mark whether or not the Contestant is still speaking.

Wardrobe: Fashionable attire suitable for a professional job interview.

On-Stage Conversation - 10%

A single question from the **Delegate's Community Service Initiative (CSI)** will be asked and the response should be no longer than 30 seconds.

Wardrobe: OSC is completed immediately following the Opening number in Opening Number attire.

Health & Fitness - 20%

This phase of competition is where the Contestant showcases her commitment to health and fitness initiatives. A contestant's discipline and commitment to being physically healthy is a key to success in all other areas of life, and the rigors of representing the Miss America program is a national titleholder.

Wardrobe: Miss America mandates that competition attire be purchased from the Rebel Athletic product line, from the Miss America **Go-Red** line of fitness wear. Shorts, skorts, leggings and any style top may be worn. **Delegates are not required to purchase new attire for each competition!**

Note: All fitness wear choices **must** cover the intended part of the body **fully**.

Performing Arts Talent or HERStory - 20%

Each Delegate will perform a talent presentation **not to exceed 90 seconds (1 minute 30 second)**.

Talents may include but are not limited to – vocals in every medium, dance in all forms, gymnastics, baton, circus arts, instrumentals, and drama. The talent competition distinguishes each delegate's skills and personality, interpretive ability, technical skill level, stage presence, the ability to capture the audience's attention, and totality of all elements. *There will be no repeated talents in the competition. If two delegates wish to perform the same song, the first Delegate returning all completed paperwork will reserve that song.*

Wardrobe: Costume of the delegate's choice that is appropriate and in good taste for the chosen talent.

Evening Gown - 20%

Allows judges to have a look into how the Delegate exhibits her own personal style, attitude, personality, grace presence and confidence. Scoring is based on how the delegate carries herself, not on the actual gown she is wearing or the perceived cost of that gown.

Wardrobe: Evening wear of the Delegate's choice, with complementary shoes and accessories

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge

Competition Day Guidelines

- 1. RESPECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS:** Treat everyone involved with the competition the way you want to be treated. Our volunteers have put in a lot of work to get everything ready for today. Make sure you thank them!
- 2. HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS AND SMILE!**
- 3. NO VIDEOS OR PHOTOS IN THE DRESSING ROOMS – NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 4. CELL PHONES:** Cell phones are strictly prohibited in the dressing rooms. Phones may be used outside the dressing room during breaks. At all times, cell phones must be on silent/vibrate during competition day
- 5. NO FRIENDS OR FAMILY ALLOWED BACKSTAGE, IN DRESSING ROOMS, OR IN THE HALLS OUTSIDE OF THE DRESSING ROOMS**
- 6. NO OUTSIDE HAIR OR MAKEUP ARTISTS ALLOWED:** You should come to the competition prepared to do your own hair and makeup.
- 7. NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM OR DRESSING ROOMS:** We want to avoid spilling anything and respect the facility guidelines. All food & drinks will be provided for you by the competition in a designated area.
- 8. PAY ATTENTION DURING REHEARSALS:** We have a tight schedule and much to cover in a short period of time.
- 9. TALENT MAY BE REHEARSED TWICE ONLY:** Each Contestant will receive a scheduled time allotment to rehearse her talent selection through twice. If any Contestant chooses to forfeit one or both rehearsals, the next Contestant will be called and the missed rehearsal may be completed at the end of all rehearsals only with the express consent of the Director, and only if time permits.
- 10. BE PREPARED:** Know your resume/fact sheet & community service essay – copies of these items are provided to each judge for use during the interview. Be familiar with current events & social issues.

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge

SAMPLE Competition Day Schedule

Below is a SAMPLE competition day schedule and is subject to change based on participation. A final schedule will be sent to all contestants **after** the deadlines have passed.

Important!★ **LOCAL ORIENTATION** will be held via online meeting the Sunday prior to the Competition – **November 3, 2024 at 3 PM CST.** During this mandatory meeting, the competition order will be selected & the director will answer any questions you have!

| | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| 10:30 | 11:00 | Contestants Arrive & Unload |
| 11:00 | 12:00 | Production Rehearsals (opening number, health & fitness, onstage question & evening gown) |
| 12:00 | 1:30 | Lunch Available Compliments of Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley |
| 12:00 | 1:00 | Group 1 & 2 – Talent Rehearsal |
| 1:30 | 3:10 | Group A – Interviews |
| 3:30 | 5:10 | Group B – Interviews |
| 4:30 | 6:30 | Dinner Available Compliments of Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River |
| 5:30 | 6:00 | Opening Number & Rising Star Rehearsal |
| 6:25 | | All Contestants Backstage & Ready |
| 6:30 | | Miss Competition Begins! |

Below is a **tentative** schedule for talent rehearsal and interviews – *this schedule is subject to change depending on the number of Contestants*. **After** November 2nd, all Contestants will be e-mailed an updated competition day schedule.

