

2017

Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program



Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen

Contestant Notebook

Program Theme:

"Denim and Diamonds"

Contestant Name:

"Developing Leaders One Scholarship At A Time"

The Mission Statement of the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program

To positively impact the lives of young women in our community between the ages of by ensuring that each one who enters our program is challenged and nurtured to cultivate life skills, build confidence, and serve her community while we provide each participant with scholarship dollars.

Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program & Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen

The Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program (MPCSP) is the umbrella for Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen (MPCOT). The relationship between the Miss Contestants and the Teen Contestants is that of camaraderie, encouragement, support, mentorship, and sisterhood.

Throughout this Notebook, most information will be helpful to both the Miss and Teen Contestants; however, we will try to specify any differences between the Miss and Teen Contestants. Where there are major differences. . .

"Miss" Information will be highlighted in blue.

"Teen" Information will be highlighted in green.

Miss Pierce County's Little Princess Program

The Miss Pierce County's Little Princess Program is not a competition, but a program for girls, ages 6 through 11, to be a part of the Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen Program, and gives an opportunity for our Little Princesses to be showcased on stage during our Pageant. There is a required, non-refundable Application/Participation Fee. More details are included on the MPC's Little Princess Program Application Form. The MPC's Little Princesses will be included in selected portions of rehearsals which will require their attendance. Potential appearances may also be scheduled when possible. Participation in these possible events are encouraged, but not required of the Little Princesses.

Due Dates & Deadlines

It is advised that you keep a copy of each piece of your paperwork that you turn in so that you have record of it for your future reference. The number of required copies to be turned in is noted for each piece.

One (1) Original

Completed Contestant Contract Due: At Winter Launch ~ November 13, 2016

Teen Fitness Outfit Payment of: \$25.00
Due at Winter Launch - November 13, 2016

Teen Contestants: Registration with CMN (Children's Miracle Network)
One (1) Copy Printout of your Registration Page:
Due at Winter Launch - November 13, 2016

Miss Contestants: Registration with CMN (Children's Miracle Network)
One (1) Copy Printout of your Registration Page
Due at Winter Launch November 13, 2016

One (1) Signed and Dated Contestant Pledge
Due at Winter Launch, November 13, 2016

\$400 Minimum Sponsorship Requirement
Due : First \$200 by December 3, 2016 (or postmarked by 12/1/16)
Second \$200 by January 8, 2017

Contestants may continue to secure Ads / Support Pages & Payments after this date until the final Due Date Deadline, January 29, 2017 to count towards Advertising Incentives.

Final Ads / Support Pages & Payments

Due: January 29, 2017 (In order to be included in our 2017 program, all ad payments and ad copy must be received by this date. Payments received after this date will not be included in the program.)

1st Drafts of both Resume & Platform Statement

Due Date: First Rehearsal in January See Calendar

Miss Contestants: \$100 Minimum CMN (Children's Miracle Network) Funds Raised One (1) Copy of your CMN Website Page showing minimum \$100 Raised
Due Date: January 8, 2017

*Contestants may continue to raise CMN funds after the due date.

Wardrobe Approval

Due Date Deadline: January 29, 2017 January 15, 2017

Wardrobe Change Approval

Final Deadline: February 12, 2017

No Wardrobe Changes Allowed After This Date.

Talent & CD Approval

Due Date: January 22, 2017

Two (2) Copies

Production / Program Book Paperwork

Due Date: January 22, 2017

Two (2) Copies (one to turn in and at least one to keep)

CD Accompaniment

Due Date Deadline: January 29, 2017

Two (2) Copies

Contestant Blurbs Due Date Deadline: January 22, 2017

Fifteen (15) Copies of Each:

Final Judges Papwork (Platform Statement and Resume)

Due Date Deadline: February 5, 2017

Two (2) Copies

Community Service Form

Due Date: February 5, 2017

All Ticket Money and Unsold Tickets Return

Final Due Date: February 19, 2017

Your Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program Contestant Notebook

Answers to Questions

The information offered in your Contestant Notebook is provided to help guide you through your journey in the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program (MPCSP). You will have many questions along the way and within this notebook you will find many of the answers.

Responsibility & Accountability

Our intent with these materials is to keep you on track and accountable for the responsibilities and timelines assigned to you during the next several weeks.

What an Experience!

The entire Board of Directors wants you to really enjoy this experience and have fun. We are here for you. Most of all, we want this to be a life-changing and joyful experience for you. Will this whole experience be intense? Yes, definitely! But it will also be an experience that will prepare you for your future and hopefully one that you can look back on later in life and say, "Yes, that Scholarship Program really did make a difference for me."

Are you ready? Well, okay... then let's get started!

Job Description of Titleholders:

Miss Pierce County

Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen

Holding the title of Miss Pierce County or Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen is an esteemed position. Although there is not a salary or income, the benefits are immeasurable.

("Our Titleholder" refers to both the Miss Pierce County Titleholder and the Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen Titleholder.)

A Representative

The young woman who holds the title of Miss Pierce County is a representative of the (Local) Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program (MPCSP), the (State) Miss Washington Scholarship Organization (MWSO), and the (National) Miss America Organization (MAO).

The young woman who holds the title of Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen is a representative of the (Local) Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen Program (MPCOT), the (State) Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen Program (MWAOT), and the (National) Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program (MAOT).

All MAO Local Programs, as well as all MAO State Programs, including both Miss and Teen Programs, come under the representation of the Miss America Organization. Both Miss Pierce County and Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen represent the Miss America Organization as a whole Program spreading across the entire Nation.

Our Titleholder not only represents the Program, she also represents young women everywhere. She is also a representative of our community. She will represent her personal Platform issue as well as the National Platform of the National Organization. (See "Personal Platform Issue" and "National Platform Issue" below.)

Characteristics

Our Titleholder possesses a wide variety of characteristics. She is a well-rounded individual who is strong, steady, and stable in all areas of her life, as well as in all areas of competition. As a representative of the Program and of her Platform Issue, she keeps herself neat and attractive. She is a contributing member of the community. She desires to gain from this Program and is willing to accept input from the Program, the Board Members, and Advisors. She is willing to learn, grow and develop as an individual. She strives to know what she needs to work on and works to improve herself. She wants to be the best that she can be.

Working the Job

The Titleholder understands what the Program is about. She is willing to work hard. She is able, willing, and wanting to do the job. She is willing to prepare for the job of the State Title and the National Title. She embraces the position of the Local Title to the fullest.

Our Titleholder:

She is a team player, a role model, an ambassador, a leader, a communicator, spirited, passionate, attractive, intelligent, mature, accomplished, an achiever, well spoken, diplomatic, responsible, a servant, confident, independent, punctual, prepared, physically fit, healthy, self-assured, willing to contribute to the Program and to the community, an advocate for young women.

Traits Possessed

She possesses the following traits: grace, confidence, flexibility, sincerity, charisma, warmth, compassion, poise, talent, determination, courage in her convictions, desire to serve.

Abilities

She has the ability to: adjust to different situations; handle uncomfortable, awkward, and stressful situations in a mature and professional manner; stand up under pressure; be herself.

Communication Skills

Our Titleholder is able to communicate to any audience. She can relate to people of all ages and levels, individually and in large groups. She has a commanding presence with the ability to take control of a room. She is able to gain and keep the attention of a crowd. She is able to express herself, voice her opinions, and back up her beliefs. She is able to speak impromptu. She does not try to impress, but she makes an impression.

Personal Platform Issue

Our Titleholder is passionate and committed to her Platform Issue and willing to work her Platform to serve the community. She will help to arrange meetings with government officials, political leaders, and administrators to communicate her concerns and to receive input from such resources. Her Platform would be a valuable asset to the State Organization and to the National Organization bringing needed awareness to the community, the state, and the nation.

National Platform Issue

In addition to her personal Platform Issue (chosen by the Titleholder), she will also represent and support the Miss America National Platform of Children's Miracle Network.

Miss Contestant Children's Miracle Network

Each Local Miss Contestant is required to raise \$100 for the Miss America Organization and the Children's Miracle Network. MAO and CMN have created a website for you to set up your own fundraising website. Registration instructions for the Children's Miracle Network are at the very end of this Notebook beginning on page 55.

Teen Contestant Children's Miracle Network

Each Local Teen Contestant is required to register with the Children's Miracle Network website, but Teens are not required to raise funds for the CMN and MAO. Teen Contestants' registration for the Children's Miracle Network is at www.MAOTeen4Kids.ds.org.

Community Service

Our Titleholder is aware of specific current and important issues in the community, the state, the nation, and the world, and has the ability to address these issues. She is willing and able to give of herself and contribute to causes which are important to her and to the Program.

Possible Appearances:

As with Preparation, Appearances will be arranged with our Miss Titleholder and our Teen Titleholder together as much as possible, but there will be times when our Miss will have Appearances that our Teen will not be able to be included in, as well as times when our Teen will have Appearances that our Miss will not be able to be included in. Some of the Teen and Miss Appearances may have a time conflict with each other. It is expected that our Titleholders will make themselves available to attend at least two appearances each month. The actual number of Appearances may depend on the Titleholder herself and what contacts she makes with organizations, groups, community leaders, potential sponsors, and government agencies. However, anytime the Titleholder appears as "Miss Pierce County" or "Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen," she is under the guidelines of the Program.

- Promote Program and Platform Issue
- Speaking Engagements
- Meetings with government officials, political leaders, administrators of schools and retirement centers, other individual groups who deal in matters relating to her platform issue.
- Interviews: television, radio, newspaper, etc.
- Perform Talent: vocalist or instrumentalist may need to have a small repertoire in addition to her competition piece

There is no guarantee of the number of appearances or schedule of engagements. The Titleholder will work with the Board or Appearance Coordinator to arrange possible appearances as her school and/or work schedule permits.

Calendar & Schedule: *(not a comprehensive list and is subject to change)*

- March & April ~ Attend Other Local Programs when possible
- Spring Forum (Orientation for State Competition)
 - o (Teen: April 7-9, 2017)
 - o (Miss: May, usually 1st weekend)
- State Pageant Week
 - o (Teen: May 27-28, 2017)
 - o (Miss: end of June / beginning of July)

It is expected that both of our Titleholders would attend the other's State Competition.

Our Titleholder needs to keep her schedule as clear as possible for the State Competition preparation (which includes mock interviews, talent practice, shopping, and a stack of required paperwork), working her platform, and possible appearances. These appointments are extremely important in preparation for the State Competition, and should be considered a high priority in calendar scheduling. Appearances are equally as important to promote the Program, support our Sponsors, and gain recognition in the community.

Benefits

- Scholarship awards and opportunities
- Gift awards
- A voice in the community
- Opportunities to learn leadership skills and life skills
- Assistance in preparation for State and National competitions

Preparing for the State Competition (and possibly the National Competition)

- Coaching, advising assistance
- Regular talent practice
- Mock interviews
- Practicing good nutrition and involved in physical fitness
- Keeping informed on issues and current events
- Personal care and appearance: hair, makeup, spa
- Shopping: It may become necessary for specific pieces of the State Pageant wardrobe provision to be the personal responsibility of the Titleholder herself, with the approval of the MPCSP Wardrobe Department
- Evening gowns purchased by MPCSP for the use of our Titleholders during the state pageant will remain the property of MPCSP. Titleholders will be given the first right of refusal to purchase evening gown if desired.
- Paperwork, paperwork, and more paperwork

(Please note that some of the Titleholder's preparation for the next Competition may be done on her own time, such as for Talent, physical fitness, current events, etc.)

Preparing for the job of Miss Washington

In addition to preparing for the job of the Local Titleholder, the MPCSP is also striving to prepare our Titleholder to fill the job of Miss Washington and Miss America. The following is the job description of Miss Washington given by the Miss Washington Scholarship Organization. This list is read and given to the Miss Washington judges for them to continually refer to when selecting the young woman to fill the job of Miss Washington.



