



P.O. Box 482 Minden, La 71058
www.ywscminden.org
Facebook.com/ywscminden
Facebook.com/MissMinden

Miss Minden Scholarship Organization

Thank you for your interest in competing in the Miss Minden Scholarship Program. In order to register as a contestant for Miss Minden, Miss Spirit of Fasching or Miss Minden's Outstanding Teen, please complete the following steps:

1. Fill out the Contestant Form
2. Create a Resume according to the Miss Louisiana guidelines
3. Create a Platform Statement according to the Miss Louisiana guidelines
4. Submit a Contestant Headshot (jpeg format)
5. Register as a contestant through <https://www.missamericaforkids.org/>

Eligibility

Miss Contestant

To compete in the Miss competition*, you must:

- Be between the ages of 17 and 24.
- Be a United States citizen.
- Meet residency requirements for competing in a certain town or state.
- Meet character criteria as set forth by the Miss America Organization.
- Be in reasonably good health to meet the job requirements.
- Be able to meet the time commitment and job responsibilities as set forth by the local program in which you compete

Teen Contestant

To compete for the title of Miss Minden's Outstanding Teen, the contestant must be:

- Be a young lady between the ages of 13 and 17
- Be a United States citizen.
- Meet residency requirements for competing in Webster Parish.
- Meet character criteria as set forth by the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization.
- Be in reasonably good health to meet the job requirements.
- Be able to meet the time commitment and responsibilities as set forth by the local program in which you compete.
- Must not be eligible to compete in the Miss America Competition.

****In order to receive the title of Miss Minden or Miss Minden's Outstanding Teen, the contestant must prove residency in Webster Parish. Miss Spirit of Fasching is open to any eligible young woman in the state of Louisiana.***





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Miss Minden Scholarship Organization Contestant Form

Please select the title you are competing for:

- Miss Minden
 Miss Spirit of Fasching
 Miss Minden’s Outstanding Teen

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade/Class: _____

Talent Description: _____

Please provide the following documents along with this contestant form:

- Resume
- Platform Statement
- Headshot (jpeg format)
- Copy of driver’s license or other proof of residency

Registering as a Contestant

The Miss Minden system is a preliminary pageant for the Miss Louisiana Organization, which is a part of the Miss America system. Each young woman interested in competing in the Miss America system must register online at www.MissAmericaforKids.org. To register as a contestant, go to the home page and click New Contestant.

Fill out the mandatory fields (marked by an asterisk *) and click REGISTER at the bottom of the page. Once you have completed the registration form, you will be taken to a list of upcoming pageants in your state. Check the box next to the pageant(s) for which you would like to register and click REGISTER.

As a contestant you agree to raise a minimum of \$100 in donations for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals and the Miss America Scholarship Fund. It’s not an entry fee, but rather a community service requirement.

Please email all documents listed above to PaigeSalasRealtor@gmail.com



State Contestant Resume Instructions

This is your opportunity to demonstrate to the state judges why they should consider you for the job of Miss Louisiana. You may list as many or as few items under each category as you desire. Your only restriction is that it must follow the established format and it must fit on one (1) page. This page, combined with the Platform Statement, will comprise your entire application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted. Any item incorrectly submitted that does not fit the established criteria may be submitted to the judges without an opportunity to correct.

It is important that these instructions are followed, even when using the preformatted page included:

1. Create a "New" document with your computer's Word program.
2. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type, using the Times New Roman font style. Please refer to the attached sample to verify you are following the requested format.
3. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is LaCricia Deborah Smith and you want to be known as "Deborah Smith", please type "Deborah Smith").
4. Then, move to the next line and type "**Title:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your local title.
5. Then, move to the next line and type "**Hometown:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar once. Then, type your hometown including the city and the state.
6. Move to the next line. Now set your justification to the right. Type "**Date of Birth:**" in bold. Hit the space bar two (2) times, and type the month, day, and year of your birth. (Ex. October 10, 1989)
7. Move Justification to the left. Double space down and type "**Education:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times and then type your most recent school first. If it is grad school, indicate it as such. List degree seeking (all on the same line as the name of the school), move to the line underneath that to list your undergraduate school and degree sought/achieved, and below that list your high school.
8. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Platform Issue:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the TITLE of your platform, MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT. DO NOT TYPE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE TITLE.
9. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Scholastic/Career Ambition:**" in bold. Hit the Tab bar once, MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE OTHERS ABOVE IT. Then type the type of degree/education you would ultimately like to achieve and beneath that, list your career ambition.
10. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Talent:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the type of talent and specific selection. MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT. (i.e. Pop Vocal - "Crying", Tap Dance - "Staying Alive", etc.)
11. Double space down. Type "**Scholastic Honors:**" in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
12. Double space down. Type "**Leadership Roles:**" in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
13. Double space down. Type "**Accomplishments:**" in bold. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).

