

Miss Massachusetts

Rules, Regulations, and Overview of Participation in
a Miss America Local Scholarship Competition Miss
Taunton and Miss Taunton's Teen Competition
Orientation Sunday October 15
Dress Rehearsal Saturday November 4 Competition
Sunday November 5

The following Eligibility rules apply to both Miss and Teen.

Never competed in any National Finals of the Miss America Organization.

“Miss”: Must be a legal resident of Massachusetts for at least thirty (30) days prior to competing in the Local Competition.

OR: Must be a full-time employee (no less than 30 hours per week) working in Massachusetts for at least thirty (30) days prior to the Local Competition.

OR: Must be enrolled as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours), part-time student (at least 9 credit hours), or Graduate student (at least 9 credit hours) at a college or university within Massachusetts by the day of the Local Competition.

“Teen”: **Must live or be a full-time student** in our local franchise area for at least 30 days prior to the local competition. Our franchise area is Taunton, Raynham, Norton, Dighton, N. Dighton, Rehoboth, Lakeville, Berkley, Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater.

Age Requirements

“Miss”: age range for any “Miss” applicant for the 2023-2024 Local Competition season is 18 to 28 years old (birth year 1996-2006).

“Teen”: age range for any “Teen” applicant for the 2023-2024 Local Competition season is 13 to 18 years old (birth year 2010-2006).

****PLEASE NOTE:** 18-year-olds have the choice of competing in either the Teen or Miss program. However, once you begin competing in either the Teen or Miss program, you stay in that program. You cannot switch back and forth between the two programs. For guidance, contact Jennifer Freeman, State Field Director, at jaedance@aol.com OR Dolores “Buffy” Rabuffo, Executive Director, at dancgym@aol.com. For MAOTeen information, please contact Donna Klamkin at donnaklamkin@gmail.com.

Citizenship

Must be a citizen of the United States of America at the time she enters her first Competition.

Additional Requirements

- Competitor is female.
- Must be in good health and can participate fully and without limitation in any Program activities.
- Must have never been married, had a marriage annulled, or will get married during her Year of Service. You can become engaged, however.
- Must not now be pregnant, is not a parent or adoptive parent, nor become a parent/adoptive parent during her Year of Service.
- Must never have been convicted of any criminal offense.
- Must not have criminal charges presently pending, and/or not been charged with multiple minor or petty offenses in the last 24 months.
- Has not been involved in any act or behavior that could be perceived contrary to the mission, vision, goals, objectives, or policies of the Miss America Program. This includes activity on social media.
- Must not use or consume or distribute any illegal or controlled dangerous substances other than those obtained under a valid prescription and taken according to the directions of a licensed healthcare professional. Must not abuse the use of alcohol.
- See the Local/State Competitor Contract for additional requirements.

Miss America Organization Membership Program

Competitors must join MAO's Membership to participate in the Local Competitions.

You must submit your receipt with your local paperwork to be eligible to compete.

- Please go to www.missamerica.org and click on "The Competition" at the top of the home page.
- On the drop-down menu, click "Become a Participant".
- Then, click on "Start Here: Become A Member".
- Then complete the "Miss America Registration STEP ONE" form.
- Pay the ONE-TIME PER SEASON Membership fee of \$39.99.
- Submit your membership.

Fundraising

If you become a Local Titleholder, you are obligated to create a profile on the official Miss America's fundraising platform, Spotfund, and encouraged to fundraise for Miss America scholarships. Scholarship fundraising is an important part of our program and a great way to give back, help yourself and others earn scholarship awards, and gain recognition and other opportunities. It will only take a couple of minutes to create your fundraising profile.

This Miss America fundraising platform is easy to use and easy to share to start raising scholarship funds for the Miss America program. Important note, the fundraising is tax deductible.

More Spotfund information will be forth coming once you've been awarded a Local Title.

Competitions and Scoring for Local Miss and Teen Competitions

Competitions scored on a scale of 1 through 10 using whole numbers only.

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| 30% | Private Interview |
| 20% | Performance Talent/HERstory |
| 20% | Health & Fitness |
| 20% | Evening Gown |
| 10% | On-Stage Conversation |

The Private Interview – 30%

Attire: Stylish Business Attire, pantsuit, or dress of Competitor's choosing

- ❖ A podium will be used.
- ❖ **After Competitor is introduced, Competitor gives a 30 second opening statement of their Community Service Initiative (CSI)**
- ❖ Interview continues with questions/answers for 9:30 timing mark.
- ❖ Interview ends at the 10-minute timing mark.

The private interview provides an opportunity to learn as much as possible about the Competitor's qualities and attributes to fulfill the Titleholder position; her insight on how to advance her Community Service Initiative for a full Year of Service; allows her to express her beliefs and have a true knowledge of the world around her; and to get a sense of accomplishments above and beyond her Fact Sheet.

Performance Talent/HERstory Competition – 20%

Attire: Appropriate Costume or Outfit of Competitor's choosing

The time limit for talent presentation is 90 seconds.