Miss Washington Qualities & Attributes

As you are looking at each contestant, please remember that the young woman you select must possess each of the following qualities:

- 🌷 Highly Articulate
- 🌷 Beautiful
- 🌷 Talented with a repertoire as she will be performing throughout the year
- 🌷 Committed to her Platform/Critical Issue and has state level contacts in place
- 🌷 Able to relate and interact with Young People
- 🌷 Supportive of CMNH and ready to promote the MWSO Miracle Bowl
- 🌷 Able to relate to Community Leaders and Elected Officials
- 🌷 "Face and Voice" of the Miss Washington Organization, its Local Organizations, its Volunteers, Contestants and Sponsors
- 🌷 Must have a genuine heart for service
- 🌷 Potential Commercial Spokesperson for Corporate Sponsors and as a result may have both paid and unpaid appearances.
- 🌷 Must be reflective of women her age 🌷 Charismatic/Dynamic/Humble
- 🌷 Mature enough to handle the job and all of its responsibilities 🌷 Manageable
- 🌷 Punctual
- 🌷 Flexible and Gracious
- 🌷 Team Player
- 🌷 Will dedicate her year to being all of the above
- 🌷 Is ready for national competition

Miss Washington does not have to be the "most" in any of these areas, but she must possess **ALL** of these qualities. You cannot select a woman who does not possess all of these job requirements.



Terminology

Part of understanding of the Program, is knowing the Terminology of the Program. Some of the terms below, help to distinguish the Miss America Organization from other pageant competition systems.

Avoid Using:

Reign

Queen

Crown

("Vying for the crown") Girl

Beauty Contest

Bathing Suit

Royal, Royalty, Regal
(As relating to a contestant or
the program)

Charm

Well-mannered or polished

Well-groomed

Throne

Instead Use:

Year of Service Year of Tenure

Representative Titleholder

Title
("Vying for the title")

Young Woman
Contestant

Scholarship Program

Swimsuit / Lifestyle and Fitness

Relevant
Significant
Outstanding
High Achieving
Role Model

Ambition Self-confidence
Leadership

Disciplined
Showing Sportsmanship

Well-educated
Physically Conscientious

Position
Job
Tenure

The word "Pageant" should only be used in reference to your actual production and then, only sparingly. Other words to use instead: **Competition ~ Production ~ Preliminary ~ Event ~ Show**. To signify your local or state program as a whole, use *Miss Pierce County Program*, or *Scholarship Program*, or *Organization*.

Ten Contestant Commandments

Let's begin by being upfront with some foundational rules so that we have a better understanding of expectations and follow-through.

1. **Be on time!** Which actually means, be 5 minutes early! We recognize that there will be problems from time to time with conflicting, unchangeable schedules, inclement weather, and car trouble. Good planning includes allowing time for possible delays with traffic, weather, and road construction. Be aware that you have a responsibility to be conscientious with your commitment to this Program and to make every effort humanly possible to be on time (again, meaning early) to every rehearsal and event. If a problem arises, please keep the communication flowing and let us know. ***Miss call or text (text preferred) Jennifer Goble: 253-229-9902 or (call only) Cherrie Rasmussen: 253-230-0200, Teens please call or text (text preferred) Jennifer Goble: 253-229-9902 or Michele Kronlund 253-279-3766.***
2. **Mandatory Attendance.** Life is all about showing up! This Program is no exception. Hours and hours of preparation have been contributed by the Board and Volunteers who believe in this Program and believe in you. We have developed a Program that is full of valuable ingredients. Missing any part of our limited time together will hinder the totality of what you could glean from such input. This Program is made up of many Volunteers (who give of their valuable time, talents, and resources) as well as Sponsors (who donate money into our scholarship fund) to help you achieve your educational and life goals. Please show respect and gratefulness by being in attendance, with dedicated attentiveness as well. Your Miss Pierce County sisters are also depending on your attendance. The production placement that has been assigned to you is a position only you can fill. If anyone is missing, it really throws everything off. Required attendance at Rehearsals and Meetings also includes being attentive at Rehearsals and Meetings. This means that the use of cell phones, including texting, during Rehearsals, Meetings, and Events, is not allowed. If the use of a phone is necessary for any reason, please have the courtesy to ask one of the board members present if you may be excused for the minimal time to use your phone.
3. **Bring Your Notebook and a Pen to Every Rehearsal and Meeting.** This notebook will be your point of reference during our rehearsals, workshops, and events. It will help you to keep everything organized for the Program and in your preparation for competition. You may need to make notes of changes in schedule or of valuable tips discussed. Please add notebook paper so that you will be able to take notes during rehearsals and workshops. Bring it with you when you have Mock Interviews so that you will be able to take notes during your Judges' critique. You will also need to keep this Notebook for future reference, such as when you request for scholarship disbursements after you complete the Program or if you need to contact one of the Volunteers. In other words... Keep this Notebook forever!
4. **Have Daily Access to Email.** All mass communication will be done through email. Any news, changes, or reminders will be accomplished by email messages. On occasion, immediate reply may be required of you, or last minute notices will be

given, and email is the means of making this happen. This will also be your connection to the entire Board of the Program. At the same time, your cell phone needs to be in working condition. If you are not available to answer in person, voice mail must be active so that any necessary messages may be left for you to receive and retrieve in a timely manner. You will be responsible for email messages and voice mail messages left for you by any of our MPCSP board members or volunteers.

5. **Know Your Platform, Be Passionate About Your Platform, and Be Actively Involved With Your Platform.** This is the real heart of the Miss America Organization. It's about making a difference in this world, beginning right in your own community. It's about contributing when and where we are able to do so. Yes, one woman can make a difference. One of the most important lessons that we hope you will learn in the MPC Scholarship Program is that "giving back" is the true secret to happiness. Truly, it's more than that. Giving back is our responsibility as citizens and as human beings. Research your Platform. Study your Platform. Know how it affects those in your community as well as across the nation. Make connection with the local or national organization that represents your Platform issue. Be active in your Platform. Volunteer whenever and wherever you can. You will discover that getting involved in others' lives and helping others is how you become passionate. It then becomes an investment. That investment could be anything from running a marathon to raising money for research, to sharing time with a child who is living through unbearable circumstances; from raising awareness among a gathering to reading to a blind senior citizen. When it comes time for your Interview with the panel of Judges, the passion you develop in your Platform will either show true, or they will be able to tell that you are not walking you talk.

6. **Practice. Practice. Practice Your Talent Every Day.** The old saying, "Practice makes perfect," is so true. Maybe you think that you are beyond practice. Maybe you believe you are pretty good. You can probably come up with tons of reasons why you are not able to practice every day. But don't fool yourself. Even if you are pretty good, why not work on making your Talent even better? In this competition, you want your Talent to be the very best that it can be and that only comes by daily practice. Of course the more time you can commit to your Talent, the better it will be. However, you should practice at the very minimum of a half hour to an hour per day, not just a few minutes, or going through your Talent piece once. Committing to daily practice is a valuable discipline to get into the habit of to improve your talents and abilities. So... practice, practice, practice!

7. **Keep the Dress Code.** As a Contestant representing the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program and the Miss America Organization, it is important to present yourself at your best. The MPCSP Dress Code is required at all Rehearsals, Meetings, Appearances, and Events, and attire must be appropriate at all times. No sweats. No midribs. No low riding pants. No low-cut tops. No articles of clothing in disrepair. Dress jeans or denim is permitted if neat and clean, but no holes, rips, frays, or tares. Bring your heels to Rehearsals so that you are able to wear them for walking practice and dancing for the production numbers. Keep in mind that at some of our facility

locations, the temperature may be cooler; be prepared with a sweater, jacket, or coat, and possibly even gloves.

8. **Be Professional.** You may have opportunities to attend civic club meetings or Sponsors' special events to promote the MPCSP, and to give you experience in presenting yourself to others. Valuable skills will be learned as you meet community leaders and business professionals, engage in conversations, and answer questions in front of groups of people. These groups or individuals are often Sponsors to the MPCSP who have contributed corporately or personally. A poised and well-groomed contestant who presents her best self and promotes the MPCSP in a positive way is the professionalism that we expect. It will help you and it will help the MPCSP. Former Contestants have paved the way for you and helped to lay a positive foundation in their past encounters and contact with Sponsors and potential Sponsors. In the same way, future contestants will be affected by what you do for the Program this year.

9. **Attitude! Attitude! Attitude!** The only thing that we have complete control over is our own attitudes. We can allow personal circumstances to get us down or we can choose to rise above any situation and keep a positive attitude. Throughout this Program, you will be given vast amounts of information, asked to take advice when you may not completely understand, and stretched beyond your comfort zone. During every part of this process, we ask that you be open to our guidance and counsel, and have faith in the history and experience of this Program. Whether it may be in apparel color or fit, components of your Talent presentation, or habits of speech, please take heed to the suggestions, promptings, and critiques given to you. As the MPCSP Board, we collaborate on a regular basis during the rehearsals and preparation phase. We have years of pageant experience as well as access to national experts to draw from. We want to help you to look your best, sound your best, and present yourself at your best. We do all of this only to help you.

10. **Have Fun!** This should be one of the best experiences of your life. . . even though you will work hard and be challenged. You will learn much about yourself, about life and about others. If you choose to take advantage of everything that you can possibly take in, then you choose to win. You cannot lose if you apply yourself to opportunities made available to you, if you treasure each moment that you are given in life, and if you laugh at yourself from time to time.

Internet & Online Policy

Since we're on the subject of "rules," there is another important rule of conduct. As you conduct your personal life with integrity, we expect for you to treat your "online life" with the same high standard. It's a small world with the access available online and through the internet. It also becomes easy to share information and photos. Sharing information and photos online creates the possibility of being shared with the world. As a role model in the MAO and in the community, you are held to a high standard of character in the image that you portray, in person and online. You are expected to conduct yourself and any of your online conduct in a responsible

manner. You are responsible to keep all of your personal websites and all of your social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., free of any inappropriate photos and dialog. A compromising photo or inappropriate blog can follow you for your lifetime. It takes years to develop a good reputation and just moments to ruin it. Our MPCSP will be checking your posts to be sure that there is nothing to be embarrassed about.

A few types of photos and lines of dialog that will not be tolerated include the following.

- No alcohol reference: No photos of anyone drinking or with alcohol in the photo. No reference to being drunk.
- No drug reference: No photos or dialog of drug use.
- No sexy reference: No photos or dialog of making out, revealing attire, anything sexually suggestive, or anything sexually explicit.

Before you post a photo on your site, ask yourself:

- Would I be comfortable showing this photo to any family member?
- Would I be comfortable showing this photo to a young child who looks to me as a role model?
- Would I be comfortable showing this photo to someone in my community? (Such as: a teacher? the mayor? a pastor? a volunteer with the MPCSP?)

If you wonder if something is appropriate, play it safe and do not post it.

The purpose of this Internet & Online Policy is to protect the integrity of the MPCSP, the MWSO, and the MAO, as well as the integrity of you as a young woman who is to be respected and who raises the bar in how young women conduct their personal lives. Be the responsible young woman and do not bend to compromising possibilities.

What Makes Up The MPCSP?

The MPCSP is made up of people and their resources of time, talent, expertise, services, and money. It is also made up of people who are willing to see the opportunities available to them and be motivated to act, with flexibility and graciousness, toward putting those resources to work for themselves and for others.

The MPCSP Consists of Three Mandatory Ingredients

There are three main ingredients that must be in place to make up a Program such as the MPCSP and in order for it to function at all. Without one of these three components, there could not be a Program. These three elements are the Contestants, the Volunteers, and the Sponsors. Each of these three parts are necessary to put the MPCSP together. Without the Sponsors, there would be no money to operate the Program, cover expenses, and to award Scholarships. (There will be more specific insight on Sponsors a little later in this Notebook.) Without Volunteers, there would be no one to run the Program, and to work at helping young women develop their skills and talents and to achieve their dreams and goals. Without Contestants, there would be no reason for Sponsors to contribute to the Program or for Volunteers to offer their time, efforts, and expertise.

Volunteers

The entire MPCSP Board and all of the Chaperones are Volunteers and do not get paid for their involvement in the Program. However, all of the Volunteers are giving of their time, efforts, care, expertise, knowledge, and wisdom to young women because we all believe in this Program. We believe in the Miss America Organization (MAO) and we believe that through the Local MPCSP, we can help to develop young women to their fullest potential and impart to them tools that will help them throughout their lives. It is very fulfilling to each one of us to see young women who we have had contact with, grow as individuals and gain confidence in themselves, in their abilities and talents, as well as seeing them reach their educational goals. We have truly found a passion in investing in young women who want to improve themselves through training and education offered in our Program.

