

Miss Washtenaw County's Outstanding Teen Pageant

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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 2012! We will be presenting our annual pageant at the Chelsea High School Auditorium on Saturday, October 22nd 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 2011 will have a year of opportunities ahead of her. As her first official appearance, she will be introduced at the 2011 Miss Washtenaw County Scholarship Pageant and perform her talent. She will also participate in several parades throughout the year, be a co-emcee for our Junior Programs, and have the option to be our representative at the 2012 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'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 September 30, 2011.

Talent music will be registered by the date that it is received- thus if Jane Doe has the same competition music as you and gets her music 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 two minutes. **The CD that you turn is must be of competition quality.** Talent CD's may not be enhanced. Example: If you play the violin you may not have your performance part on the CD. If you find that you are having problems please consult with me PRIOR to the deadline. Please write your name in marker on the outside of both of your CD's.

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

There will be an orientation/rehearsal held on Sunday October 9th in Chelsea the time and exact location will be determined shortly and you will be sent an email with more details. Dress is casual and parents are welcome at the orientation. Following the orientation meeting contestants will learn the opening production number and review all phases of competition. Parents will not be allowed to attend this portion. This will be our **ONLY** rehearsal so we strongly encourage you to attend- this will be your only chance to learn the opening number. If you are unable to attend we will be filming the opening number but you will have to learn it on your own before the pageant.

In order for our program to run smoothly, it is **critical** that you **adhere to all deadlines**.

Due via mail by September 30, 2011:

2 (two) CD's of your talent music with your name written in marker on the CD

7 (seven) copies of the Contestant Fact Sheet

7 (seven) copies of the Contestant Application

Entry Fee paid via check

Due via email by September 30, 2011

One jpg version of your headshot to be used in the program book. Please send to shelbyverhulst@gmail.com. This can be in color or black white.

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 Outstanding Teen website under the Teen Tab.

When printing off the Contestant Fact Sheet 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**. Printed instead of hand written fact sheets are suggested. Remember that the fact sheet will be the judge's first impression of you.

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. Contestants should plan on a mid-morning arrival with interviews beginning approximately at 10:30am. This may be changed based on how many contestants we have but please plan on being in Chelsea early that morning. Production and talent rehearsals will begin at approximately 12:30pm. The pageant will be held at 2:30pm as of now- any updates will be included in later emails to registered contestants. Lunch for the contestants will be provided. The above schedule is tentative and a final schedule for the day will be distributed at the orientation/rehearsal.

Note the following important dates:

Entry Deadline: September 30, 2011

Orientation and Rehearsal: October 9, 2011

Washtenaw's Outstanding Teen Pageant: October 22, 2011

Miss Washtenaw County Pageant: October 22, 2011

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 contestant order, opening number information, the theme of the pageant and other pertinent information.

Best wishes with your preparations, have fun and Good Luck!

Shelby VerHulst and Amanda Bynum
Co-Executive Directors

Miss Washtenaw's Outstanding Teen Program