14. Double space down. Type **“Interesting Facts:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
15. Double space down. Type **“Employment:” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
16. Double space down. Type **“How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
17. Double space down. Type **“Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss Louisiana Competition?” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
18. Double Space down. Type **“What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?” in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
19. Use your best judgment on what is most important for the judges to know about you. Use the space wisely. Attached is a resume example you can use as a guide.
20. The entire form must fit on one (1) page using the Times New Roman font style. You must leave a 1” margin on all four sides of the page. If spacing issues arise, simply follow the example provided.

This form is given to the judges with your platform statement. You will notice there is a REQUIRED SIGNATURE LINE at the bottom of the Platform Statement. When these two pages are put together, they will create your entire application. Your signature covers the materials listed ON BOTH PAGES. Your signature verifies that everything on the forms you submit is true and accurate. If it is proven that any information on these forms are not true, correct and factual, you risk disqualification from competing in the State Competition and losing your local title.

Name: Jane Smith
Title: Miss State
Hometown: Anytown, America

Date of Birth: December 29, 1994

Education: University of State – sophomore – Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts
Frederick Douglass High School

Platform Issue: Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

Scholastic/Career Ambition: Obtain a Masters of Business Administration

Talent: Pop Vocal / “Fallen”

Scholastic Honors: Recipient of National Coca-Cola Scholarship; Recipient of the Metropolitan Urban League National Scholarship; Dean’s List; Member of the President’s Leadership Council at the University

Leadership Roles: Created and implemented a comprehensive Cultural Diversity Education Curriculum for grades K-12 in twelve Public Schools; University Student Body Senator; H.S. Sr. Class Pres.; College Sorority President.

Accomplishments: Recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Community; Recipient of the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award; Performer, Grand Ole Opry in Nashville; Piano Performance scholarship at State University.

Interesting Facts: First person on either side of my family to attend college; Youngest of five children with a 13-year gap between me and my next oldest sister and an almost 20-year gap between the oldest and myself.

Employment: Internship with a Law Firm; Internship with local ABC television affiliate; Student Assistant at State University.

How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?

I come from a loving, supportive family that has always taught me to work hard for the things I want to achieve. Growing up, my parents always encouraged us to get involved with our local community and help those who were less fortunate than us. They tried to instill good values in us and to always guide us on the right path. I think it is because of these lessons my parents taught me that I want to make a difference in today’s world. I aspire to be a woman of great influence, preferably working in the non-profit sector, where I can apply my talents for the greater good and help to change people’s lives. One person truly can make a difference, and I am on my way to proving that cliché. I also dream to one day have a loving family of my own, with beautiful children in whom I can instill the same core values that my parents gave to me.

Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Pageant?

Along with providing the financial assistance for young women to fulfill our educational goals, the Miss America Organization gives us the opportunity to bring national attention to a cause dear to our hearts. If I were to become Miss America, I know that my voice would be heard as a spokesperson for my personal platform, as well as the national platform. Raising awareness of important social and political issues has always been important to me, and Miss America provides the perfect arena for that.

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

Although I’m not sure I would consider it a social issue, I think technological advancements will have the greatest social impact on my generation. Technology is changing everything – the way we communicate, our lifestyles, access to information – it’s all right at your fingertips! That can be a double-edged sword. I believe we run the risk of losing both interpersonal and language skills due to the ease and speed of communicating electronically. I believe our educators should address this issue immediately, or it may, unfortunately, have the greatest impact on my generation and every generation to follow.



State Contestant Platform Statement Instructions

This is your opportunity to explain to the state judges what your chosen platform is and why it is important for the Miss Louisiana/America Organization to embrace this platform. In addition, it should explain how your platform will further the Miss Louisiana/America Organization “brand” to the public.

It is important that these instructions are followed, even when using the preformatted page included. Any items incorrectly submitted that do not meet the criteria may be submitted to the judges without an opportunity to correct.

1. Go to the word processing program of your computer.
2. Start a “new” document.
3. Set margins for 1” on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than “10” and no larger than “12” point type using the Times New Roman font style.
4. With the justification set for left, type “**Name:**” in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name.
5. Then, move to the next line and type “**Title:**” in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your local title.
6. Double space down. Set your justification to “center”. Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
7. Double space down. Write what you feel is critical for the judge’s to know about your platform and why it is necessary for you to have the job of Miss Louisiana to promote this issue. What you write will be what the judges know about your platform, your role in successfully dealing with this issue, and the role the Miss Louisiana Organization may play in your plan.
8. This essay **may** include some of the following items (this is not to be meant as an exhaustive list):
 - A clear definition of the platform and the specific issues you wish to address
 - A plan on how you have or will create awareness of the platform
 - The way in which you have or will change attitudes regarding the issue
 - The way in which you have or will change behaviors related to this issue
 - The way in which your platform issue will move the Miss Louisiana Organization forward
 - Your media plans
 - Your marketing strategy
 - How you propose to fund your ideas/plans
 - Any significant accomplishments you have made in regard to your issue
9. At the bottom of the page, set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line, type Signature/Date and after printing **sign and date the document**. If you forget to sign and date, we will need to return the document to you as it cannot be accepted without your signature. Thank you.