Contestants

As a Contestant in the MPCSP, you have a responsibility to the Program, the Volunteers, and the Sponsors. You have been specifically chosen as a participant in this Program. Much is invested in you and the potential that you have within you still to develop. There are assignments that you are expected to take responsibility for to complete and make due dates on time. There are requirements of paperwork, wardrobe, attendance and attentiveness. It is our earnest hope that you will take advantage of every opportunity and glean from the benefits and training offered to you in the Program to learn, grow and develop.

We Are a Team

We are here to help you to grow and develop and to help you gain and fine tune life skills and confidence in how you present yourself and communicate to others. The MPCSP has resources, tools, expertise, support and connections to add to the competition preparation process. Improving oneself takes time, effort, and hard work, but the benefits can be immeasurable. Each person has potential for being their personal best. We want to work together to help you achieve goals and to become the best you that you can be. We are a team in our efforts, not just between Volunteers and Contestants, but among Contestants with each other as well. Among the Team, encouragement and building up are the ground rules. There will be no tolerance given to tearing anyone down.

Flexible and Gracious

A theme for the Pageant Family in the State of Washington is to be "flexible and gracious." At times, things change that are beyond anyone's control. This is a time to flexible and gracious. There may be times that we need to do something that we may not be fond of. This is a time to flexible and gracious. Sometimes people do or say things that we may not agree with. This is a time to flexible and gracious. One of the Board Members or Volunteers may give you a critique or advise that you are not sure about. This is a time to be flexible and gracious.

Everything involved in this Program is with you, our Contestants, in mind and for the benefit of the Program. Remember: Anything that benefits the Program, will also benefit you, the

Contestants. Advice given and suggestions that are made are given only to help you and offer possibilities for improvement. We see and come to know the potential that is available in each person. This is a huge part of our Program: for us to see your individual potential and help you to achieve that potential. Comments, suggestions, and critiques given to you by the Board Members are because we want you to improve in whatever area is being addressed. Often we can perceive what improvement is possible and achievable. Things that may be said to you by a Volunteer are not to tear you down, but to encourage you in your growth and development as an individual. A person cannot improve without change. Please remember that we only want to help you. This is a time to be flexible and gracious.

Preparation For Competition / Preparation For Life

Participation in the MPCSP will be a valuable experience. We all should hold to an attitude of continual learning. This Program will help you to grow as an individual and develop your communication skills, leadership skills, and life skills. We involve the expertise of many individuals to bring insight and benefit to each of our Contestants. All of the Board Members are volunteers and most of the special guests brought in who contribute to the Program in various ways are also volunteers. We all hope that you will take complete advantage of every opportunity that this Program will offer to you. Not only is our purpose to guide you through the process of competition preparation, it is our ultimate goal to bring a measure of preparation for your future as well. We want you to succeed now and in the future.

Many contestants and former contestants have communicated to us about their pursuits, goals, and aspirations, after completing the MPCSP. We hear of career opportunities and job promotions that have been gained. Often we hear of the credit given to the training gained and the skills practiced and learned while participating as a Contestant in the MPCSP. This brings great satisfaction and gratification to us as Volunteers.

It Is Not All About The Crown

True, there will be only one young woman chosen to be Miss Pierce County and one chosen to be Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen for this year, but the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program is about more than the process of choosing a representative to wear the crown. Not only is scholarship awarded to every Contestant who completes the Miss or Teen Program, but each Contestant, is engaging in a process of personal growth and development. The several weeks before the actual pageant have been designed to encourage each participant to grow as an individual and to develop her talents, communication skills, and life skills. The Program also focuses on helping each young woman to develop a passion to give back to the community. It is the desire of the Volunteers in the MPCSP that each participant involved in the Program will be able to contribute and reach out to others around her and have a positive impact to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Miss America Organization is one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance.

Paperwork

Your Contestant Contract

The Miss America Organization requires that each Contestant enter into a Contract agreement with the Local Program, which, in our case, is the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program. The completed, signed, and notarized Contract, including required Attachments, is required to be submitted to the MPCSP in order for that young woman to participate and be accepted as an official Contestant in the Program. Until your Contract is complete and turned in, you are not officially a Contestant. Any Contract that you enter into is an official document and should be considered with seriousness. When you enter into a Contract, you should read and understand what you are agreeing to. You should also keep a copy for yourself, so that you may be able to refer to it in the future. Your Contestant Contract is no different. Please be sure to read it thoroughly and complete it thoroughly. Before handing in your completed Contract, please check, double check, and triple check that everything is complete, every necessary blank is filled in, and every required attachment is included.

Completing Your Contestant Contract

The Contestant Contract is a savable document. Your Contestant Contract is a PDF document that you may complete electronically and saved to your computer. To assist you in the process of completing the Contract the blanks pertinent to this year's MPC Program have been filled in for you. Please do not make any changes to those areas. You will only fill in the personal information as it pertains to you. Each of the blue highlighted fields will need to be completed. You will also notice that there are areas on the contract that are not available to be completed electronically. Many of these areas must be completed and signed in the presence of a Notary Public. Please be sure you carefully read your Contract and follow the directions to complete the signatures correctly. Teens please note that a parent/guardian must also sign on your contract. Teens and their parent/guardian must initial and date the bottom of each page of the contract.

Read and understand the contract in its entirety and understand what you are agreeing to. Every part of the Contract is there for a purpose and all of it is important. You will most likely sign many contract documents in your lifetime. Learn now to never sign anything without reading the document completely and understanding it thoroughly. When you sign a contract, you are stating that you have read and understand the entire contract, and you agree to what you are signing. If something is not clear to you, ask questions.

Fill in all applicable blanks accurately. There are several places in your Contestant Contract that need information filled in or boxes to be checked. Please be sure to fill in completely every required piece of information. Remember that not every blank will need to be filled in if it is not applicable to you; be sure to read it carefully so you fill in the appropriate information as it applies to you. Look for where boxes need to be checked.

Sign your full name where required. Sign your initials where required. Don't miss the places where your signature is required. Be aware where your name needs to be filled in or if your signature is required. Where your initials are required, you need to sign your initials, not type them in.

Parent's signature required if you are under 18 years of age. If you are under 18 years old, your parent's signature will also be needed where specifically required.

Details to fill in. Please remember that in this Program, you are competing at the Local level, not the State level and not the National level. This specific competition is not Miss Washington and not Miss America. You will be competing in the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program

When submitting your Contract:

- Print your contract one sided, using one side of the paper only. Please do not print your contract two sided; do not print on both sides of the page.
- Please have your contract attached together in some way, either with a large paperclip, a binder clip, in a large envelope, or in a folder of some kind. Please do not turn in your contract as loose sheets.

Attachments that are required to be submitted with your contract to make it complete are:

- Two (2) photocopies of your certified birth certificate
 - If you do not have your certified birth certificate, you will need to request a copy, right away, of your official birth certificate, from the county office of the county that you were born in. This may take some time to process and to be mailed to you, so be sure to make your request ASAP. Then you will need to make two photocopies of your birth certificate to submit with your Contestant Contract.
 - Please do not submit your original certified birth certificate. The photocopies that you submit with your Contestant Contract will not be returned to you. They become a part of your Contestant Contract.
- Two (2) photocopies of your proof of eligibility which could be any **one** of the following:
 - Residency – Official document that shows your Pierce County residence address
 - Driver's License or Government issued identification
 - Automobile registration
 - Current lease
 - Other official document establishing residency
 - School – Current transcript showing full-time student enrollment in a Pierce County school (high school or at least 12 credit hours if college)
 - Employment (at least 32 hours per week)
 - Pay stub
 - W-2 form
 - Income tax filing

If you live in Pierce County, the easiest proof of eligibility is to provide two photocopies of your Driver's License or Washington State photo ID that shows your Pierce County address.

- One (1) photocopy of your medical and dental insurance cards (both sides if printed on both sides)

- One (1) Official, Sealed School Transcript

If you were born outside the United State or US Territories:

If you were not born in the United States or a US Territory and your birth certificate is issued from a foreign country, in addition to the required attachments above, you will also need to include:

- Two (2) photocopies of your proof of US Citizenship
 - USA Citizenship papers
 - USA Passport

High School Graduate or GED. If you are currently a high school senior, fill in the date that you will graduate from high school.

Involvement in another pageant system. In order to participate in the MPCSP or the MPCOT this year:

- You cannot be currently participating in another pageant system.
- You cannot be a current titleholder in another pageant system.

If you are involved in another pageant system and want to continue in the MPCSP or the MPCOT, you will need to resign from your position and involvement in the other pageant system before turning in your completed contract.

Your Contestant Contract must be Notarized showing your photo ID to the Notary when signing.

Your signature must be notarized on the contract on the appropriate page. If you are under 18 years of age, your parent's (or your legal guardian's) signature must be notarized on the contract as well. Most banks will notarize for their customers at no charge. Do not sign the notarized section until you are in the presence of a Notary. The person(s) whose signature needs to be notarized (you / your parent) must show photo identification to the Notary. A driver's license or Washington State identification is usually the easiest form of ID. Keep in mind that most Notary offices (or banks) are only open during business hours on weekdays. Please plan accordingly and have your contract notarized early in the week. Do not wait until the last minute (please don't wait until the end of the week) to seek out a Notary to get your Contract notarized. Your contract is not complete without being notarized.

** Note a Notary will be present at Winter Launch to notarize your contract, this may be the better option for contestants to get their contract notarized. Remember a parent or legal guardian must also be present to sign in front of the notary for Miss contestants under the age of 18, and ALL Teen contestants. **

Your Contestant Contract must be complete to be valid. Your Contestant Contract must be completely filled out, signed, initialed where required, notarized, include every page of the original contract, and attach the required photocopies, to be valid. Do not leave any part of your Contract unfinished. Once you have completed your contract, please look over every detail again (and again) very carefully to be sure you have completed it and have included the required document photocopies. Check every single blank throughout the contract to be sure if it is a blank that you are required to fill in, or that you need to initial, or that needs to be checked, and that you have filled it in accurately. Every page of the Contract must be submitted along with the required attachments and/or photocopies in order for your Contract to be valid.

Keep a copy of your Contestant Contract for your records. It is always good practice to keep a copy of a document that you have signed. Your signature on any contract is a binding agreement. You will need to make your own copy before you bring your original Contestant Contract to turn in. It is suggested to keep your contract copy in your Contestant Notebook so that you will easily be able to refer to it at any time when needed. MPCSP will not make a copy of your Contract for you. You must make your own copy before turning it in on the due date.

The entire completed Contract must be turned in at Winter Launch. No exceptions. During Winter Launch, at which your attendance is required, there will be a Contestant Contract Station. If you are under 18, your parent or legal guardian will need to attend with you. Please be sure that your contract is complete and you have all the required documents ready to be turned in. (A list of required documentation is attached to the contract.) You are not officially a Contestant in the Program until your completed contract is submitted in its entirety and your Contract has been approved as valid by the MPCSP.

Bring with you to Winter Launch:

- Your completed Contestant Contract
- All required attachment photocopies
- Your parent or legal guardian if you are under 18 years of age
 - If age 18 or older, your parent(s) may attend with you, but not required
- Black or blue ink pen

Judges' Paperwork

There are two pieces of paperwork which the Judges will receive from each Contestant. Those are the Contestant Resume and the Contestant Platform Statement. These two documents are limited to one page each. Your copies will be sent to each member of the Judges' Panel in advance of the Competition so that they may begin to get to know you and formulate questions that they will want to ask you during your Interview. The information on these two pages must be truthful and accurate. Know the information that you include in your paperwork. When you go into your Interview, be prepared to answer any questions regarding information that you have provided in your paperwork. We encourage you to include points of interest that you would like the Judges to ask you in your Interview.

Your Contestant Resume

As a Contestant in the Local Program, you are also applying for the job of the Local Titleholder. Your Resume is basically your "fact sheet" about your scholastic background, your accomplishments, and your leadership roles, as well as your character traits, skills, and competence which would qualify you for the job of the Local Titleholder. This Resume is strictly limited to only one page and is to be submitted in the official format provided.

Your Platform Statement

The Miss America Organization is highly focused on giving back to the Community, by Volunteers as well as by Contestants. Your Platform Statement is your account of your Community Service Issue. In your Platform Statement, you will want to include an explanation of your Platform Issue, the purpose of how it benefits others, how you have been involved, and what your plan of action is for the future. Your future plan may be what you want to implement by holding the Title, but it may also be what you plan to do even without the Title. Be as educated as you possibly can be in your Platform Issue. Search the internet, talk to professionals, do research, learn statistics and history; know your Platform inside and out. Your Platform Statement is strictly limited to only one page and the copies submitted are each to be signed individually and dated by you.

Final Judges' Paperwork

During your participation in our Local Program, we will work with you in your drafts and revisions within the opportunity of your draft submissions. It is your responsibility to write your paperwork and make the suggested corrections and revisions as you choose. The final paperwork is sent to the Judges in advance of the Competition. Because of this timeline, the final Judges' Paperwork is due no later than the due date given. No exceptions.

Program Book / Production Paperwork

The Production & Program Book Paperwork is used for information to be printed in the Program Book and possibly written into the Script for the Production. The basic information needed is how you would like your name printed and read, your age, your school, your Talent, your Platform Title, your parents' names, etc.

"Daughter of..."

When listing your parent(s)/guardian(s), please state how you would like their names printed in the Program Book and read from the Script during the Production. How you have your parent(s)'s / guardian(s)'s names listed is totally your choice. Possible examples of different scenarios are listed below and worded as suggestions of how you may want to list your parent(s)'s / guardian(s)'s names. However, it is entirely your choice as to how you want your parent(s)'s / guardian(s)'s names listed. How you list your parent(s)'s / guardian(s)'s names will be exactly how they will be listed in the Program Book and put into the Production Script. Remember that it is entirely your choice of how you would like to list your parent(s)'s / guardian(s)'s names. Please be sure to fill out your form neatly and clearly.

Possible examples for listing your parents:

If your parents are married to each other and living in the same household: "Mickey & Minnie Mouse"

If your parents are separated or divorced, and neither is remarried: "Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse"

If your parents are divorced, and at least your mother is remarried:
"Mickey Mouse and Daisy Duck"

You may want to list your step-parents as well:
"Mickey & Minnie Mouse and Daisy & Donald Duck"

MAO / MWSO Required Paperwork

The Miss America Organization and the Miss Washington Scholarship Organization require specific information for their records of the Local Programs and Local Contestants. Part of that information includes details about your Community Service.

Community Service Form

The information needed on the Community Service Form is your Platform Title, number of hours spent serving in your Platform and total dollar amount that you raised for your Platform Issue (if any).

In addition, you would also state the number of hours (if any) spent serving the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) and the total dollar amount that you raised for CMN.

(Teen: if any.)

(Miss: including your required \$100 for CMN.)

Tickets for the Show

Ticket prices for the Show are as follows:

***Each Competition Show:
\$20.00 each Show in Advance; \$25.00 each Show at the Door***

"In Advance" means before the day of the show. "At the Door" price is for any tickets purchased the day of the show. Ticket prices are for each person, regardless of their age (children, students, seniors); all tickets are the same price. Tickets may be purchased with cash, check or money order made payable to: "Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program" or "MPCSP." Tickets will also be available to purchase through our website, www.misspiercecounty.org. There are no exchanges or refunds on tickets.

Tickets Issued to You

In one of the first rehearsals, tickets will be issued to you for you to sell to your family, friends, and supporters. These tickets are of value and should be treated with great care. You are responsible for the tickets that are issued to you. You will initially be issued a specific allotment of tickets. You may check out more tickets if you wish, anytime you wish. However, depending on the seating capacity of our venue, we may have a limit of the number of unpaid tickets issued to you at any one time. If you need to check out more tickets before our next scheduled rehearsal, please contact our Treasurer, Jennifer Marshall (253-732-0698 or mpctreasurer@gmail.com) to make arrangements to check out more tickets.

Selling Your Tickets

We advise you to carry your tickets with you in a secure place (in your purse or wallet) at all times so that you are ready to sell tickets at any time (but please be sure to keep them safe and secure). When you tell your family, friends, and supporters about your involvement in the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program, you will then also have the opportunity to sell tickets to them on the spot. If anyone wants to buy tickets, you are ready right then and will be able to sell tickets to them at that time, instead of trying to remember who wanted to buy tickets or trying to make connections again to sell your tickets to them.

Ticket Money

Ticket money is to be turned in only to our Treasurer, Jennifer Marshall. You may turn in your ticket money at any of our Sunday rehearsals (or if you meet up with Jennifer Marshall in person to check out more tickets, you may turn in money to her at that time as well). Your tickets will be issued to you until our last Sunday rehearsal, which is the Sunday before the Show. On the Sunday before the Show, you must return the remaining tickets that you have not sold and turn in all of the payment for any tickets that are not turned in. There is no exception. All remaining tickets and ticket money must be turned in at that time. After that time, you may still purchase tickets at the Advance ticket price (until the day before the show), but you must turn in the payment before tickets will be given out. On the day of the show, tickets will only be available to purchase at the venue, at the "At the Door Price," when the Ticket Booth opens in the Lobby.

Requirements when Turning in Ticket Money

When turning in ticket money, please insure that these steps are followed:

1. Write on the Memo line of each check:
 - a. "Tickets"
 - b. Your name
2. Put the checks and cash in an envelope
 - Write the following on the outside of the envelope:
 - a. "Tickets"
 - b. Your name
 - c. Total cash enclosed
 - d. List amount of each check enclosed
 - e. Total \$ amount enclosed (add all cash and all checks together)
 - f. Equaling the number of tickets sold
 - Seal the envelope
 - Turn in to our Treasurer, Jennifer Marshall, only. Do not give your tickets or ticket money to anyone else.

Will Call

You have the option of putting any paid tickets in Will Call. To put tickets in Will Call, write the following on the back of the ticket:

- At the top of the ticket, write "Will Call" and the name of the party, first and last name, who will pick up the ticket.
- At the bottom of the ticket, write your name.

■

Give the ticket to Jennifer Marshall for Will Call. Be sure to tell Jennifer that the ticket is for Will Call.

Workshops, Rehearsals, Meetings, Events, Appearances

Workshops, Rehearsals, and Meetings are planned and prepared for your benefit, not only in your preparation for the competition portion of this Program, but also for your growth and personal development of life skills. These Workshops, Rehearsals, and Meetings are closed events unless otherwise noted. In other words, no one may attend with you and no one other than Contestants, MPCSP volunteers, and authorized guests may be present. No parents, no siblings, no family member, no friends, no transportation provider may attend rehearsals, workshops and meetings, unless specifically indicated. Please be sure that any of these possible people are aware of this policy so that we do not have to ask them to leave.

As a representative of the MPCSP, your attendance is of ultimate importance whether for Rehearsals, Meetings, Workshops, Events, or Appearances. Remember these points:

- **Be Prompt.** "On time" means to arrive early. Allow for possible delays with traffic, weather, and road construction. Being prompt is your responsibility.
- **Know where you're going.** It's a good idea, if you are traveling to somewhere unfamiliar, to drive to the location ahead of the day of the scheduled event. That way you don't have to worry about getting lost.

Contestant Appearances / Engagements

Benefits of Appearances

Appearances are scheduled as possible. Appearances may include meetings with Sponsors, potential Sponsors, community service events, or a presentation in some way to the public or a specific group. Appearances are a benefit to you in many ways. The most common type of appearance would allow you to speak to a group of people or to be interviewed in a question and answer session. Whatever the requirement at an appearance, you will put into practice your skills of presenting yourself. Appearances involving Sponsors allow the Sponsors to witness the benefit of their contribution: to help further education for bright young women, as each of you are. You may have the opportunity to "sell" the Program at an Appearance with potential Sponsors which has the potential of growing the MPCSP scholarship fund. Community service appearances allow the public to gain education about the MAO on the Local level, thus gaining support and involvement of the Program.

Arrangements of Appearances

Appearances may be done with all of the Contestants together in one group or in smaller groups of Contestants. Appearances scheduled for Contestants to participate in are required as much as possible. Notice of future Appearances will be given to the Contestants in as much advance time as possible. Contestants should do whatever possible to work these Appearances into their schedules. If it is not at all possible to make a scheduled Appearance, notice should be given as soon as possible with a valid reason.

(Teen Contestants will be included in Appearances as much as possible, however, we understand that transportation may cause restrictions and school is always priority, so Appearance requirements for Teens will be more lenient.)

Chaperone(s) for Appearance

At least one Chaperone will be in attendance with Contestants at all Appearances. The Chaperones are Volunteers or Board Members within the MPCSP. A Chaperone must accompany Contestants at any and all Appearances made as Contestants representing the Program. Contestants are under the guidance of the appointed MPCSP Chaperone(s). Contestants should heed to the advisement and instructions of the Chaperone(s) in attendance. Contact information for the Chaperone will be given to the Contestants prior to the Appearance. Communication during the Appearance time should be made to the appointed Chaperone(s). This also includes notifying the Chaperone(s) of the necessity for leaving the room for any reason and for departing from the appearance location. In other words, the Chaperone needs to know the whereabouts and status of all Contestants for that Appearance.

Appearance Conduct

Any time that Contestants are representing the MPCSP, they are also representing the Miss Washington Scholarship Organization (MWSO) and the Miss America Organization (MAO). Conduct should always be professional and gracious. Contestants should also portray a professional outward appearance. Appearances always give Contestants the benefit of more experience in communication and developing their skills. Always convey appreciation to those who you come in contact with at an Appearance.

Fund Raisers – Events

Possible Events are planned for your benefit and many Events are Fund Raisers. Fund Raisers have multiple purposes. Obviously, their purpose is to bring funds into the Program which will grow the Program and increase Scholarships. Fund Raiser Events are also designed to bring awareness of the Program to the public and to showcase aspiring, talented young women in Pierce County. These Events also allow each Contestant to improve herself and her skills, possibly by presenting her talent and/or by sharpening her interview and communication skills.

Workshops

Workshops may be held in addition to regularly scheduled rehearsals. Some Workshops may take place before the Rehearsal season begins (may be included in the Program Launch or Kick-Off meeting), although some may take place during rehearsal time as well. The Workshops that are held before the Rehearsal season begins are designed to get you started in the Program preparation and will lay a foundation for you when Rehearsals begin.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are designed to help you to improve in all areas of competition and on stage. It is a time of encouragement and improvement, working on the details and fine tuning. Critiques are given with the purpose of helping you to improve and for you to know what you can work on. Limited time will be given to each Contestant and you are encouraged to spend time on your own to rehearse walking, Production numbers, Interviewing, and especially Talent.

Rehearsal time will be scheduled to devote time to the following:

- Talent
- Writing Paperwork – Contestant Resume & Platform Statement
- Mock Interview
- Production Numbers
- Walking
- Possible Workshops

Please Bring To Every Rehearsal:

- MPC Contestant Notebook
- Platform Statement – current draft
- Resume – current draft
- Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelopes – for your paperwork drafts to be mailed to you after “red pen” critique
- Pen
- Note Paper
- Shoes – for walking practice of Production and each phase of Competition
- Possible Wardrobe when specifically requested
- Talent CD – your rehearsal copy
- Items needed to present your Talent – instrument, dance shoes, necessary props, etc.
- Newspaper / News Magazines / Current Events
- Thank You Note Cards
- Postage Stamps
- Healthy Snacks – With the length of Rehearsals, you may get hungry along the way and you will need to keep up your energy.
- Water – Be sure to keep hydrated.
- Sweater, jacket, or coat – If venue gets chilly... possibly even gloves, scarf, or whatever you may need to keep from getting chilled.
- Hand Towel – To use as needed during Production rehearsal workouts.

Using Your Valuable Time Efficiently & Wisely

We realize how precious time is and every effort is made to plan our Rehearsal time to its fullest efficiency. But due to the number of Contestants in the Program, and in our efforts to help each one with some individual time, occasionally during Rehearsal, there may be some down time for individuals or for small groups of Contestants. Please be prepared to use these sporadic windows of time wisely.

Suggestions to use extra time productively:

- Practice Talent (depending on space available and sound to not be disruptive).
- Miss: Practice your closing for your Interview.
- Read newspaper to study current events.
- Work on rewriting drafts of Platform Statement and/or Resume.
- Write thank you notes to Sponsors.
- Practice walking.
- Practice Production numbers.
- Practice your on-stage introduction.

If others are also part of a down time, you may want to work together on Talent, current events, Production Numbers, on-stage introductions, walking, etc. Be sure that any critiques and suggestions are productive and that you are supportive and helpful to each other.

