

The Miss Hamilton Pageant

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DETAILS

The Miss Hamilton Pageant is an official preliminary to the *Miss Alabama/Miss America Pageant* system. The *Miss America Pageant* is the world's largest source of scholarship assistance to young women. Each year over \$42 million in scholarships are made available to young women at the local, state and national levels. Preliminary competitions are an unforgettable experience which can sharpen one's talents, round one's personality and strengthen one's character. In addition to the opportunity to win scholarship money, the ***Miss Hamilton Pageant*** offers an opportunity for young women to grow as individuals. The City of Hamilton is very privileged to have the opportunity to host the ***Miss Hamilton Pageant*** and to be an active part of the *Miss Alabama/Miss America* Organizations. It is requested that all contestants exhibit good character becoming to a *Miss Alabama* hopeful while competing in the ***Miss Hamilton Pageant***. Please show your appreciation to those who have worked so hard to make this preliminary possible for you as a contestant.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Please label all of your belongings
- Be organized, and keep all of your personal things together
- **We are not responsible for any lost personal items**
- **IMPORTANT: NO PARENTS, COACHES, FAMILY OR FRIENDS WILL BE ALLOWED AT REHEARSALS, LUNCH, PRE-PAGEANT ACTIVITIES OR BACKSTAGE DURING THE PAGEANT**

You are not considered a contestant until your COMPLETED pageant packet is received, and that is meets all required criteria. Please **DO NOT** send in your forms one at a time. If your package is incomplete, it will be placed on hold until *ALL* items are received. In the event your application is incomplete, you will **NOT** be considered an official pageant contestant until *ALL* your completed items are received, and received before the deadline date. Each contestant who submits a pageant application packet will be notified upon arrival either by e-mail or telephone as to the status of said application.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS

Miss Hamilton Pageant is limited to the first **25** contestants who met ALL the requirements for participation. After the first 25 with COMPLETED pageant packets, all other applicants will be placed on a waiting list and are subject to be called upon to fill vacancies should a contestant drop out. **BE READY IF YOU ARE PLACED ON THE WAITING LIST, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN A CONTESTANT MAY NEED TO DROP OUT FOR SOME UNFORESEEN REASON.**

DEADLINE FOR ALL ENTRIES WILL BE September 2, 2011

DEPOSIT

A \$50.00 deposit is required with your pageant application packet to hold your contestant spot. **THIS IS NOT AN ENTRY FEE.** There is no charge to compete in the pageant. If you withdraw (cancellation) from the competition by **Friday, September 2, 2011** your check will be returned. If you fail to notify us by this deadline, your check will be cashed. There is a lot of money and time that goes into producing such a pageant and your commitment upon entering is vitally important. (Some exclusions do apply in the event of a personal and/or family emergency and/or sickness and is deemed an emergency solely by the **Miss Hamilton Pageant Committee.**)

CONTESTANT PLATFORM

Each contestant must have a platform issue that will be the focus in her field of service should she become *Miss Alabama*. Please complete the "Platform Issue Form" enclosed.

Take time to think about issues that are important and that you feel strongly about. Don't just choose something that you think will be impressive. If you fake it, it will show! Choose a topic of substance and value; an issue that you think could influence people or make a difference in society. You may already be involved in something like this. Some examples of past platforms include:

- AIDS Awareness
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Character Education
- Mentoring
- Curing Childhood Cancer
- Many, many others!

It is suggested that you choose a platform that can be supported by a 501 (c) 3 Non Profit Organization and that is marketable. A few of examples of these are:

- The American Red Cross
- United Way
- American Cancer Society

SCHOLARSHIPS

Contestants in the *Miss Hamilton Pageant* who place for scholarship monies must accept and request scholarships in writing. The *Miss Hamilton Scholarship Committee* must receive a letter of acceptance and request for the scholarship within sixty (60) days of the award notification. Failure to submit this letter will result in a forfeiture of the scholarship. Additional prizes may also be awarded.

INTERVIEW **(25% of the overall score)**

Each contestant will have a **10-minute interview** with five (5) judges. During this time, you will have an opportunity to talk about your interests, future plans, and goals for the future and your platform. The judges will have a copy of your platform questionnaire, as well as your contestant application. They will be noting your vocabulary, voice, general knowledge, personal appearance and how well you present yourself one-on-one. If you are asked about something that you know nothing about, say so! Don't fake it! **BE YOURSELF!**

Your time will start when you enter the room. You will stand at a podium across from the judges and give a 30-45 second "opening" allowing you to introduce yourself to the judges. You may want to list some of the things that you would like to discuss in the interview.

The interview will follow your "opening" and will last for 9 minutes and 15 seconds in the timing process. At the 9:15 mark, you will be asked if there are any additional issues on which you would like to comment. This segment will only allow for *un*-discussed issues. Additional questions may follow from the judges. If you have nothing more to discuss, the interview will end.