While you are waiting for your talent rehearsal time or your interview – you will have time to get ready for your next event, eat, and get to know the other Contestants!

| Contestant | Talent Time | Interview Time |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | 12:00 | 1:30 |
| 2 | 12:03 | 1:40 |
| 3 | 12:06 | 1:50 |
| 4 | 12:09 | 2:00 |
| 5 | 12:12 | 2:10 |
| 6 | 12:15 | 2:20 |
| 7 | 12:18 | 2:30 |
| 8 | 12:21 | 2:40 |
| 9 | 12:24 | 2:50 |
| 10 | 12:27 | 3:00 |
| Judges' Break – Interviews Only | | |
| 11 | 12:30 | 3:30 |
| 12 | 12:33 | 3:40 |
| 13 | 12:36 | 3:50 |
| 14 | 12:39 | 4:00 |
| 15 | 12:42 | 4:10 |
| 16 | 12:45 | 4:20 |
| 17 | 12:48 | 4:30 |
| 18 | 12:51 | 4:40 |
| 19 | 12:54 | 4:50 |
| 20 | 12:57 | 5:00 |
| Doors Open 6:05 PM Competition Begins at 6:30 PM Tickets - \$20 General Admission | | |

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River

Application and Agreement for Contestant Participation In & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

Relationship:

The Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization (*the “Local Organization”*) is a non-profit organization whose express purposes for the winners of Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley, and Miss Hidden River (*the “Titleholder”*) are as follows:

1. The provision of scholarship funds
2. The preparation of the Titleholder to compete in the Miss Alabama program
3. The representation of the Local Organization and the Titleholder in the Miss Alabama program and in the communities/area(s) of service
4. The promotion of the Local Organization and the Miss Alabama & Miss America programs
5. The promotion of the Titleholder’s service initiative

As a result, there are several important principles which are basic to the Titleholder’s year of service with the Local Organization. The Titleholder must recognize that for her entire year of service she will be a public figure who represents the Local Organization and its sponsors, the Miss Alabama and Miss America organizations along with the Birmingham and Cahaba Valley communities at all times. ***Therefore, the Titleholder understands, agrees to, and will abide by the following:***

I. General:

- a. Understands that her year of service is the period beginning the date she is crowned and ending the date she crowns her successor
 - i. Should she be selected as Miss Alabama, her year of service as the Titleholder will end on the date she is crowned Miss Alabama, and no successor will be named to her local title
- b. Understands that she is a brand ambassador for the Local Organization and the Miss Alabama organization *at all times*, and will conduct herself appropriately in public and private, embodying and exhibiting the four (4) points of the crown and the five (5) pillars of the Brand
 - i. Will maintain personal grooming and proper attitude wherever she may be – on campus, at an extracurricular activity, in public, while driving, at a scheduled interview practice or other meeting, or at an appearance
- c. Understands that she must always be gracious and respectful to the Local Organization, the public, friends, family, chaperones, and sponsors. *There will be no exception to this rule*
- d. Understands the Local Organization is a supportive body, and will collaborate with and assist the Titleholder throughout her year of service to be her best at all times
- e. Will actively listen to advice from the Executive Director and Assistant Director, and have interactive discussions regarding furtherance of her service initiative, appearances, fitness routine, interview skills, and talent presentation
- f. Understands that the Local Organization will strive to help the Titleholder represent the community to the best of her ability
- g. Will refrain from the use of profanity or other inappropriate language and all inappropriate conduct/behavior during her year of service – both public and private, including social media (as defined in §IV below)
 - i. Inappropriate conduct/behavior is defined as: any conduct or behavior that includes, infers or implies sexual content of any sort, profanity, abbreviations that indicate profanity or bias, gossip, infers or implies alcohol or drug use, or politically biased, racially biased, sexually biased, gender-biased or geographically biased behavior, language, material or content
- h. Will refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and will maintain a healthy lifestyle, good physical fitness, and healthy eating habits throughout her year of service
- i. Understands that the Titleholder is solely responsible for **a)** claiming any scholarship money awarded, and **b)** abiding by the *Scholarship Rules* governing scholarship awards
- j. Understands that failure to meet a scholarship deadline will result in the scholarship being forfeited
- k. Agrees to use sponsored gift certificates for photographs, wardrobe, and other items; will discuss with and obtain approval from the Executive Director if a sponsor is not preferred

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River

Application and Agreement for Contestant Participation In & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham *and* Miss Cahaba Valley *and* Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

- l. Will schedule a photo session with one of the sponsor photography studios as soon as possible after being awarded the title of Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River
 - i. Will provide the Executive Director with professionally photographed and edited, high-resolution digital (minimum of 300-dpi) competition headshots both with and without the crown, within four (4) months or 120 days of being crowned as a Titleholder of the Local Organization
- m. Will not drastically change her physical appearance (hair color or length, weight gain or loss, etc.) without first discussing with the Executive Director, unless ordered by a physician for health reasons
 - i. If ordered by a physician, the Titleholder agrees to disclose the related situation to the Executive Director, who agrees to keep the information confidential
- n. Will meet with the Executive Director *no less than weekly* (either by phone, video conference, or in person) during her entire year of service
- o. Understands that thank-you notes are to be hand-written by the Titleholder and mailed within 24 hours of an appearance and within 24 hours of receiving any donations from sponsors or gifts from supporters received at any time prior to or during Miss Alabama week, including those sent by the Local Organization
- p. Understands that if any information submitted to either the Local Organization or Miss Alabama is determined to be untrue – the title, the right to compete in Miss Alabama, and all prizes will be forfeited, and any scholarship funds and prizes must be returned to the local Scholarship Organization in full by the former Titleholder
- q. Understands that while holding the title of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River, she is ineligible to compete in any other pageant or competition system (i.e., USA, National Sweetheart, etc.) according to section 5.4 of the MAO Application Agreement
- r. Understands that any regression from the rules set forth in this contract and the MAO state/local contract she has already signed can result in the title and the right to compete in Miss Alabama being forfeited

II. Communication:

- a. Understands that all communications and decisions will be made *solely* between the individual Titleholder and the Executive Director and Assistant Director
- b. Understands that the Executive Director expects and encourages frequent communication and will promptly respond to texts, emails or phone calls from the Titleholder
- c. Will frequently and consistently communicate with the Executive Director and Assistant Director for her entire year of service
- d. Will monitor texts and e-mails and will respond promptly (within a *maximum* of 8 hours) to all communication from the Executive Director, Assistant Director or Board members
- e. Will communicate and develop a relationship with her Rising Star(s), Teens and sister Titleholders over her year of service via electronic and in-person communications
- f. Will support her Teens and sister Titleholders throughout her year of service
- g. Will let the Executive Director know immediately if she feels uncomfortable with any appearance, wardrobe selection or talent selection. Furthermore, the Titleholder agrees to bring any other concern to the immediate attention of the Executive Director so that a satisfactory resolution may be reached for all parties involved

III. Preparation:

- a. Understands that the Local Organization will provide ample preparation opportunities for the Miss Alabama competition. The Titleholder must be willing and available to utilize these opportunities to develop her skills for success
 - i. If the Titleholder does not wish to take advantage of the preparation offered by the Local Organization, she will a) discuss the reasons for this decision with the Executive Director and Assistant Director via Zoom or in-person meeting, and b) will send an opt-out email with explanation to the Executive and Assistant directors with a copy (cc:) to all board members and the state field director

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River

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- b. Will consult the Executive Director regarding all state paperwork deadlines, appearances, wardrobe selections, competition events and performance requirements prior to the deadline or appearance
- c. Understands, has a true belief in, and is ready to execute on her service initiative every day
- d. Will attend weekly interview practice leading up to the Miss Alabama Competition, as scheduled by the Executive Director
- e. Will not have any type of coaching or outside help, advice, or influence in preparing for the Miss Alabama Competition, with the exception of talent coaching, unless disclosed *in writing* and approved by the Executive Director
- f. Understands that her talent selection for Miss Alabama must be approved by the Executive Director:
 - i. Each individual Titleholder must discuss and perform her selection for, and obtain the Executive Director's approval, prior to Miss Alabama Contestant Orientation in March