Phases of Competition

<i>Miss Phases of Competition</i>	
• Artistic Expression in Talent:	30%
• Presentation & Community Achievement in Interview:	25%
• Presence & Poise in Evening Wear:	15
• Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit:	10%
• On-Stage Questions:	20%
Total: 100%	

<i>Teen Phases of Competition</i>	
• Artistic Expression in Talent:	35%
• Presentation & Community Achievement in Interview:	25%
• Presence & Poise in Evening Wear and On-Stage Questions:	25%
• Lifestyle & Fitness in Active Wear:	15%
Total: 100%	

Judges' Scoring in Competition

(The following information is taken from the Judges' Score Sheets and Judges' Orientation/ Training materials, including the "Scoring In..." and "Criteria For Scoring..." sections for each Phase of Competition.)

Considering the job responsibilities and requirements presented to you during your judges' orientation regarding the titleholder you have been entrusted to select, the contestants are to be scored according to the established criteria. Always be mindful of and ask yourself, who should be Miss Local/ State?

Each contestant is competing against herself and **MUST** receive a score in a **1 to 10** point range, using whole numbers only. More than one contestant may receive the same score.

SCORING IN PRIVATE INTERVIEW

The Private Interview phase of competition is an opportunity to learn as much as possible about the contestant – her personal qualities and attributes to be Miss Local/State; her level of communication skills; her opinions and aspirations; her sense of accomplishment, poise, and presence as well as her ability to fulfill the job responsibilities of the position you have been requested to fill.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING PRIVATE INTERVIEW

Overall “first impression”; exceptional communication skills with a commanding presence; personality, personal appearance and beauty; validated opinions and responses; ability to fulfill job responsibilities; sense of accomplishment; and knowledge and understanding of her platform issue.

SCORING IN LIFESTYLE & FITNESS

The Lifestyle and Fitness in swimsuit is designed to see how well the contestant maintains a lifestyle of good physical health, whether she meets the public expectation of a titleholder, and whether or not she has the confidence needed to be a titleholder. The contestant’s drive, energy, and presence are to be likewise considered.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING LIFESTYLE & FITNESS

Overall “first impression;” physical fitness; physical beauty; sense of confidence and composure; display of drive, energy and charisma; and does she meet the public expectation of a titleholder?

SCORING IN TALENT

The Talent phase of competition provides an insight into the woman’s preparatory and performance skills. Consideration is given to whether the contestant’s talent selection fits these skills and her personality. The Talent competition acknowledges the quality of the talent being presented, the technical skill level, and the stage presence of the contestant.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING TALENT

Overall “first impression,” technical skill level; entertainment value; stage presence; and will you be proud you selected this young woman when she performs her talent if she is selected as the titleholder?

SCORING IN EVENING WEAR

The Evening Wear phase of competition is designed for the judge to assess the contestant’s beauty, poise, grace, and commanding stage presence. These must be projected “across the footlights.” The contestant’s total look is considered. Her evening wear (not the value of the evening wear) should complement the contestant’s individuality.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING EVENING WEAR

Overall “first impression”; beauty; sense of confidence; personality and stage presence; walk, carriage and grace; sense of style and appropriateness of the evening wear; and does she take command of the stage by simply walking onto it?

SCORING IN ON-STAGE QUESTION(S)

The On-Stage Interview phase of competition is designed for the contestant to make an on-stage statement of her interests, opinions and aspirations. One or two questions may be asked and the judge is to only consider the answer(s) to the question(s).

CRITERIA FOR SCORING ON-STAGE QUESTION(S)

Overall “first impression”; charisma and stage presence to be a spokeswoman for the state/local organization; give special attention to whether or not the contestant answered the question in context and in the time allotted; did she answer the question and did she have the commanding presence to make the audience *want* to listen to her?

Wardrobe

Miss Competition Wardrobe

- Opening Number Outfit
- Interview Outfit
- Talent Outfit
- Swim Suit
- Evening Gown

Teen Competition Wardrobe

- Opening Number Outfit
- Interview Outfit
- Talent Outfit
- Black yoga pants and fitness top
- Evening Gown

Other Necessary Wardrobe: Production Outfit

The Contestants will be featured and first seen on stage in an Opening Production number at the beginning of the Pageant Production which will coincide with the Theme of the Production. Production Outfits for the Contestants will be determined by the Production Team. Each Contestant will be responsible for acquiring her Production Outfit whether purchased or rented.

Wardrobe Approval

Each piece of your wardrobe to be worn in Competition or on stage must meet approval by the Wardrobe Staff. This is to assure that every piece is appropriate for each outfit. We want you to look your absolute best, dressed in your best colors and wearing clothing that fits you and flatters you. Every single item that you will be wearing must be approved including shoes, accessories, and undergarments. During wardrobe approval time, everything, meaning each piece and item, must be seen all together on your body, all at the same time, for approval.

Occasionally, after your entire Wardrobe has been approved, you may come across another piece that you think would be better than what has already been approved. To make a change in your approved Wardrobe, you must get the new Wardrobe piece approved. However, there will be no Wardrobe changes allowed after the Wardrobe Change Deadline.

Keep your wardrobe organized.

Keep all pieces of each outfit together. You may want to keep an inventory of each outfit to list each piece for that outfit to include with the outfit. Use zip-lock bags to keep accessory pieces organized and together with the outfit that they go with.

Interview Preparation

Mock Interviews

During Rehearsal time, Mock Interviews will be scheduled and are designed to prepare you for the actual Interview Phase of Competition. Please bring your Notebook and a pen with you to each Mock Interview session. These practice sessions, or Mock Interviews, will be structured as close as possible to the structure of your actual Competition Interview. The Mock Interviews will be conducted by a volunteer panel of Judges. Some of the Mock Interview Judges you may only see once in these preparation sessions; others may be seen several times over the practice sessions.

The Mock Interview sessions will begin in an abbreviated length of time from the actual length of the Competition Interview. Gradually, the time of the Mock Interviews will be lengthened as well as the intensity becoming tougher. These sessions are designed to stretch and strengthen you, sharpen your communication skills, and help you to be able to think on your feet and handle difficult situations.

Critique

After each of your Mock Interview sessions, the Mock Interview Judges will give you a critique of your Interview. You will be given encouragement and tips for improvement. The critique of the repeat Mock Interview Judges will probably be able to tell you how you have improved over the course of the practice sessions. Please bring your Notebook into your Mock Interview sessions and take notes of your critiques. This will help you to know what to work on and how you may be able to improve. As you review your notes over the weeks, you will see how you have grown and polished your skills.

The following contact is a resource that we recommend and have utilized in this Program over many years in competition preparation and specifically in the Interview phase.

Don Baker Communications
3731 Briarpark, Suite 150
Houston, TX 77042
Office: 713-789-8600
Fax: 713-789-8604
Cell: 404-434-6452
www.donlbaker.com / www.donbakercommunications.com / donbaker@yahoo.com

Competition Interview Length

Miss Competition Interview: 10 minutes - Includes 30 second closing.

Teen Competition Interview: 6 minutes.

Talent

Choosing a Type of Talent

In considering the talent that you will perform in Competition, choose what you do best. If you have had years of training in a specific form of fine arts, but you have recently taken up another fine art form, you are probably much more proficient at the talent that you have had great lengths of professional training than at something that you have recently begun in lessons. You may have great potential in a new area, but if you have not had the time and concentration to perfect that talent, it would probably be lacking compared to what you have invested years and money into. If you want to score higher in the Talent phase of Competition, the recommendation is not to try something new. Go with your best Talent and work at perfecting it more.

Music Selection

Music choice is another huge consideration. Whether you are a vocalist, instrumentalist, dancer, monologue speaker, ASL signer, or painter, your musical selection will play a huge part to either enhance your presentation or detract from it. You want to choose music that fits you and your abilities. It helps if your selection is music that moves you, that you feel passionate about. When that is the case, the audience and Judges will be drawn into your performance. If you are a dancer, the music should match your dance moves. If you are an instrumentalist, the tempo is a big consideration. If you are a vocalist, be sure that your background recording is in the proper key to fit your vocal range, and a song and an arrangement to fit your abilities.

Talent Performance Requirements & Restrictions:

- Perform On Stage – Your Talent presentation must be something that you can perform on stage.
- Perform Alone – No one else is allowed to be on the stage during your talent presentation
 - No one else is allowed to be a part of your talent presentation.
- Props
 - Allowed only if necessary for the performance and actually used in the performance (such as a chair that is actually used in performance)
 - Props used as display only are not allowed
 - Video is not allowed
- No live animals
- No flame
- No possibly dangerous props

Talent Length of Time Requirement

Miss Contestant and Teen Contestant Talent Time Requirement: 60 to 90 seconds – No shorter than 60 seconds – No longer than 90 seconds.

Talent Accompaniment Requirements

Background Track or Not?

If your Talent Presentation does not require accompaniment, then you do not need to turn in a Talent accompaniment CD. However, if musical accompaniment would enhance your Talent presentation, it is strongly recommended. If your Talent presentation would be more challenging for you or uncomfortable for the audience when not using accompaniment, then using a background track is highly recommended. In other words, a vocalist or instrumentalist (other than piano, harp, or marimba) is encouraged to use a musical background accompaniment. This will help to keep a vocalist on pitch and will help an instrumentalist performance to make sense, filling in with rhythm and chords. Piano, harp, or marimba may be the exception since several notes are played and heard at one time on these types of instruments, so a background accompaniment may not be necessary; however, at the same time, a background track may be preferred.

Talent CDs

Background tracks must be submitted on CD format and edited to the required time limit. Your performance may not be duplicated in the audio recording, either by you or by someone else. Your Talent presentation must not be lost or confused with your accompaniment track. In other words, if you are a vocalist, your accompaniment may not have a vocalist singing the solo or melody line; the accompaniment for an instrumentalist may not duplicate what you are playing with the same instrument.

2 Talent Accompaniment CDs Required – 3 CDs Recommended

You must have at least 2 CD copies of your accompaniment: one to turn in to MPCSP (for the Production Team to use in Production) and one for you to keep to practice with. It might be wise to have 3 CD copies so that you would have 2 copies for yourself. In case something happens to one CD, you would have a second CD as a backup copy. You must bring a CD or MP3 (on phone is acceptable) copy of talent accompaniment with you to all Rehearsals so that you are prepared for Talent Rehearsal when requested. The producer will not keep practice CD's for contestant's practice. You will need to have your own CD copy available to use during all Rehearsals. The CD that you turn in will not be available during Rehearsals.

Label each CD with:

- Your name
- Contestant Number
- "Miss" or "Teen"
- "Talent"
- Music Title

Personal Appearance / Make-Up / Hair

Personal Appearance

- Body Pierced Jewelry – Not advised. We advise that you remove any body pierced jewelry during competition; however the choice is ultimately up to you.
- Tattoos – Makeup cover is advised, but again, the choice is ultimately up to you.

These two appearance items, body pierced jewelry and tattoos, may possibly be distracting to others, including the pageant Judges. Instead of seeing you and hearing what you have to say, Judges may be distracted by even a simple nose ring or a small tattoo, and may not be able to pay attention to you as you present yourself in Interview or on stage. Removing body pierced jewelry and covering up tattoos is advised during competition and other times when you are in public representing the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program. Please realize that during Competition this is advised, but the final choice is up to you.

Make-Up & Hair

- No glitter – No glitter makeup – No body shimmer.
- Interview – Professional look – Hair neat – Daytime makeup.
- On Stage – Makeup more dramatic, more intense.

Schedule / Calendar

Other Locals

There are several other Local Programs within Washington. Each Local Program is unique. The pageants of the Local Programs are scheduled throughout the year. Attending other Local Programs can be a valuable experience. You can learn from what you see and observe. We encourage you to attend as many Local Programs as possible to gain more insight.

Some Local Programs also run a Teen Program, often simultaneously with their Miss Program. However, even though not every Local Program has a Teen Program, much can be learned as a Teen watching a Miss Competition.

At least one Local Program that usually takes place during the time of our own preparation is the Miss Auburn Scholarship Program and Miss Auburn's Outstanding Teen Program, which is usually held in January. The Miss Auburn Program usually runs a large number of contestants, thus their competitions are usually held over two consecutive nights. We highly recommend that you attend one or both of the nights of Miss Auburn. For information on tickets, please visit their website: www.missauburn.org. It's fun if Pierce County contestants attend together.