It is important that you sign and date the document as shown in the attached sample prior to submitting

Name: Jane Smith

Title: Miss State

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

Contestant Registration Instructions

Congratulations on becoming involved with the largest provider of scholarship assistance in the world. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$43 million in scholarship assistance to young women across the country.

In 2007, the Miss America Organization partnered with Children's Miracle Network – an alliance of children's hospitals – to develop a National Platform. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals across North America. The 170 Children's Miracle Network hospitals provide the finest medical care, life-saving research and preventative education to help over 17 million kids each year overcome diseases and injuries of every kind.

Registering as a Contestant

Each young woman interested in competing in the Miss America system must register online at www.MissAmericaforKids.org. To register as a contestant, go to the home page and click on the following pink button:



Fill out the mandatory fields (marked by an asterisk *) and click REGISTER at the bottom of the page.

Once you have completed the registration form, you will be taken to a list of upcoming pageants in your state. Check the box next to the pageant(s) for which you would like to register and click REGISTER.

Fundraising

Contestants competing in Miss America-sponsored local pageants are required to raise a minimum of \$100 in donations for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and the Miss America Scholarship Fund. It's not an entry fee, but rather a community service requirement. Your fundraising goal will automatically be set at \$100 when you register. You may increase your goal at any time by logging in to your account and clicking "Update Profile." No matter where you set your goal, you must raise at least the minimum amount required to be eligible to compete.

An additional \$100 is required for each additional local pageant you attend, with a maximum cap of \$400. Once you have raised \$400 for local competitions, you may compete in as many local pageants within your state for which you are eligible (*Michigan contestants are required to raise \$100 for each and every local pageant in which they compete*). Once a contestant has won a local competition, she must raise an additional \$250 to be eligible to compete in her state pageant, and an additional \$500 is required of our state titleholders to be eligible to compete in the Miss America Pageant.

Registering for a Pageant

When creating your account, you will need to register for at least one pageant. If you wish to compete in additional local pageants, you can log in to your profile at any time and click “Pageant Registration” on your contestant dashboard:



Pageant Registration

You will then choose from a list of possible local pageants remaining in the current “Crowning Year.” Crowning Year is determined by the year you would compete to become Miss America if you were to win the local and state pageants leading up to it. For example, a local pageant occurring in October 2012 would lead to the 2013 State pageant and the 2014 Miss America Pageant, held in January '14. Therefore your local in October 2012 will be a part of the 2014 Crowning Year.

The pageant registration page includes a list of all the pageants available for registration in your state. If your pageant does not appear here, contact your state director. Contact information is available at <http://missamerica.org/organization-info/state-contact-info.aspx>.

Qualifying for a pageant

In order to qualify to participate in a pageant, you must raise the required minimum for that pageant (\$100 for local pageants, \$250 for state pageants, and \$500 for the national pageant). In order to help you reach your fundraising goal, you can use the MissAmericaforKids.org website to send emails to your friends and family. When you are logged in to your account, click on “Send Emails” on your dashboard:



Send Emails

Here you may enter the email addresses of friends, family, and colleagues who you think would be willing to support you in your efforts.

Tip: You may also send one email to yourself that you can then personalize and forward to your entire contact list from your own email account. You will easily raise \$100 for these two organizations by getting just five (5) friends to donate \$20, ten (10) friends to donate \$10, or twenty (20) friends to donate just \$5 each – you get the picture! It’s just that simple.

You can check your progress and your qualification status at any time by clicking “Qualification Report” on your contestant dashboard:.



Qualification Report

Here you can view a list of the pageants for which you are registered and the remaining amount of funds you need to qualify, if any. Once you have qualified for a pageant, its entry line on your qualification report will change from red to green.

Editing Your Profile

Once you have created an account on the MissAmericaforKids.org website, you will use that same account profile throughout your years of competing in the Miss America system. You can edit your information at any time by clicking either of the following two links on your contestant dashboard:



[Edit Donation Page](#)

In the “Edit Donation Page” section, you may increase your fundraising goal, set a custom URL to make your donation page easier to find, change your personal message on your donation page, and update your photo.



[Update Personal Info](#)

In the “Update Personal Info” section, you may change the email address that is associated with your account or update your contact phone number and/or address. You cannot change your competition state, however. If you are eligible and wish to compete in two different states at any time while competing in the Miss America system, you must create a new profile for the second state in which you choose to compete. **Qualification monies raised cannot be transferred to another state or to a future Crowning Year.**

We wish you all the best on your journey toward becoming Miss America! There are many rewards awaiting you. Whether or not you ever win a title or wear a crown, the opportunities and possibilities along the way are endless!



**Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals**