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Dear Contestant,

Welcome to the Miss Washtenaw County Pageant family and congratulations on taking your first step towards the title of Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2020! We will be presenting our annual pageant at the Washington Street Education Center in Chelsea on Saturday, October 27 and are excited that you want to be a part of it!

Participating in a Miss America's Outstanding Teen local preliminary is a wonderful and unique experience. You will gain poise and confidence, hone your interview and public speaking skills and make new friends.

Miss Washtenaw County's Outstanding Teen 2018 will have a year of opportunities ahead of her. She will participate in several parades throughout the year, assist with our annual Princess Tea and community service event, and have the opportunity to be our representative at the 2019 Miss Michigan's Outstanding Teen Pageant!

The Outstanding Teen Program is both a feeder program to the Miss America Organization and their local programs and a major fundraiser for scholarships given at the local, state, and national levels. The entry fee for Miss Washtenaw County's Outstanding Teen is \$100.00. Checks should be made payable to the Miss Washtenaw County Scholarship Program and included with your mailed application materials. The deadline for entries is **Friday, October 5, 2018**. All entries must be postmarked by this

date.

Talent music will be registered by the date that the entry form is received; thus if Jane Doe has the same competition music as you and gets her application in first, she will be able to use the music and you will have to find something else. The contestant is responsible for making the desired cuts to her music. The time limit for the talent competition is 90 seconds. **The music file that you turn in must be of competition quality.** Music files may not be enhanced. Example: If you play the violin you may not have your performance part on the music file. If you find that you are having problems please consult with me PRIOR to the deadline. New for 2018: no talent CDs! Only digital music files.

The opening number outfit will be determined when the theme of the pageant is decided. An email with this information will be sent to all eligible girls who are competing.

There will be an orientation/rehearsal held on Sunday October 14 at the Washington Street Education Center in Chelsea from 2-4 PM. Dress is casual! Following the orientation meeting, contestants will learn the opening production number and fitness routine, and review all phases of competition. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend orientation from 2-3 PM, but will not be allowed to attend the rehearsal portion from 3-4 PM. This will be our ONLY rehearsal so we strongly encourage contestants to attend - this will be your only chance to learn the opening number, fitness routine and closing number. If you are unable to attend, we will be filming the opening and closing numbers and fitness routine but you will have to learn them on your own before the pageant.

For our program book, contestants have the option of submitting a headshot of their choosing (must be portrait orientation), or having a photo taken at orientation. If you wish to submit your own photo, you must email a jpeg file to byamandanum@gmail.com by Friday October 5.

In order for our program to run smoothly, it is **critical** that you **adhere to all deadlines. Due via mail, postmarked by October 5, 2018:**

- 2 (two) copies of the Miss Washtenaw County's Outstanding Teen registration form
- \$100 entry fee paid via check, made payable to Miss Washtenaw

County Scholarship Program

If you and a parent are not able to attend orientation on October 14, the following must be received by October 5:

- * 7 (seven) copies of the MAOTeen local contestant's judges resume (instructions and sample available at the Miss Washtenaw's Outstanding Teen website)
- * 7 copies of the MAOTeen local contestant's platform statement (instructions and sample available at the Miss Washtenaw's Outstanding Teen website)
- * 1 (one) fully executed copy of the MAOTeen application and contract (available at the Miss Washtenaw's Outstanding Teen website)
- * jpeg file of contestant headshot photo
- * talent music file emailed to byamandanum@gmail.com

If you are able to attend orientation, you can turn in all additional paperwork at orientation.

We will have a notary at orientation. All contracts must be notarized – if you cannot attend orientation or if your parent cannot attend, you must send in your notarized contract along with the rest of your paperwork.

When sending in your paperwork via mail please **DO NOT** put signature confirmation on the mail. If you put signature confirmation on your entry packet I may not be able to pick it up for up to a week, thus causing your paperwork to become late if sent close to the deadline. If you have any questions about this please email me.

All paperwork forms are available on the website. Examples and copies of the forms are available on the Miss Washtenaw County website under the "Pageants" tab; make sure you click on "Become MWCOT" to get to the teen paperwork.

When printing the judges' resume and platform statement, only use **plain white paper**. Forms that are printed on anything other than white copy paper, that have had photos or other artwork added, or are more than one page **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**.

Paperwork received after the deadline will not be included in the judges' notebooks. It will be given to the judges on pageant day. Talent

music will not be accepted past the deadline. Missing the talent music deadline means the contestant will perform without music.

On pageant day, only contestants and Miss Washtenaw County Staff will be allowed in the dressing room and back stage areas. Hostesses and chaperones for the day will be provided – they are zippers/”you have something in your teeth” helpers, but they are not hairstylists, makeup artists or seamstresses!

Contestants should plan on a morning arrival with production and talent rehearsals beginning right away. Interviews will begin at approximately at 11 am. This may be changed based on how many contestants we have but please plan on being in Chelsea early that morning.

The pageant is scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM; any updates will be included in later emails to registered contestants. Lunch and dinner for the contestants will be provided (it will probably be pizza for lunch and soup/salad for dinner – if you do not eat these things, please plan to bring your own meals!). The above schedule is tentative and a final schedule for the day will be distributed at the orientation/rehearsal.

Note the following important dates:

Friday, October 5 – application, jpeg photo for program book, and entry fee due

Sunday, October 14 – platform statement/platform resume/official contract due; Orientation and Rehearsal (photos taken for program book)

Saturday, October 27 – Miss Washtenaw County Pageant at 7 PM

The Executive Board and I look forward to having you participate! Do not hesitate to contact us with questions or for advice. After the entry deadline has passed you will receive an email with opening number information, the theme of the pageant, and other pertinent information, including details about orientation.

Best wishes with your preparations, have fun, and good luck!

Amanda Bynum

Director

Miss Washtenaw County’s Outstanding Teen Program