Information about other Local Programs within the State may be found at the MWSO website: www.misswashington.org. Click on "Contestants" and "Where to Compete" for links to most of the Local Programs in Washington. You may also find dates on the "Calendar."

Sponsors

Ads / Support Pages

You may have contacts within your circle who may be interested in becoming a Sponsor of the MPCSP by making a donation or Advertising in our Program Book. The more funds that come in, the better our Scholarship Awards will be. You will be responsible to sell a minimum of Ads or Support Pages for the Program Book.

Thank You Notes – “Attitude of Gratitude” – “Demonstration of Appreciation”

Your appreciation of contributions made to the MPCSP will help to grow our Program and encourage Sponsors to continue with their support in the future. Sponsor addresses will be given to you periodically. This is where your supply of Thank You notes comes into play. We request that you, the Contestants, write a personal Thank You to each Sponsor and Contributor of the Program. Thank You notes are sent from the MPCSP as well. However, notes of thanks directly from you, who the Sponsors are directly benefiting, makes a huge statement to those who are investing their dollars in you. Donations of any kind and size are appreciated and make a difference. It is important to have an “Attitude of Gratitude,” but that “Demonstration of Appreciation” in a Thank You note is very impressive, appreciated, and beneficial. When a Sponsor feels appreciated, that Sponsor will be more interested in continuing to support the Program. A hand-written Thank You note shows a sincere demonstration of appreciation. We thank you for taking on this mission.

Pageant Week

Label Everything

To help keep you organized and to keep from losing things, you will need to label everything... and that means EVERYTHING! Please label every article of clothing (including shoes, hose, undergarments, accessories), every piece of personal property, every Talent prop, every item of makeup. . . EVERYTHING! If labeled items are misplaced or left behind and found later, we will know who to return them to. Borrowed or rented items should also be labeled in some way with your name. You are responsible for all of your own items and you should take especially great care with items that you are renting or borrowing. Keep organized, put things where they belong, and keep track of everything in your possession so that you do not lose anything or leave something behind. Unidentified items that are lost and found will be placed in the MPCSP inventory or disposed of.

Valuables

We cannot be responsible for lost or stolen property. It is not advised to bring your purse or other valuables into the venue or into the dressing room during Production Week Rehearsal or during the Pageant. Please do not ask your Chaperone to watch or hold your purse during Production Week.

Chaperones

Several women volunteer their time to be available for assisting you during the Production Week. Their job is to accompany you and assist you during the final rehearsals and during pageant day at the venue. Depending on circumstances, a Chaperone may be assigned to you and one, two, or three other Contestants; or Chaperones might not be assigned to any specific Contestant, but would be available to help any Contestant who needs assistance at any given time. Whatever the arrangement this year, adjustments may need to be made. Remember: Flexible & Gracious! These

ladies are willing, ready, and able to assist and their main purpose is to help you during Production Week whenever needed. Be sure to remember that no one will be able to read your mind when you need something so you must ask for help when you could use an extra hand. And it really is best to get help from a Chaperone, instead of asking one of your pageant sisters who is probably needing help herself. Once you arrive at a Production Week Rehearsal and at the venue on pageant day, one of the Chaperones is to accompany you at all times. The Chaperones will be backstage and in the Dressing Room. They will assist you in your Dressing Room changes and keep you on track in the Production schedule. Please be attentive to their instruction and prompting to you regarding time and to move quickly. There is not much time available between each requirement to be on stage so there will be much rushing and scurrying to do your changes in the Dressing Room. A big part of the Chaperones' job is to help you do quick changes and do a check over to be sure that everything is in place, tucked in, and looking good. The Chaperones are also available for encouragement, hugs, and shoulders to cry on if needed.

Wardrobe Committee

The Wardrobe Committee will also be on hand to help with wardrobe and any emergencies that may arise. If you have a question or concern, please bring this up to your Chaperone or to one of the Wardrobe ladies who will assist you in any way that they can. Please be patient, kind, and appreciative of all of these women, as they do their very best to do what they can to help you. Then trust their expert advice. Everyone desires for you to do and be your very best. Remember to be flexible and gracious, no matter what the case may be.

Rehearsals at Pageant Venue

Please be on time!... or early. We have much to cover and many details to work out. Please also be patient. ("Flexible & Gracious.") With the various technical aspects to work out, there may be times of hurry up and wait. Your help at being attentive and quiet will be greatly appreciated and help with everyone's nerves and patience. The faster we get things accomplished, the sooner we can get done with the Rehearsals.

One of the first things that we will do at the Pageant Venue is to take a tour:

- The Lobby and Entrance Doors
- The Theater / Auditorium
- The Stage and Backstage
- The Dressing Room
- The Restroom
- Routes that we will take to get from one place to the other before the Show and after.

Occasionally, we are fortunate enough to have our Pageant Venue and our main Rehearsal location to be the same place. However, as we get closer to the Show date, we will review some of the specifics of the above list which will be in effect during the Show.

All Rehearsals Are Closed.

Remember that all Rehearsals are closed. This means that no one is allowed to attend Rehearsals with you. This includes parents, siblings, girlfriends, boyfriends, chauffeurs, coworkers, mentors, etc. No one is allowed into Rehearsal with you. You are at a place in your life now developing as an independent young woman. Any special help needed will be met by one of the Board Members or Chaperones. Please communicate any special situations as necessary so that the appropriate person or department of the Program will be aware of it and can be available to assist you if needed.

Be Respectful Guests of our Venue Facility.

Please keep in mind that we are guests in our Venue facility. Be respectful of others' property, the rooms, furnishings and equipment. There may be items in the areas that we will be using that cannot be moved and that we will not be using. We need to work around these items and take care to not abuse anything. Take care of everything as if it was a valuable treasure of your own. We also need to keep in mind that we will leave the facility as it was (or better than) when we arrived. Keep your items organized, your areas clean, pick up after yourself, and put trash in the available trash bins.

No Food or Beverages Inside the Theater / Auditorium.

Facilities that we use for our Pageant almost always do not allow food or beverages inside the Theater or Auditorium. As guests of our Pageant Venue, we want to be respectful of their requests, requirements, and restrictions. We would like to establish and keep a high rapport with our Venue and make them want to have us back. Please confine all food, meals, snacks, beverages, even water to the Lobby or the hallways outside the Theater / Auditorium.

Talent Tech Rehearsal

We'll make you look and sound the best that we possibly can, first to the Judges, then to the audience. Do not be concerned with how the lighting looks to the audience or how the sound is set for the audience. Only concern yourself with your own performance, being able to hear yourself and that your props are set properly on stage. The production staff will ensure that everything looks and sounds the very best possible beyond the stage. Remember that those setting the lighting and sound are viewing and listening from the audience area, and you are not.

Dressing Room

During Production Rehearsals and Production Day, the Dressing Room is limited to Contestants, Chaperones, approved Dressing Room assistants, and specific women Board Members. No one else is allowed in the Dressing Rooms at any time, not during Rehearsals, not before the Pageant, and not after the Pageant. This includes: parents, siblings, friends, etc., and especially no men... this also means no fathers and no boyfriends. Please do not bring anyone into the Dressing Room with you at any time and please do not send anyone into the Dressing Room for any reason. The Chaperones will be available to assist you in bringing your wardrobe and personal items into the Dressing Room, before and after Rehearsals and before and after the pageant. After the pageant, either your Chaperone or one of the Assistant Chaperones will be available to assist you after the Production in packing up your things and escorting you to your car or to your family waiting in the Lobby. Please be sure to pass this information on to any of your associations who would need to know or who may think they are exceptions. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Dressing Room Space

Space in the Dressing Room is sometimes very limited. Every Contestant will be assigned a station in the Dressing Room. Depending on the venue, and the number of Contestants and Titleholders involved in the show, this could be limited to as little as one chair and vanity station (which may be a school desk or a portion of a shared table). You will be responsible for your assigned station, keeping your area neat and picked-up. Please do not spread out into areas that you are not assigned to and please do not leave your belongings in someone else's area. Chaperones will be there to assist you in wardrobe changes when needed so please ask for help if you are in need of assistance. Chaperones are willing to help you and put your garments back on the hangers, etc., but are not your housekeepers and are not there to pick up after you, so please do not throw items on the floor, etc. Dressing Room arrangement and specific space for each Contestant will be discussed more when all of these details in the specific Venue are determined. Please be ready to be flexible and gracious in whatever the case may be.

Mirrors

In some venues, mirrored vanities are not available. Full length mirrors will need to be shared and sometimes set up sideways to act as a make shift vanity. Whatever the case, the Dressing Room will be set up to accommodate each Contestant as best as possible. If you have a make-up mirror, table mirror, or full length mirror, feel free to bring it with you, but please remember to label it with your name.

Clothing Racks

There will also be a hanging rack in the Dressing Room that will be shared by the other Contestants. You may bring a case, duffel, or laundry basket that will fit into your station, on your chair or in your assigned vanity area. Personal hanging racks (remember to label) may be used to cart your wardrobe into the Dressing Room, but, depending on space available in the Dressing Room, they may or may not be allowed to remain in the Dressing Room during Rehearsals or during Production Day. This will be determined when the Dressing Room set-up has been decided. If you would like to bring your own clothing rack, please ask Cherrie Rasmussen if it would be a possibility.

Dress Rehearsal

Dress Rehearsal will be conducted as much as possible as if it was the actual show. At the same time, there may need to be adjustments made within the show order Rehearsal to accommodate some of our guest performers. This may especially occur in such cases as our Little Princesses. We will probably have our younger performers rehearse their parts in the earlier part of the evening so that they may be dismissed from the remainder of the Rehearsal. Again, remember to be flexible and gracious, along with patient. Your help, attentiveness, and cooperation throughout the Rehearsal will be greatly appreciated.

Interviews

Interview Schedule

The Competition Interview schedule will be determined by your Contestant number. A few weeks before the pageant, your specific Interview time will be given to you. You need to arrive at the Interview venue no later than 15-20 minutes prior your scheduled Interview time; earlier (30 minutes) is even better.

Interview Location

You will be given the location of the Interview venue and driving directions well in advance. If you are not familiar with the venue and its location, you should take the time before the Interview day to drive to the location so that on Interview day, you are not stressed before your Interview and frantically trying to find where to you are supposed to be. Take the time to find where you will park and where the entrance is to the building. Then, for your Interview, you can be calm, collected, and not distracted by poor planning. Remember to also allow time for possible traffic, road construction, and weather conditions. It is also possible that the Interviews may be held at the same venue as the Show, in which case it would be much easier in your time planning. Either way, plan carefully. You do not want to be late to your Interview!

Interview Makeup & Hair

Your hair and makeup for your Interview should be neat and professional. You may want to consider wearing it back or up in a professional style. Throughout your Interview, you do not want to have the distraction of having to replace straying strands or throwing it out of your way with a twitched head. Whether you wear your hair back, up or down, be sure that it is in place and not in your face or eyes. Your face, eyes, and expression will communicate to the Judges as well as your words. They want to see how you communicate.

Interview Day Protocol

Arriving & Instructions

When you arrive for your Interview, there will be MPCSP Board Members and Volunteers to meet you and to escort you to the Interview room. Of course they will also be there to help calm your nerves and give you hugs and encouragement. Please be attentive to Debra Carlson, our Judges' Chair, who will give you final instructions before your Interview.

Before Your Interview

Before your Interview, you may be waiting with other Contestants who are also waiting for their Interview time, however, you are not allowed to communicate with those Contestants who have completed their Interview.

After Your Interview

After your Interview, you are not allowed to communicate with those Contestants who have not yet had their Interview. You will have the opportunity to debrief with one of the Board Members immediately after your Interview. After this brief time, it is advised that you depart from the Interview venue. If you see other Contestants arriving, in your path or in the parking lot, please do not converse with each other. This is to insure the integrity of the Program and to protect you and the Interview that you just completed with the Judges.

The Pageant Show

One Night or Two Nights of Competition

The number of Contestants – both Miss and Teen together – that we have in the Program will be a determining factor of whether we have a One Night Competition or a Two Night Competition. If the number of Contestants permits, we may conduct a One Night Competition, where both the Miss and the Teen Contestants will compete all on stage phases in a Show consisting of one night. When we have a large number of Contestants selected for the Program, we may hold a Two Night Competition. This will probably be arranged as the first night being the Teen Competition and the second night being the Miss Competition. More details will be given as we progress through the Program.