IV. Social Media:

- a. Understands and uses social media tactically and strategically to promote:
 - i. The Titleholder's Service Initiative
 - ii. The Local Organization
 - iii. The Miss Alabama Organization
 - iv. The Miss America Opportunity
- b. Understands that during her year of service, all content, in any form, posted to any social media platform, existing or new – *including all personal and titleholder accounts* – must be wholesome in nature, having no questionable/inappropriate content or material as defined in §IV.h below
 - i. Wholesome content is defined as:
 - 1. Promoting mental wellbeing
 - 2. Promoting physical wellbeing
 - 3. Promoting decent, moral, trustworthy, prudent, and law-abiding behavior
- c. Will create and maintain a Titleholder account for FaceBook, Instagram and TikTok, and will post regularly to these accounts for the following:
 - i. All fundraisers, service initiative endeavors and appearances
 - ii. All Local Organization events and appearances
 - iii. All Miss Alabama social media calendar posts and competition information
- d. Will be added as an editor of the official FaceBook and Instagram pages for the Local Organization and will post regularly to those accounts as well as her Titleholder and personal pages to ensure consistent publicity during her year of service
- e. Understands that she, as the Titleholder, is responsible for creating and posting content *herself*, to the aforementioned social media accounts
- f. Understands that any and all social media accounts - such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Linked In, Threads, Meta, X (formerly Twitter), and Facebook - are public forums, that the reputation of the winner and the competition is affected by the content posted, and all accounts (personal and Titleholder) will be monitored for content by the Executive Director
- g. Will promptly accept the Executive Director and each Board Member as a friend or follower on all social media accounts
- h. Understands that use of questionable or inappropriate material on personal and Titleholder social media accounts is *strictly prohibited*:
 - i. Questionable/Inappropriate material is defined as: *any post, tweet, text, meme, background music, music, video, or photo – shared or authored – that includes, infers, implies or contains sexual content of any sort, profanity, abbreviations that indicate profanity or bias, infers or implies alcohol use, drug use, or politically-*

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biased, racially-biased, sexually-biased gender-biased or geographically-biased behavior, language, material or content

- ii. Any posts containing such material should be immediately removed from personal accounts *prior* to the Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River competition
- iii. Understands that without exception, *all* social media accounts should remain free of questionable posts or inappropriate material during the entire year of service as a Titleholder in the Local Organization

V. Miss Alabama Required Paperwork, Photographs & Functions:

a. Required Paperwork:

- i. Will meet all deadlines set forth by the Miss Alabama competition for all state materials, including but not limited to paperwork, photos, community service notebook, transcript, talent clearance, and contracts
- ii. Understands that she, as the Titleholder, is responsible for drafting all state materials and paperwork required for Miss Alabama herself, and that the Executive Director will review and suggest edits as needed during the approval process
- iii. Will send electronic copies of all state required paperwork (questionnaire, information sheet, fact sheet/resume, service initiative essay, etc.) to the Executive Director, and understands that all items must be approved before submission to Miss Alabama
- iv. All paperwork must be submitted to the Executive Director for approval a minimum of three (3) days prior to the deadline set forth in the Miss Alabama Contestant Manual or other Miss Alabama directive
- v. Will combine all paperwork into a single email for approval by the Executive Director and when submitted to Miss Alabama
 1. Will add the Executive Director and the Assistant Director as copied recipients (cc:) on all emails sent to Miss Alabama in regard to paperwork
- vi. Will notify the Executive Director via text, email or phone call on the date any materials that cannot be sent electronically are mailed and/or delivered to the Miss Alabama office
- vii. Will provide the Executive Director a copy of all contestant emails from the Miss Alabama organization, along with any material received at Contestant Orientation via email and/or Google Drive, Dropbox or OneDrive

b. Photographs:

- i. Will review and select all photos taken for use at the Miss Alabama Competition with the Executive Director and Assistant Director
- ii. Understands that all photos (contestant line-up, website, judges' book, and ads) for Miss Alabama must be approved by the Executive Director before being submitted to the Miss Alabama Office

c. Community Service Notebook:

- i. The Community Service Notebook is a requirement of Miss Alabama and must be shown to the Executive Director at least one week prior to submission.
- ii. The Titleholder understands that she is ultimately responsible for the preparation of the Community Service Notebook and the Executive Director will be available for consultation and assistance as needed

d. Functions:

- i. Will arrive at all Miss Alabama required functions (orientation, workshop, gala, etc.) at least 15 minutes prior to start time or at the time set forth by the Director and agreed to by the Titleholder
- ii. Will immediately text or call the Executive Director and the Miss Alabama event coordinator (where applicable) if unforeseen circumstances will make her tardy to any function or prevent attendance. There will be no exception to this rule