Nothing longer will be accepted, and this will be strictly enforced! Competitors should plan a performance that will not exceed this limit. Judges will be informed immediately if it runs over her allotted time. Each judge will then use this information to assist in determining his/her score of the Competitor's talent competition.

The Talent phase allows an insight to the Competitor's performance skills; a look at technical ability and stage presence; and most importantly how enjoyable, relatable, and entertaining the performance is. Presentations can consist of not only singers, dancers, instrumentalists, or acting monologues but also non-traditional ones like poetry/slam poetry, science experiments, fashion, martial arts, speed painting.

Guidelines:

Accompanying Oneself with a Pre-recorded CD

A Competitor may pre-record herself as a back-up vocalist or instrumental accompanist and use that CD to accompany her live talent performance. However, it cannot be announced to the judges that the accompaniment CD contains any performance by the Competitor. She will be judged solely on what she is doing live, and no exceptions will be made.

A talent cannot be performed electronically (i.e. video tape) or with live accompaniment.

CD Enhancements

Regardless of the talent performed, the background CD cannot have voices, instruments, or other noises that mimic the talent of the contestant. (Example: A vocalist may have background vocals with "oohs and aahs" or other background lyrics but cannot have a CD with a voice singing the melody line for the Competitor to sing along with. The same would be said for instrumentalists, dancers, and any other talent which could provide for an unfair advantage if a judge could not delineate from the talent on the track versus the live performance of the Competitor.

Double Talents

If a competitor wishes to perform a double talent, i.e. singing and dancing, or singing and piano playing, she must do both live on stage. She will only be judged for what is done live. For example, if a competitor danced to a pre-recorded tape of herself singing, she would only be judged on her dancing. If she sang on stage and performed a dance segment with it, she would be judged on both singing and dancing.

Talents Involving Original Work or Material

Any Competitor who plans to present a talent act that involves prior original work on her part; i.e. own painting, dressmaking, music arrangement, song writing, dramatic reading, etc., must have notarized authentication that she created that work if she wishes to receive credit for the same. The Local Organization will require this authentication. This responsibility will rest with the Competitor and her Local Director.

Additional Talent Guidelines

- At the Local level, there can be no duplication of a talent act among the Competitors. This is determined on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Also at the Local level, a Competitor may not include in a vocal medley the same song another Competitor 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 Competitor or used as accompaniment for a dance.
- Talents involving published literary material. Any Competitors performing a talent presentation involving the reading of a literary work (i.e. dramatic reading) must contact the author and/or publisher for "Permission Letters". These letters should indicate that we have the owner's permission to use his/her material, both in a live production and in a live telecast, as her talents may be aired on TV.

If a CD is being used, it is due to our Tech Director Aly Golder at Orientation (Sunday 10/15).

Props

Any article brought on stage must actually be NEEDED. Non-functional props tend to distract from the performance.

Use and Restriction of Props

No props will be permitted unless they are absolutely functional!

- No mood setters or background enhancers
- No props that imitate those used in a Broadway or screen version of your music
- No props that require excessively large stage areas and complicated set- up
- No use of motion pictures, slides or projection of any kind
- No live animals
- No props involving safety hazards, such as fire batons, sword and/or knife twirling, bow and arrow skills
- No lighting enhancements

Health & Fitness – 20%

Mandatory Attire: REBEL Athletic Wear. The Miss America Collection product line in Red. On the Rebel Athletics website create an account. Next click on “Collaborations” then choose the “Miss America” line. You will receive a discount at check out by using the code MAOMA2023. Rebel Athletics is a National Sponsor of MAO.

A modeling/walking/posing pattern to perform onstage will be given.

This phase is designed for the competitor to showcase her commitment to health and fitness initiatives, comfort and confidence onstage, and her spontaneity and energy during her onstage presentation.

Red Carpet (Evening Gown) – 20%

Attire: Appropriate Choice for a Red-Carpet appearance of Competitor’s choosing

A modeling/walking pattern to perform onstage will be given.

This phase is designed for the judge to assess the Competitor's personal style, beauty, poise, grace, and commanding stage presence. The Competitor's total look is considered. Her evening wear (not the value of the evening wear) should complement the Competitor's individuality.

Onstage Conversation – 10%

Attire: Either Opening Number Outfit or a stylish interview outfit.

The opening number outfit will be a black cocktail dress or jumpsuit.

Serving as a continuation of the Competitor's private interview and her Community Service Initiative by bringing it on stage in an interactive energetic way to showcase each Competitor's intelligence, personality, charisma, communication skills, and aptitude for the Titleholder's job. It will allow the audience to get to know the Competitor through this discussion and to see if she can serve as a role model for her generation.

The young women who compete in the Miss Massachusetts program are intelligent, articulate, highly motivated, caring, talented, ambitious, and hard working. They are passionate about executing on their Community Service Initiatives and are major contributors to public service. They exemplify leadership skills, strength of character and spirit.

The woman who holds the Title of Miss Taunton, Miss Taunton's Teen, Miss Massachusetts or Miss Massachusetts' Teen, must be willing to put others before herself, see herself as someone who does for others, works in a collaborative team mindset, and sees her year of service as a launchpad for her future education and career.

The Miss America Mission: Empowering Women to Lead