Arriving at Venue on Pageant Day

Attire

An idea of attire for arriving at the Venue on Pageant Day: Plan what you may want to wear when you leave the Venue after the Pageant. You may be going out with family and friends afterwards. A suggestion is to wear to the Pageant Venue when you arrive, the outfit that you want to change into after the Pageant to go out with your family and friends.

Arrive 3 Hours Before Showtime

You will need to arrive at the pageant venue 3 hours before show time and have your hair and makeup done and ready for the show. Please do not be late on Pageant Day! This time is necessary for the activities and preparations that are necessary before the show begins. The pre-show schedule includes pre-show photos, meeting and photos with Little Princesses, any last minute practice time on stage for Production Number or possible Talent review, dressing for the opening number, and having a calming and reflecting meeting time together with all Contestants, Board Members, and Chaperones. Our pre-show schedule is organized so that we may fit in all necessary activities in an unrushed and unstressed manner. Chaperones will help us all to move along in the schedule. Please follow instructions as given to you. If you need to do finishing touches on your hair and makeup before the set arrival time, please ask Cherrie Rasmussen about arriving earlier since arrangements would need to be made to get into the building and into the Dressing Room.

Chaperones

When you arrive, the Chaperones will meet you at the building entrance door to help you with getting your wardrobe situated at your station in the Dressing Room and any talent props into the building and Backstage (when necessary). No one else is allowed Backstage or in the Dressing Room. Be sure to remind your family, friends, and supporters about this important rule. The Chaperones will accompany you at all times, from the time that you arrive until you leave the building after the Show and visitation in the Lobby. If you need to go outside of the building for any reason (to go to your car, etc.), please notify a Chaperone to have her accompany you.

During the Competition

During the Competition, as much as possible, keep your area clean and organized. Make your wardrobe changes as quickly as possible, allowing your Chaperone or another Dressing Room Attendant to assist you when necessary. We cannot read your mind, so please ask for help whenever needed. Remember to advise at least one of the Chaperones about any special needs with specific wardrobe pieces. Whenever possible, pack up your previous wardrobe pieces that will no longer be needed on stage. After Evening Gown Competition Phase, and before the Final Production Number (which will be before Awards), pack up everything as much as possible so that you will not have to take the extra time to pack up everything after the show.

Warm-up For Talent

When you need to do warm-up before your Talent presentation, you may do so either in the Dressing Room or possibly in a Practice Room if available. Remember to have a Chaperone accompany you anytime that you are away from the group.

Awards & Coronation

On stage, as awards are given, as Runners-Up are named, and as Titles are awarded, we expect that everyone in the audience will see the gracious spirit and support that each of you will give to each other. Our Titleholders represent all of us... all of the Sponsors, all of the Volunteers, and all of her MPC Pageant Sisters in this year's class of Contestants. We are all a team and we will all support and encourage our Titleholders. We want to congratulate our Titleholders and stand behind them as they continue their journey. We expect this conduct of all of our Contestants in this Program.

After the Competition

After the Competition on Stage, please remain on Stage for photos. No one from the audience is allowed on Stage with the exception of the Board, the Judges, and the family of our new Titleholders when called up on stage. Please instruct your family that if you are awarded the Title, they need to come to the edge of the Stage and wait to be called up for photos with you. We will be taking photos of all Contestants together and other photo selections. Please be attentive to instructions so that we may complete the photos quickly. Please do not go to the edge of the stage to meet your family and friends. When you are dismissed from the Stage, the Chaperone or the Assistant Chaperones will accompany you from the Backstage to the Lobby for visitation with your family and friends. The route to the Lobby will be by going back stage and through the hall, not by going off the stage thru the Auditorium. Your supporters will need to meet you in the Lobby and not at the edge of the Stage. After visitation in the Lobby, the Chaperones or Assistant Chaperones will accompany you back to the Dressing Room to help you change (once more), finish packing up your things, and escort you to your car or to your family in the Lobby.

After Pageant Day

Debriefing & Celebration

After all of the meetings and rehearsals, after your Interview and after the Pageant, it's time to reflect and celebrate. We will conduct Program Debriefing in one of two ways.

1. About a week after the Competition, we may have yet another gathering. This last time together with the Contestants from this year and the Board Members is a time to look back over the entire process of the Program, see what worked, and reevaluate what did not work, highlight all of our accomplishments and review possibilities for the future. We, the Board of MPCSP, want to hear from you and get your feedback, ideas, suggestions, and evaluation. And we want to celebrate together with all Contestants in this year's class of the MPCSP. You made it! You completed the Program! You have gained skills and developed your talents. Each of you have grown and matured. Congratulations in all of your accomplishments in this year's MPCSP!
2. If we do not have the Debriefing get-together, you would like to ask you to give us a written debriefing which could be in the form of a questionnaire or simply submitting notes of your observations, feelings, and evaluations of the Program. This may be submitted by email.

Judges' Critique

Judges are not allowed to discuss any part of the Judging experience or their scoring process with anyone. This means that you may not discuss with any of the Judges on any information about yourself from the Pageant. Each Judge has signed an Affidavit stating that he or she will not discuss any of the Judging process or scores with anyone, including Contestants and parents. Please do not make any of the Judges feel uncomfortable and please do not ask any of the Judges about how you did in the Competition. However, the Judges' Committee will meet with the Judges after the Competition to receive their critiques for each Contestant of both positive comments and recommendations. If you would like, you may hear the Judges' Critique in a private meeting with the Judges' Committee of the MPCSP Board during the Debriefing day. This includes the Judges' comments only, not the specific scores. (The MAO does not allow scores to be known or published.) This information can be used to improve your talent, hone in on your communication skills, and work on your individual presentation. Remember that some of the comments are subjective and sometimes reflect personal preferences and opinions of individual judges. If you receive the Judges' Critique, do not take the comments as criticism, but as possible ways of improving yourself and growing. Use this as a positive tool to continue to develop your skills and talents. (If we do not have a Debriefing get-together, Miss contestants may contact Jennifer Goble, or Teen contestants may contact Michele Kronlund to make arrangements for receiving your Judges' critique.)

Continue To Work On

- Platform & Community Service
- Interview & Speaking
- Talent
- Health & Fitness
- Walking & Posture

Come Back

Come Back as a Contestant

Next year & next & next... The more often that you compete in the Miss America Organization, the more experience you will gain and the more scholarship you will be awarded. You may compete year after year as long as you meet the required criteria. Other than not meeting the required criteria, a Contestant may no longer compete in the MAO system if she has competed at the National Level on the Miss America stage. Thus the statement, "The more you loose, the more you win." If you are not awarded the title, you still win with scholarship awards and personal growth so no one loses who goes through the Program and values every part of it.

Come Back to Another Local Program

If you move from the Pierce County area, you may still participate in the Miss America Organization in the area that you move to. Even if you are not able to apply to the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program, consider applying to another Local Miss America Program where you are.

Come Back as a Volunteer

If you come to a place in your life where you no longer meet the criteria to compete (such as "aging out" or getting married), you may want to consider coming back as a Volunteer. After going through the Program as a Contestant, you have seen the benefits of being a participant. Many Contestants come back to give back. This is a great Program to give to and invest in as a Volunteer, and a great way to be involved in the community.

Remember Where Each Miss America Comes From

Remember that this year's Miss America Titleholder started her current year's journey by competing at the Local level. The current Miss America was a Local Titleholder just before she became a State Titleholder. There are a few young women who go from the Local level for the first time, are awarded the Local Title, who compete at the State level and are awarded the State Title, then compete at the National level and are awarded the Title of Miss America. However, many Miss Americas have competed multiple years before becoming Miss America. The next Miss America is currently involved in a Local Program somewhere in the 53 State Organizations. She could be in Washington State and she could be in Pierce County. We sure hope so and are working hard to find her. Is it you? You could be the next or a future Miss Pierce County, Miss Washington, Miss America. Regardless of the final outcome of this journey for you, you are a representation of this Local, State, and National Program. In addition, by completing this Local Program this year, you are a byproduct of what the MAO stands for and have gained skills for a lifetime. We hope that you will take these valuable skills with you and use them to gain the successes and achieve the goals that you might strive for.

Communication

Even after the Competition is over this year, please keep communication current with us of the MPCSP. We want to keep connected with you. You will always be a part of the MPC Family. We want to keep up on what you are doing and we want to keep you informed with the MPCSP. Please keep us informed of your current contact information, especially your current email address. If we ever lose contact between you and the Program, you can always get reconnected through our website:

www.misspiercecouny.org

- Email – Please keep your Email contact info current with us.
- We want to notify you of updates & new information.
- Please keep us informed with your news, doings, and what's happening in your life.

Promote the Program

Much of our promotion of the MPCSP is by word of mouth and personal testimony of what this Program is about. Most likely, you know other young women who would fit into the MAO and who would benefit from participating. Please share with others the benefits gained and skills learned by being a Contestant. You are one of our best advertisers. We appreciate your promotion of the MPCSP.

Scholarships

Every Contestant who meets all requirements, successfully completes the Program, and competes in the pageant competition will be awarded a scholarship. Rules and regulations regarding scholarships are included in your contestant contract. Be sure and keep a copy of your contestant contract to have access to this information at a later date. All required forms needed for distribution of your scholarship can be found online at www.misspiercecouny.org. Please read forms carefully, follow instructions, and include required paperwork and statement/invoice/bill.

Remember to check the MAO Website (missamerica.org) for more scholarships available only to those who have competed in the MAO system. Some scholarships are available even if you were not awarded a Title.

Future Opportunities

Open Pageants

An Open Pageant or Open Program is one that accepts Contestants from anywhere within the State of Washington. To qualify for an Open Program, a Contestant does not necessarily need to live, work, or attend school in the area that the Open Program is held or that the Open Program is named after.

Miss Open Program

Each year, there is usually at least one Miss Program that is an Open; some years there are two Miss Open Programs. The Open Programs are usually held near the beginning of the Local Pageant season or at the end of the Local Pageant season. This is so that a Contestant may be able to compete in both a Closed Program and an Open Program within the same Competition year which may give Contestants more experience and more possibilities to be awarded a Local Title. However, a Contestant may not be in a Contestant Contract with more than one Program at any one time. If a Contestant would choose to compete in an Open Program after competing in the MPCSP, she would need to request a Release from MPCSP to be released from her contractual obligations, before entering into a Contestant Contract with the Open Program Organization. There is a specific "Release Form" that must be signed by either Jennifer Goble, the Executive Director, or Cherrie Rasmussen, the Assistant Director. This "Release Form" is available by asking the MPCSP Assistant Director (Cherrie Rasmussen).

Teen Open Program

All Teens have the opportunity to compete at the State Level. The Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen Program is an Open Program. Contestants who have not been awarded a Title in a Local Competition, may compete in the State Program as an "Open Title." There is an entry fee for a Contestant to participate as an "Open Title" of which the Teen Contestant would be responsible for herself.

Miss Sweeper Pageant

There is one "Sweeper" Program at the end of the Miss Local Competition season. The Miss Washington Sweeper Program is a Local Competition for an additional three to five Miss Local Titles to be awarded and give that many more Miss Contestants the opportunity to compete at the State Level. Besides meeting the regular criteria, to qualify for the "Sweeper," a Contestant must either be a former Miss Local Titleholder in Washington or a Runner-Up from either the current Miss Local Competition year or the one previous year. If you are interesting in competing in the Sweeper Program and if you qualify because you are a Runner-Up in this year's MPCSP, you will need to be released from your current year's Contestant Contract with the MPCSP. There is a specific "Release Form" that must be signed by either Jennifer Goble, the Executive Director, or Cherrie Rasmussen, the Assistant Director. This "Release Form" is available by asking the MPCSP Assistant Director (Cherrie Rasmusen). Your completed and signed "Release Form" will need to be submitted to the Sweeper Program, along with other required paperwork, before you enter into a Contestant Contract with the Washington Sweeper Program.

You will also need to be assigned a "Mentor" by the MPCSP. Please contact Cherrie Rasmussen ASAP if you plan to participate in the Sweeper Program so that a Mentor can be arranged for you. If you are interested in the Sweeper Program, Cherrie will explain to you more about this process.