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River

Application and Agreement for Contestant Participation In & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

VI. Wardrobe:

- a. Will provide her own wardrobe for appearances and all phases of competition in Miss Alabama
- b. Will provide the Executive Director with a budget for her competition and production wardrobe to ensure that any recommendations from the Local Organization governing body are within that budget
- c. Understands the competition wardrobe is comprised of clothing for all competition phases, appearances and rehearsals during Miss Alabama week, including shoes, jewelry and *undergarments*
- d. Understands that appropriate undergarments *must* be worn at all appearances as the Titleholder including *rehearsals* and all *competition* events at the Miss Alabama competition. *There will be no exception to this rule*
- e. Understands that all wardrobe choices for the Miss Alabama Competition must be approved by the Executive Director and Assistant Director:
 - i. Agrees to promptly schedule wardrobe shopping trips with the Executive Director and/or Assistant Director
 - ii. Will properly groom each item and return it to the sales floor or sales representative while shopping
 - iii. Will not purchase any item for state competition without prior approval from the Executive Director
 - iv. Understands that approval may be obtained electronically with proper photos of the selected item sent to the Executive Director via text while shopping, and receiving approval prior to purchase
 - v. Understands that any changes to the approved state competition and appearance wardrobe must be immediately communicated to, and approval of new selections obtained from the Executive Director
- f. Will promptly schedule alteration appointments with a pre-approved alterations individual or company as soon as possible after purchasing her competition wardrobe
- g. Will have needed wardrobe items selected and either purchased or in progress/layaway no later than March 31st of the year she will compete in Miss Alabama

VII. Appearances:

- a. Will cultivate and build relationships for the Local Organization and will build partnerships for the future
- b. Will not accept an appearance request before discussing with and receiving approval from the Executive Director. *There will be no exception to this requirement*
- c. Will not refuse or decline any appearance request prior to discussing with the Executive Director
- d. Will not offer appearance opportunities to sister Titleholders unless previously discussed with and approved by the Executive Director
- e. Will seek out appearance opportunities that promote and support her service initiative
- f. Will arrive at the appearance venue dressed appropriately for the occasion and appearance requirements with appropriate hair, makeup and Titleholder accessories (defined as crown, crown pin and title banner/sash) as agreed upon by the Titleholder and Executive Director for each specific appearance
- g. Will immediately text or call the Executive Director if unforeseen circumstances cause a change in agreed-upon wardrobe items for any appearance or function. *There will be no exception to this rule*
- h. **Titleholder Accessories - Crown, Crown Pin and Title Banner (sash):**
 - i. Understands that there are rules governing the use and wear of the crown, crown pin and title banner (sash) and will abide by these rules as provided to her by the Executive Director
 - ii. Understands that there may be times where all Titleholder accessories are acceptable or required, and times when only a single accessory is appropriate
 - iii. Understands that her title is not sponsored by any entity other than the Local Organization, Miss Alabama and Miss America and will not add pins or other insignia from personal affiliations to her attire or to the title banner (sash) at any time
 1. This rule encompasses any and all affiliations and insignia – corporations, sororities, campus organizations, work organizations, philanthropic organizations, and any other organization that is not directly affiliated with the Local Organization, Miss Alabama or Miss America

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River

Application and Agreement for Contestant Participation In & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham and Miss Cahaba Valley and Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