Interviews will be conducted in the afternoon, so you can make plans to arrive in comfortable clothes and shoes, but be prepared to change for your interview. We will run through talent rehearsals during the interview process and production rehearsal following the interview process.

TALENT COMPETITION **(35% of the overall score)**

You must perform your talent within a **90 second, (1 ½ minutes)**, maximum time limit. This is the same allotted time for the *Miss Alabama/America* competitions. There will be absolutely **NO** exceptions in this statement. The production staff will make all final decisions regarding talent presentations. Your talent will be timed during talent rehearsal.

Your talent presentation must be live; the use of film is prohibited. There will be no duplication of talent presentations during the entire pageant.

Examples: Two contestants singing the same song.
Two contestants dancing to the same song.

If your music selection is a duplication, the pageant staff will immediately notify you. Remember to be smart - work on at least two pieces as you prepare. Talent selections will be approved on a first come, first approved basis. A contestant who submits **all** of the paperwork in a complete, correct and timely manner is considered approved and her talent choice is approved accordingly. If you are performing a medley, each song within that medley must be listed on your application. (Please be sure to complete the *SOUND TECHNICAL FORM* in the packet and be sure to submit your CD, if applicable.)

Please be specific on your application regarding your talent. Don't just put "singing" or "dancing". State the title of the song and any pertinent information.

All contestants will be guaranteed the opportunity to rehearse once. Time permitting, contestants will be allowed to run through their talent twice. . After each contestant has had one run-through, we will give you the option of the second rehearsal.

If your talent requires accompaniment, you must provide a CD with your pageant application packet. We will not return music by mail; however, you may pick it up immediately after the pageant. A piano will be available. However, in the event of circumstances beyond the ***Miss Hamilton Pageant Committee's*** control, a keyboard may be substituted.

We will furnish you with an appropriate microphone for your talent, either handheld, stand microphone, or lapel microphone.

TALENT COSTUMES

- All costumes should be in good taste
- Costumes with ornamentation, beads or anything that may drop onto the stage should be avoided
- No props unless they are absolutely an essential part of your act
- **You cannot be assisted by coaches, family members or friends at any time during the pageant!**
- We will have staff and volunteers available to assist you in any way necessary

TALENT INTRODUCTION SHEET

You must type on a standard sheet of paper (8 ½ x 11) your own introduction for your talent. This introduction may not exceed 10 seconds. You may leave a blank space for your contestant number to be inserted, as the number will be assigned later by the pageant staff. The following is an example:

_____, Jane Doe will sing "Title Selection" by "John Doe".

You may need to give more information, depending on your talent, just keep it simple.

LIFESTYLE & FITNESS IN SWIMSUIT COMPETITION **(15% of overall score)**

Swimsuits may be one or two-piece - NO thongs or bikinis! The only requirements are that the swimsuit must be a solid color and/or pageant approved white; it may be piped in another color. The style is your choice as long as it is in good taste. You may wear heels (must have a back heel strap), sandals or go barefoot.

All swimsuits will be approved at check-in.

You will not be permitted to use oil on your arms, legs or back and stockings are not allowed.

EVENING GOWN COMPETITION **(20% of overall score)**

Most contestants choose long gowns for the evening gown competition; however, the *Miss Alabama Pageant* guidelines define evening wear as:

- After-Five Apparel of any length (Maximum of 4 inches above knee)
- Long gowns
- Evening pants, dresses or cocktail clothing (NO suits)

We want you to feel comfortable. The judges are instructed to judge you in:

- Overall “First Impression”
- Appropriateness of Evening Gown.
- Beauty and Sense of Attractiveness
- Personality
- Sense of Confidence
- Stage Presence and
- Technique (Walk, Posture, Carriage and Grace)

ON-STAGE QUESTION **(5% of overall score)**

As an advocate of your platform and ambassador of the *Miss Alabama Program*, your ability to speak is critical. The evaluation process at each level of competition should include segments in which each contestant has the opportunity to speak extemporaneously before an audience on some subject of which she has knowledge.

Contestants will be required to answer one (1) On-Stage question immediately following the “Opening Number” of the pageant competition. The question will be a general type question that will be drawn from a bowl.

PAGEANT OPENING NUMBER

The pageant “Opening Number” is a phase of the competition that is designed for the contestant to be “herself” and let her personality and vibrancy shine! The “Opening Number” is the first glance at the contestants and the time of contestant introductions to both the judges and audience. Contestants will have a brief and easy production number that will be rehearsed the day of the pageant. **For the 2012 *Miss Hamilton Pageant’s* “Opening Number” the appropriate dress will be announced at a later date.**