



Miss Hospitality

MISSISSIPPI

71ST ANNUAL COMPETITION · JULY 17 & 18, 2020 · HATTIESBURG, MS

A SCHOLARSHIP TRADITION

Established in 1949 under Governor Fielding Wright and the Mississippi Legislature, the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition is now more than 70 years old. Throughout this time, the program has championed the state's tourism and economic development sectors while supporting Mississippi's best and brightest young women through a scholarship program.

Designed for ladies ages 18 to 24, the program continues the tradition of beauty and grace while celebrating intelligent and sincere qualities of the modern woman. Local contestants serve a full year as their community's spokesperson, promoting visitation and development in their hometown. Contestants leave the program with lifelong friendships, communication and interview skills, public speaking tools, self confidence, and a better understanding of their home state.

The young lady crowned the state's Miss Hospitality serves as a goodwill ambassador, traveling regionally and nationally to promote the Hospitality State and share Her story.



LOCAL REPRESENTATION

Young women may be selected to represent their community in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition through one of the following:

Formal Competition

Contestants will compete in Interview, Community Commercial, On-Stage Interview, and Evening Gown. Local Director required.

Hospitality Tea Competition

Contestants will be judged in Interview and Community Commercial. Local Director required.

Appointment

In the event there is only one entry for a city or county, the entrant may be appointed by the Local Director as that area's Miss Hospitality.

At-Large

This is an option for communities without a Local Director. Those interested in competing may contact the State Office to apply. Applications will be evaluated by a published scoring criterion.

Local Directors are to notify State Competition office with the name, address, and phone number of the local Miss Hospitality within one week of selection or by March 13, 2020.

SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES

The Miss Hospitality program supports talented and intelligent women through a scholarship and prize program. Contestants are eligible for more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes, including cash and college-granted funds. **The next Mississippi Miss Hospitality will receive a \$25,000 prize package.**

Mississippi Miss Hospitality partners with colleges and universities across the state to provide opportunities for contestants to further their education. The program is appreciative of a strong patron program, ensuring a fantastic prize package for contestants. The contestant crowned the State title holder must attend school in Mississippi and enroll in a maximum of 15 credit hours per semester during her reign.

CONTESTANT REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a resident of Mississippi.
2. Must represent her hometown and/or county, not the city where she attends college.
3. Must attend the entirety of State Competition.
4. Must be a high school graduate who attends or plans to attend college.
5. Must be between the ages of 18 and 24 by the first day of judging, which begins on Wednesday of competition week.
6. Must have never been married or have children.
7. Must be in good health.
8. Must not hold or pursue another title from the date she is crowned as a local Miss Hospitality through the conclusion of the State Competition or the end of her reign if crowned Mississippi's Miss Hospitality.
9. Must maintain a minimum 2.5 scholastic average (on a 4.0 system), and arrange a class schedule to be no more than 15 hours per semester if crowned the state title holder. Current transcript must be provided.
10. May participate on the state level a maximum of two times, with a mandatory 1-year minimum of no participation following her first competition.



STATE COMPETITIONS AND JUDGING

One-on-One Interview Competition

This competition will take place Wednesday during competition week. Each judge will meet individually with each contestant for three minutes. The basic tool for conducting this interview is the contestant's Official Application, which lists personal credits and serves as a guide for getting to know the contestant. An interview suit or dress shall be worn.

Panel Interview Competition

The Panel Interview is a five minute judged session on Thursday during competition week. Direct, concise, and relevant questions ranging from tourism and economic development, world affairs, state and local politics, and information about Mississippi to personal ambitions, goals, and interests may be asked. An interview suit or dress shall be worn.

Mississippi Speech Competition

Each contestant will present an original, memorized 90-second speech based on the question "How would you promote our state to a visitor of Mississippi?" No visual aids may be used. Contestants will present the speech before judges Friday morning.

Community Commercial Competition

Contestants will model a solid-colored cocktail dress of their choice. In addition to modeling the dress on-stage, contestants will present an original 20-second commercial on important aspects of their city or county, promoting their hometowns to all in attendance. When selecting a dress, contestants should consider the production number performed on stage.

Evening Gown Competition

Contestants will model an evening gown of any color. During the Evening Gown Competition on Saturday night, the Top 10 will be asked an on-stage question by the emcees, which will be scored separately from the Evening Gown Competition. When selecting a dress, contestants should consider the production number performed on stage.

SCORING

Friday Night Preliminary Scoring

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|-----------------------|-------------|
| One-on-One Interview* | 15% |
| Panel Interview* | 25% |
| Mississippi Speech* | 20% |
| Community Commercial | 20% |
| Evening Gown | 20% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Saturday Night Final Competition

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Panel Interview** | 25% |
| Mississippi Speech** | 20% |
| Community Commercial | 20% |
| Evening Gown | 20% |
| On-Stage Interview | 15% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

*Denotes scoring brought forward for preliminary night of competition.

**Denotes score brought forward for final night of competition.

Other awards include: Top 3 Speech, Top Ad Sales, Spirit of Miss Hospitality, Most Photogenic, and Social Media Challenge.



STATE COMPETITION RULES

1. Local contestants must attend Contestant Workshop on **May 30, 2020** in Hattiesburg. Staggered arrival times will be assigned, and official headshots will be taken during this event. In the case of a conflict, please contact the State Office immediately. Local contestants must attend the entirety of competition in Hattiesburg the week of **July 12 - 18, 2020**. Housing, transportation, and an exciting line-up of events will be provided.
2. Each contestant must submit her Official Competition Packet, including typed application, medical release form, official transcript, 50-word typed biography, and ad sales and components in a **single PDF file** along with registration fee of \$300 by **May 15, 2020**. A \$50 late fee will be charged for packets received after this date.
3. Contestants must sell four (4) full pages of advertising at \$350 per page in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Program Book.
4. If a contestant is currently enrolled in an out-of-state college or university and wins the State Competition, she must immediately enroll in a college or university in Mississippi. A scholarship will be provided.
5. Contestants must do their own hair and make-up at the State Competition. There will be no one allowed in the residence hall or backstage before competition.
6. Contestants must appoint a Little Miss Hospitality to serve alongside her during her reign and provide the Little Miss' information to the State Office by **March 27, 2020**.



LITTLE MISS HOSPITALITY

The Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition added a new element in 2018: Little Miss Hospitality. The Little Miss program is designed for Miss Hospitality contestants to serve as mentors to young girls in their communities, who are ages 6-10 years old. Upon being crowned a local representative, each contestant will choose a Little Miss from her hometown or county to share her journey. The Little Miss' name and contact information should be given to the State Office no later than **March 27, 2020**.

The registration fee for each Little Miss Hospitality is \$250, which should be provided by the Little Miss' family and/or a local sponsor. Little Miss packets and fees are due by **May 29, 2020**. Little Miss Hospitalities are required to be in Hattiesburg on **July 17 & 18, 2020** for on-stage programming and events. They are asked to wear a white gown on stage.

If a Little Miss Hospitality cannot be identified in the area represented by a local Miss Hospitality, contestants may select a young girl from other areas of the state. Contact the State Office with any questions.