- iv. Understands that the Executive Director will provide guidance regarding when it is appropriate to wear each accessory element, and the Titleholder will abide by that guidance as provided without exception
- v. Understands that any deviation from the rules as set forth by Miss Alabama or the Local Organization will result in immediate forfeiture of the title and a successor will be named
- i. Will arrive *at least 15 minutes prior* to any engagement or at the appointed time prior to an appearance as set forth by the Executive Director. *Tardiness is not acceptable*
- j. Will immediately text or call the Executive Director if unforeseen circumstances will make her tardy to any appearance. Leaving late is not considered an unforeseen circumstance and will not be considered an acceptable reason for tardiness
- k. Will maintain enthusiasm & approachability at each appearance, engaging with people of all ages and all backgrounds
- l. Will discuss and develop a plan for appearances to further her Service Initiative with the Executive Director
- m. Will discuss all appearance opportunities with and understands that all appearances must be cleared and approved by the Executive Director before each is scheduled
- n. Understands that for her protection, a member of the Local Organization, a parent, or an approved alternate chaperone *must* accompany the Titleholder on any official appearances unless pre-approved by the Executive Director or Assistant Director
- o. Will provide her own transportation to and from scheduled appearances
- p. Will properly prepare herself to successfully meet the requirements of all approved appearances
- q. Will maintain appropriate speech, demeanor and conduct as is suitable for a Titleholder at each appearance and whenever meeting with the public
 - i. Will never take advantage of the host's hospitality at an appearance
 - ii. Will never give the impression that the Titleholder is sick, tired, or bored during any appearance, and will maintain interest, enthusiasm, and sparkle during the entire appearance event, even as she is walking to her vehicle
- r. Will not cancel any appearance for any reason other than illness or school requirements
 - i. Will *immediately* inform the Executive Director and Assistant Director if a conflict in scheduling arises
 - ii. Will write a letter of regret and offer to reschedule immediately if any appearance must be rescheduled or canceled
- s. Will make required appearances listed below as scheduled by the Executive Director and/or the Miss Alabama Board. Under no circumstances may the Titleholder cancel any of the following (with exception of illness or school obligations discussed with the executive director prior to the scheduled appearance):
 - Helena Christmas Parade (1st Saturday in December)
 - Miss Birmingham's/Miss Cahaba Valley's/Miss Hidden River's Teen - Best Wishes Reception
 - Miss Alabama's Teen Competition – Introduction of Miss Alabama Contestants (March)
 - Local Organization Boot Camp and Local Wardrobe Check / Approval with Executive Director (typically the weekend prior to Miss Alabama workshop)
 - Miss Alabama Contestant Orientation (March – same weekend as MALT)
 - Miss Alabama Contestant Workshop (as scheduled by Miss Alabama)
 - Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River Best Wishes/Sendoff Reception (May/June)
 - Miss Alabama Competition (June/July)
 - Miss Alabama Top Ten Fashion Show (if in Top 10)
 - Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River Competition – to crown successor (1st Sunday in November)
 - Other appearances as scheduled by and at the discretion of the Executive Director
 - Other appearances as scheduled by and at the discretion of the Miss Alabama Board

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River

Application and Agreement for Contestant Participation In & Statement of Understanding Between Miss Birmingham *and* Miss Cahaba Valley *and* Miss Hidden River and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization

The undersigned Contestant:

- By submission of both the Local and State Agreements including supporting documentation attests that the Contestant is a Citizen of the United States who lives, works, or attends school in the State of Alabama
- By submission of supporting documentation is between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-eight (28) years of age
- Provide a \$50 check to the Miss Birmingham competition as a good faith effort to secure her spot as a contestant.
 - ***Is aware that the \$50 check will be returned to the Contestant on the day of the competition***
 - Understands that she must notify the Executive Director of my decision not to compete at least 48 hours *before* the day of the preliminary in order for the check to be returned if she does not compete in the Local Competition
- Will be required to meet minimum fundraising requirements as set forth by Miss America as a contestant in Miss Alabama, if selected as a Titleholder
- Will claim all scholarship monies as indicated by the local Scholarships Rules and understands that any scholarship monies awarded that are not claimed according to the aforementioned rules, will be forfeited
- Allows the Local Organization to post photograph(s) and name on the public website (www.missbham.com)

SIGNATURE PAGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS

Contestant Initials: _____

Miss Birmingham Cahaba Valley Hidden River

**Application and Agreement for Contestant Participation In & Statement of Understanding Between
Miss Birmingham *and* Miss Cahaba Valley *and* Miss Hidden River
and the Miss Birmingham | Cahaba Valley | Hidden River Scholarship Organization**

I, _____, a Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River contestant, by initialing each page and signing below, attest that I have read this agreement and contract in its entirety, and understand all conditions, rules, and regulations set forth therein. I further understand that if found in violation of any part of this local contract, the Executive Director has the authority to revoke the title of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River and a successor will be named to compete in the Miss Alabama competition as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River. In addition, all awards, scholarships, and prerequisites pertaining thereto will be returned and passed on to the successor, who will receive all of the benefits to which I would have otherwise been entitled.

