

The Miss Ohio Pageant

Eligibility Rules and Requirements

Eligibility Rules:

1. The contestant must be a deaf or hard of hearing female who age shall not be less than seventeen (17) nor more than twenty-seven (27) by the first official day of the State pageant in which she competes (she must be between eighteen (18) and twenty-eight (28) years old by the first official day of the National Pageant).
2. The contestant must be a United States citizen before submitting an application for the State Pageant.
3. The contestant must be single, never have been married nor had a marriage annulled and must have never given to a child.
4. The contestant must never have been convicted of any crimes, other than minor traffic infractions (i.e., no felony and misdemeanor).
5. The contestant must be a high school graduate by the time of the state pageant in August.
6. The contestant must have fluent receptive and expressive sign communications skills. (ASL, PSE, or signing mostly used by the Deaf Community).
7. The contestant must become an individual or regular member of the Ohio Association of the Deaf in order to participate in the State Pageant.
8. The contestant must submit a signature to this form, entry form, birth certificate, an audiogram.

Judges and Each Category Competition Criteria

The contestant shall possess talent, poise, charm, intelligence, inner beauty, social ability, and maturity. The contestant must demonstrate good moral character before and during the State pageant, and if chosen as Miss Deaf Ohio, must maintain exemplary conduct.

You are required to do an opening performance at the state pageant. Thus Artistic Director will request you to have a particular outfit for the performance. You must provide the outfit. This outfit will also be worn during the introduction of the contestants in the beginning of the pageant. You will be informed of the theme of the pageant and this outfit.

The contestant will be judged in five (5) categories:

Private Interview	30%
Platform Presentation	35%
Talent Presentation	15%
Evening Gown & On Stage Interview	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Private Interview:

- Each Contestant will be interviewed individually by the entire Panel of Judges in a closed room.
- The private interview will take place at a time prior to the Pageant.
- Each contestant should wear a business suit that reflects a career woman. It could be the same one used for the platform presentation. A solid color is encouraged to see your sign language clearly.

- The private interview questions will be about various issues including educational background, extracurricular activities, your platform, deaf cultures, community involvement, current issues, hypothetical situations, etc.
- Each interview is counted 30 percent and judged on 1) overall First Impression 2) Presentation (Delivery) and 3) Quality (content, clearly, and completeness).

Platform Presentation:

- The platform presentation will be the first category during the Pageant.
- In choosing a platform concept, the contestant will be expected to state her platform idea, and will be expected to explain why she chose her particular platform.
- Each contestant should wear a business suit that is appropriate for presentation in front of hundreds of people. She should bring an extra suit in case something happens to the original one.
- A solid color is encouraged to see your sign language clearly.
- Each contestant must be able to present her platform presentation by herself, live and in person within two minutes. Please pay close attention to this two-minute limit; exceeding it results in disqualification.
- No props or music allowed.
- Each contestant should provide a script of her presentation to enable the interpreter to be well prepared to voice for her.
- Each contestant's platform presentation is counted 35 percent and judged on
 - Overall First Impression (How did the contestant look?)
 - Presentation (Did the contestant stand straight, slouch, face the judges, keep her head up? And did the contestant sign clearly and correctly, was she too fast or slow, was her signing too big or too small?) – Physical Carriage and Delivery)
 - Quality (Did the Platform Presentation make sense, was the thinking clear and easily understood?) - Content, Clarity, and Completeness

Talent Competition:

- The Talent competition will be the second category during the Pageant.
- In deciding upon her talent routine, the contestant should consider the fact that she will be performing before primarily deaf audience. Her talent will be decided by a panel of judges, who will make their decision based primarily on their visual observation of the contestant's talent.

- The talent routine should have a title and it should be something that the contestant feels comfortable with. It is something that she is talented at. Sample talent concept (not titles!) include: Ballet, karate, Poetry, Mime, Dance, Gymnastics, Drama, Sign-singing, Story interpretation, and others.
- Each contestant must be able to present her talent routine or performance by herself, live and in person within four minutes. Please pay close attention to this four-minute limit; exceeding it results in disqualification.
- She must furnish her own props needed for her performance. (PowerPoint is not allowed).
- If contestant plans to use a CD for music background, she must bring at least two CDs in case one does not work.
- If contestant plans to use an interpreter/CART writer to voice her during this competition, she should provide a script of her presentation to enable the interpreter to be well prepared.
- Each contestant's talent performance is counted 15 percent and judged on:
 - Appropriateness (props and costume)
 - Presentation
 - Creativity/Artistic Expression.

Evening Gown Competition:

- The Evening Gown competition will be the third category during the Pageant.
- Each contestant is to wear an evening gown of her choice. The evening gown must be ankle length. Long skirts are acceptable. An evening gown is fancier than cocktail dresses. Sequins are fine. The dress should be suitable for a Gala/Ball. She should bring an extra gown in case something happens to the original one.
- The Evening Gown competition is counted 20 percent (along with onstage interview percentage) and judged on:
 - Overall First Impression
 - Presentation (Physical Carriage)

On-Stage Interview Competition:

- After the evening gown competition, contestants stay in their evening gowns for the fourth category, which is the on-stage interview, which only happens during the finals.
- Each contestant will be alone on stage and reply to a question asked by the Master and/or Mistress of Ceremonies during the competition. The contestant will answer two questions. The first question will be a "warm-up" question with no points. The second question will be scored. Questions will be devised by the Panel of Judges prior to the program. No other contestants will be observing.

- The On-Stage Interview competition is counted 20 percent (along with Evening Gown percentage) and judged on the Quality of Response.(Does the contestant’s answer make sense, is it well thought out, does it show good common sense?)

Wardrobe:

The contestant must bring her own wardrobe, a costume (if needed) for her talent performance, and introduction attire.

Additional requirements:

1. The contestant must send one (1) color 5x7 photograph (waist-up) taken by a professional photographer without tiara and sash. The background of the picture should be plain and done in a studio environment. The picture must be submitted no later than June 30th of the state pageant year.
2. The contestant must be available to attend the OAD MDOP retreat and the competition week from August 14th to August 19th
3. The contestant will follow the schedule given by the State Pageant Committee and attend all rehearsals, activities, and events as stated during the OAD MDOP retreat and competition week.
4. The Failure to adhere to any of these rules may automatically disqualify the State winner from competing in either the Local/State Pageant or the National Pageant.

Agreement:

It is mutually agreed upon by and between the OAD and the contestant that the OAD shall have no liability whatsoever to a contestant. The OAD shall have no liability for loss, damage. Or injury resulting from any cause to the property of, or to the contestant, or for any lost profits, sales, or business opportunities, or any other type of direct or indirect or consequential damages. It is further understood and agreed that all claims against the OAD for any such damage, loss, or personal injury are expressly waived by the contestant and assumed as the contestant’s responsibility.

The contestant agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the OAD, its agents, officers, and employees, from all claims, actions, and suits, including court costs, attorney’s fees and other expenses, arising out of the negligent acts or omissions of the contestant.

By signing my name, I am stating that I understand the eligibility rules, criteria for selection, and additional requirements in this document.

State pageant Entrant Name_____

Signature_____Date_____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

Signature of State Pageant Director_____Date_____

*****Please return this along with the Official Entry Form by June 30, 2007**