Miss Seafair Scholarship Program For Women

The Miss Seafair Scholarship Program For Women is not associated with the Miss America Organization, but is a wonderful local, community organization with many benefits for Contestants as well as scholarships awarded. If you do not continue to participate in the MAO, you may consider participating in the Miss Seafair Program. For more information and to apply, visit: www.seafair.com.

Miss Pierce County & Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen Titleholders

There are many things that our Titleholders will be involved in, especially in preparation for the next level of Competition. More information specifically for our Titleholders will be provided to them by their Program Director. Explanation provided below is for general information.

Paperwork: A whole stack of paperwork is required by the State Organization by Spring Forum / Teen Forum. Current paperwork will be refined. Some of the required pieces include:

- Contract
- Platform Statement
- Resume
- Talent CD

Autograph Photo Cards: Promotes Program and Titleholder with information on the back.

Support Buttons: Fundraiser – To show support of our Titleholders – Fun souvenir.

Appearances

Appearances for our Titleholders become a part of their already busy schedules. Appearances promote the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program (informing the public of what the Program is all about, which includes education and awareness of our Program), Scholarships, our Sponsors, our Titleholders, and their Platforms. Contacts for Appearances may come from previous Appearance contacts, Sponsors, our website, board members, and/or the Titleholders themselves. However, all Appearances must be requested thru the Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program. This is to insure that there is a clear understanding of what is expected by the Titleholder and by the organization requesting the Appearance.

Sponsors

Preparation for Miss Washington & Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen

Talent

Interview

Competition Wardrobe

State Competition Week Wardrobe Schedule

Walking

Packing For State Competition Week

Competition Wardrobe – Inventory Form

Hotel

Other Locals

Miss Washington Scholarship Organization (MWSO)

Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen (MWOT)

Miss Washington Tickets

Tickets for the Miss Washington State Competitions may be ordered with the MPCSP ahead of public ticket sales. Tickets ordered with the group of MPCSP before Spring Forum, will be seated together.

Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen Tickets

Tickets for the Teen State Competition are usually festival seating. Tickets may be purchased on your own. Watch the Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen website for details.

State Competition Week Events

There may be events that are open to the public, both free and ticketed, during both the Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen weekend and the Miss Washington week. Information for these events will be given on the State websites.

Miss Washington Titleholder

Paperwork

Living Arrangements

Preparation for Miss America

Talent

Wardrobe

Walking

Appearances - Job

Schedule - Calendar

Events: Fashion Show Send-Off

Miss Washington will have a Fashion Show Send-Off, usually held in August, before she heads to Miss America. This is a ticketed event, usually including a meal, and open to the public. At this event, Miss Washington will model her Miss America wardrobe, perform her Miss America Talent, and share some of her experiences. Usually, her Miss Washington Pageant Sisters from the class of that year will also be involved in the Event Program.

Miss America

The Miss America Competition is held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in September. The onstage competition is conducted over three nights of preliminary competition and one night of the final competition. The final night of competition is the live telecast that we see on TV.

Tickets

Anyone is welcome to purchase admission tickets and attend all or part of the Miss America competition in person. Tickets to attend the Miss America Competition may be ordered in advance of public ticket sales with the Miss Washington Scholarship Organization as a part of the MPCSP.

Recommended Resource List

Resources

Communication:

Don Baker Communications
3731 Briarpark, Suite 150
Houston, TX 77042

office: 713-789-8600
fax: 713-789-8604
cell: 404-434-6452

www.donlbaker.com
donlbaker@yahoo.com
www.donbakercommunications.com

Public Speaking:

Toastmasters International
P.O. Box 9052
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

949-858-8255 fax:
949-858-1207

www.toastmasters.org

Talent Background Music:

Musical Creations Inc.
104 Lindemans Drive
Cary, NC 27519

919-460-7464

www.musicalcreations.com

Customizing Background Music (splicing, key changes, etc.):

Wayne Bliss
Blissman Studios

253-866-1034

www.blissmanstudios.com

Steve Brown
1106 - 22nd Ave. Ct. SW
Puyallup, WA 99371

(recommended by Cara Rudd)
253-848-2581

sbrown@integrity.com

Hair / Makeup / Skin Care:

Bianco & Co.
Amanda Lane

425-282-5046

hairbyamanda@gmail.com

Karen Burgess
(Skin Care)

253-381-7155

karenburgess66@gmail.com

Websites

Miss Washington Scholarship Organization: www.misswashington.org

Miss Washington's Outstanding Teen Program: www.mwoteen.org Miss

America Organization: www.missamerica.org

Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program: www.maoteen.org

Pageantry Magazine: www.pageantrymagazine.com

Booklet - Pick up a free copy of the current year's issue at any Pierce County Public Library: "They Represent You: Pierce County - A Citizen's Directory of Elected Officials" provided by The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County (www.lwwa.org/tacoma)

Books (Available from Public Libraries)

"Miss America: In Pursuit of the Crown" by Ann-Marie Bivans "The 21

Indispensable Qualities of a Leader" by John C. Maxwell

(Also by John C. Maxwell, various titles on Leadership, Attitude, Relationships, and Equipping)

"Emily Post's Etiquette" by Peggy Post

"The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember" and "Life's Journeys According to Mister Rogers: Things to Remember Along the Way" by Fred Rogers

"Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson

Video (Available from Public Libraries)

"Miss America" PBS Home Video (originally broadcast segment of American Experience)



Registration Instructions for Local Pageant Contestants

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

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 is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals across North America, Europe, and Australia. 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.

Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization has also entered into an agreement with Children's Miracle Network as the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization's National Platform. As a Contestant in the Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen Program, you are being asked to register at www.MAOTeen4Kids.org. Instructions for Teen Contestants will be at this site.

The following are instructions for the Miss.

How to Register as a Contestant of a Local Pageant

Each contestant is asked to register online at www.MissAmerica4Kids.org. At the right-hand side of the page about half way down is a button that says "New Contestant - CLICK HERE." Click on that button and you're well on your way to competing in the Miss America system. You will then see a screen like this:

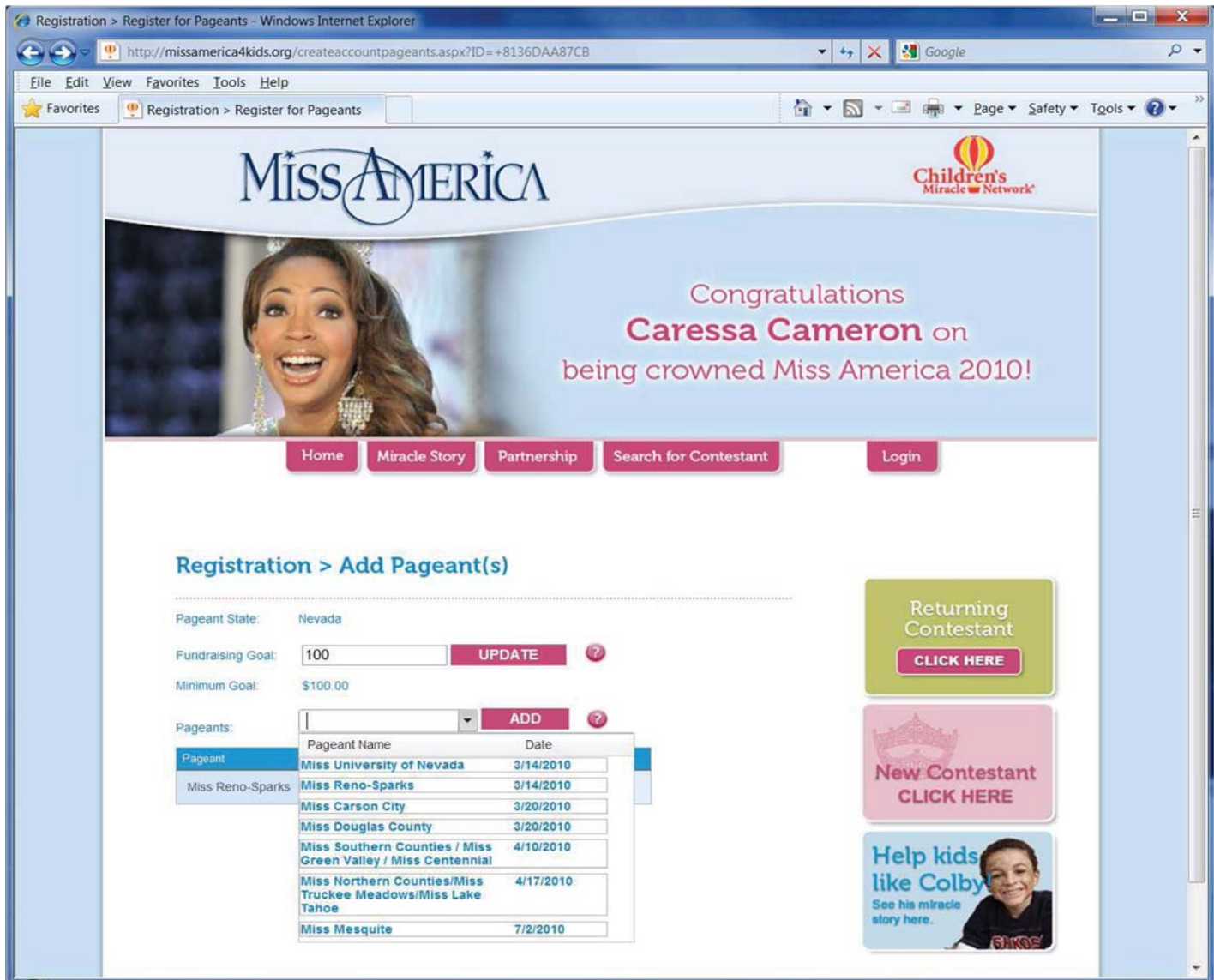
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://missamerica4kids.org/createaccount.aspx>. The page features a banner for Caressa Cameron, Miss America 2010, and a navigation menu with buttons for Home, Miracle Story, Partnership, Search for Contestant, and Login. The main content area is titled "Registration > Create Profile" and includes a warning: "Please note the address below should be your address in the state for which you are competing. The state you select below cannot be changed once registered." The form fields are as follows:

- * First Name: Kirk
- * Last Name: Ryder
- * Birth Date: Month: 01, Day: 22, Year: 1989
- * Email: kirk@missamerica.org
- * Verify Email: kirk@missamerica.org
- Address: 573 Bonita Ave.
- City: Las Vegas
- * State: Nevada
- * Zip: 89104
- * Password: [empty]
- * Verify Password: [empty]

There is also an "Upload Photo" section with a "Select" button and a "Clear" button. Below the form is a "REGISTER" button. On the right side of the page, there are three promotional buttons: "Returning Contestant CLICK HERE", "New Contestant CLICK HERE", and "Help kids like Colby See his miracle story here." The footer contains the text "© 2010 Children's Miracle Network" and "Questions? email support at: support@missamerica@childrensmiraclenetwork.org".

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

2017 Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program & Miss Pierce County's Outstanding Teen Contestant Notebook
 Choose from the drop-down list of pageants a local pageant..



Your fundraising goal is automatically raised \$100 every time you choose another local pageant, up to \$400. You may increase your goal to any amount over the minimum required amount.

Minimum Fundraising Goal for each Pageant

Local: \$100 State: \$250 National: \$500

i.e. Registration for 3 local pageants requires a minimum goal of \$300

Automatic Qualification Status: Raise \$400 or more at the local level and you are qualified for all local pageants. Once you have entered the pageants you plan to enter, you will see the pageant{s} listed.

Send Emails

Click on "Send Emails" on the left hand side and enter email addresses to send to your friends and family. **Tip:** send one email to yourself to your own email address, then when you get that email from the system, add a personal note to that email and forward that email to as many as you like within your own email system. You could ask for \$5, \$10, \$20 or whatever they can give to both great causes.

It is as simple as that. You may track your progress and see how you are doing. The more emails you send, the more funds you raise for both of these great organizations. Yes, these funds are for both entities - the donations help increase the future scholarship fund at the Local, State and National Levels, as well as go to supporting the children's hospitals.

Please take a few minutes to register for the pageant in which you will be competing at:
www.MissAmerica4Kids.org.



*Miss Pierce County Scholarship Program Miss
Pierce County's Outstanding Teen Program
Miss Pierce County's Little Princess Program P.*

O. Box 661

Milton, WA 98354

253-229-9902

director@misspiercecounty.org

mpcteendirectors@gmail.com

www.misspiercecounty.org