Signature of Local Contestant

Date

Notary Public

Date

My Commission Expires: _____, 20 _____

**Miss
Birmingham
Cahaba Valley
Hidden River
Org**

**Miss
Covered Bridge
Org**

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

If awarded a scholarship in the Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition, I agree to the following:

1. I will provide the Executive Director of the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River Competition with an initial email accepting my scholarship, sent to **missbham@gmail.com**, *no later than 60 days following the local competition date* - **in order to receive any scholarship monies awarded to me.**
 - a. **This email must contain the following information:**
 - i. Acceptance of scholarships in detail (title & amount - including preliminary & other awards)
 - ii. Name of University or Lender (student loans) & Address where monies are to be mailed
 - iii. Student ID or Loan Number
 - iv. Login Credentials (user ID/password) & Website URL (for online payments only)
2. I understand that a single reminder email will be sent by the Executive Director to claim my scholarship.
3. I understand that I am solely responsible for sending the email to the proper email address with the proper information included as noted in Rule **1.a.i-1.a.iv** above.
4. I understand that monies not claimed within the 60-day time frame outlined in Rule 1, will be forfeited by the recipient, and returned to the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River Scholarship Fund.
5. I understand that all scholarship monies won will be paid directly to my college or university, housing, or lender if a student loan is in play. The acceptance email required in Rule 1 should indicate the bursar's office address of the college or university or the lender address and should also indicate the student account number or loan number of the recipient. *In no instance will the money be paid directly to the recipient.*
6. I understand that all scholarship awards to contestants other than the winner(s), will be available for disbursement upon the timely receipt (see Rule 1) of the acceptance email from the recipient.
7. The winners' scholarship award(s) will be disbursed on the following schedule upon timely receipt of the acceptance emails:
 - Payment 1)** 50% upon receipt of the **first** acceptance email
 - Payment 2)** 50% after the Miss Alabama Competition, upon receipt of the **second** acceptance email
8. **In the event that the winner is named Miss Alabama, no successor will be named.**
9. If the winner resigns in good standing, from the position of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River prior to her appearance in the Miss Alabama competition, she will forfeit any further scholarship winnings to which she would have been otherwise entitled. Her successor will be entitled to the winner's scholarship amounts not yet disbursed.
10. If the winner resigns the position of Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River after representing her title in the Miss Alabama Competition, there will be no successor named and she will forfeit any remaining scholarship amounts to which she would have otherwise been entitled.
11. If the Executive Director of the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River competition, due to a contract violation or breach, removes the winner from the position, that winner will forfeit all scholarship amounts awarded her by the Miss Birmingham/Miss Cahaba Valley/Miss Hidden River Organization during her tenure as Miss Birmingham or Miss Cahaba Valley or Miss Hidden River. Any funds previously awarded her must be repaid to the Miss Birmingham/Cahaba Valley/Hidden River Scholarship Fund.

Signature of Contestant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian
(If contestant is under 21 years of age)

Date

Notary Public

Date

My Commission Expires: _____

**Miss
Birmingham
Cahaba Valley
Hidden River
Org**

**Miss
Covered Bridge
Org**

Dear Friend:

The Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River and Miss Covered Bridge Competition will be held Sunday, November 10, 2024. As a scholarship preliminary to the Miss Alabama and Miss America Competitions, we are seeking contributions from the businesses, merchants, and corporations of our Metro Area community to make this year's competition a success for the young girls and women who compete for both scholarships and prizes.

Scholarships are a vital part of the Miss Alabama Competition experience and the proceeds from your advertisement will be used to provide the winners of Miss Birmingham, Miss Cahaba Valley & Miss Hidden River with funds to further their education as each goes on to represent our city in the Miss Alabama Competition.

The Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition welcomes in-kind gifts as well as monetary donations. Below are our Program Book advertising rates and in-kind gift information.

| Type of Ad or In-kind Gift | Price |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Full Page | \$100 |
| ½ Page | \$50 |
| In-Kind * | Gift Certificate |

**All in-kind Contributors will be listed in the Program Book & a link to their website will be added to the competition's websites for one year*

All Ads are to be received via e-mail ***print ready no later than October 30th***. The ad fee may be given to the Contestant or mailed directly to the address below:

Make checks payable to:
Miss Birmingham

Mailing Address:
Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Competition – Ad Sales
513 Saint Lauren Way
Birmingham, AL 35242

E-mail to:
missbham@gmail.com

Deadline for receipt of all Ads and Fees is October 30th

All photos must be in JPEG, PNG or PDF Format and must be e-mailed to missbham@gmail.com

Thank You again for your support and generosity that makes our competition a success!

Regards,

V ictoria



Style Scholarship Service Success

Victoria Seale Sims
Executive Director
Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River
www.missbham.com missbham@gmail.com

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley
Miss Hidden River | Miss Covered Bridge

Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley's | Miss Hidden River's
& Miss Covered Bridge's Teen

OPTIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

★**OPTIONAL** Photo Competition:

Each year, we offer the opportunity for Contestants to submit photos that will be judged individually for the most photogenic Contestant overall. Contestants may submit as many different photo entries as they like, to show versatility. Each photo will be judged individually, and a winner selected prior to the competition.

The fees for this phase of competition are **\$100 for 8x10** and **\$50 for 5x7**.

All fees go toward the Miss Birmingham & Miss Cahaba Valley Scholarship fund

Competition photos will be placed in the **Miss Birmingham | Miss Cahaba Valley | Miss Hidden River Program Book** *with your specified caption*, and you will receive a **complimentary** Program Book the night of the competition (\$10 value).

High Resolution Photos should be **emailed** to the Director at missbham@gmail.com by the deadline of **October 30th** to the address below.

ALL FEES may be paid by check – made out to Miss Birmingham & mailed to the address below

Miss Birmingham / Miss Cahaba Valley / Miss Hidden River – Photo Competition
513 Saint Lauren Way
Birmingham, AL 3524

**Miss
Birmingham
Cahaba Valley
Hidden River
Org**

**Miss
Covered Bridge
Org**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MISS BIRMINGHAM | CAHABA VALLEY | HIDDEN RIVER & COVERED BRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NAME / BUSINESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CONTESTANT: _____ DATE: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ CHOOSE: AD or DONATION

CHOOSE SIZE OF AD:

FULL PAGE – \$100

HALF PAGE – \$50

IN-KIND (GIFT CERTIFICATE)

Make checks payable to *Miss Birmingham*

NOTE: DEADLINE FOR AD SALES IS OCTOBER 30th

For further information text or email:
Victoria Seale Sims: 205.410.6410 missbham@gmail.com

RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

(To be given to purchaser)

Ad or Donation by _____

Submitted by _____
(Contestant Name)

Amount _____ Date _____

A Scholarship Preliminary Competition to Miss Alabama & Miss America

The **Miss** 
America
Competition

Interview Fact Sheet Instructions

Must be a single page

San serif fonts in sizes 11-14.

Margins to be standard 1"

Single line spaced typed responses

May be submitted as a hard copy

May be filled out as online digital form

May be a PDF

May not include any attachments

May not include any graphics or photos

Please see template sample below.

Interview Fact Sheet

Name:

Hometown:

Local Title:

Age:

Instagram:

Facebook:

TikTok:

Twitter:

Current Employment or Schooling:

Scholastic/Career Ambition:

Service Initiative (SI):

Performance Talent or HERStory™ Description:

Accomplishments:

Interesting Facts:

Describe your personal health initiatives and alignment with #MissAmericaFit:

What social issue, other than your SI, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?

Name three items on your 'bucket list' in the next five years.



COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE (CSI)

Miss America's Community Service Initiative (CSI) is an integral part of the interview phase of competition, supporting one of the branded elements of Miss America as outlined by the "Four Points" of the crown. The "Four Points" are Style, Scholarship, Service and Success. CSI is specific to the **SERVICE** point of the crown.

The CSI initiative allows you, as a participating Delegate, to showcase and deploy your interests and creativity, to outline a plan or effort to engage within your local community or state existing programs. You may also design your own program for your community or state.

This ONE page submission in san-serif font style of your choice, font sizes from 11-14 only, should include the following:

- A description of your Community Service Initiative passion or interest
- Why you chose this particular initiative
- How you've partnered or will partner with local/state communities to create momentum
- Any social media or marketing strategies that will best support your CSI
- Any activities you have planned or participated in with respect to this CSI

Use of Graphics

At the local level, you may use "header only" graphics approximately ½ inch from the top of the 8.5 x11 page. Graphics may include existing organizations' logos, taglines or other creative efforts. You may use bullet points within your long form essay. Your local/state organization may decide to have you submit your CSI single page electronically, via a form rather than a pdf, through a portal, or other options.

Signature and Date

Please sign and date your submission at the bottom right hand corner, and include your local title. No submissions to be verified without signature.

NOTE: Marketing & Promotional Suggestion

For personal use/promotion - NOT for an interview submission - you may create a fully graphic page for insertion into a state program book, distribution online as a promotional flyer, printed item to distribute during community events or presentations, or as a 'one sheet' to advertise your participation within the Miss America or Miss America's Teen programs online, or while raising funds. There are no guidelines as to promotional creative, other than you must have State/local permission to use Miss America or Miss America's Teen logos.

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