



National Pageant Handbook

Welcome



Dreams Do Come True and This Is Where They Start!

As National Director for Miss American Coed it is my pleasure to welcome you to our pageant family! As a former contestant myself I can tell you this experience is not just about the crown it builds character, creates friendships to last a lifetime, and instills a foundation of public speaking and interview skills to help you accomplish your goals for the future. By taking this first step you are starting a journey of personal growth and becoming the best version of yourself. I am so happy that you will be joining us and if I can help in any way please feel free to reach out to our office anytime!

*Best Wishes,
Michelle Landry*

**Discover Your
Potential**



National Titles

Miss

American Coed

Our National Queens competition is our most exciting event of the year! This competition is open to State or Regional winners , and any contestants appointed by our national office. Our National Queens will take home a very generous prize package and will sign a contract to represent American Coed during their reign. The age divisions available for the National Queens Competition are:

Princess (3-6), Sweetheart (7-9),
Preteen (10-12), Junior Teen (13-15),
Teen (16-18), Coed (19-24),
Ms (25 -34), Woman (35-44), and
Classic Woman (45+)

Miss

American Victory

Our National Victory competition is the sister program to the National Queens Competition and is open to queens contestants and contestants appointed by our National Office. This program gives our contestants the chance to showcase a broad range of skills by including their best on stage optional performance in their overall score. The age divisions available for our National Victory titles title are: Princess (3-6), Sweetheart (7-9), Preteen (10-12), Junior Teen (13-15), Teen (16-18), Coed (19-24), and Ms (25 and up)

Prize Packages

National Queens

- \$1,000 Cash Prize for Princess, Sweetheart, Preteen, Junior Teen, Teen, & Coed queens
- \$800 Cash Prize for Ms, Woman, & Classic Woman queens
- Custom designed American Coed Pageants national crown
- Custom designed American Coed Pageants national banner
- Monogrammed apparel set
- Custom designed American Coed Pageants crown pin & scepter
- Monogrammed crown case
- Accommodations paid for a Queens Weekend & Photo-shoot
- Accommodations paid for exclusive National Queens trip
- Custom Designed acrylic award
- 6 night stay at the 2021 National Pageant host hotel
- Monogrammed luggage set
- Hair and Makeup Services for the 2021 National Finals
- \$300 travel allowance to the 2021 National Pageant
- 2 tickets to all banquets at the 2021 National Pageant
- Opening number outfits for the 2020 National Pageant



National Victory Queens

- \$600 Cash Prize
- American Coed Pageants national victory crown
- Custom designed American Coed Pageants national victory banner
- Accommodations paid for a Queens Weekend & Photo-shoot
- Custom Designed acrylic award
 - Monogrammed crown case
 - Monogrammed luggage set

National Optional Winners

- \$300 Cash Prize
- American Coed Pageants national optional crown
- Custom designed American Coed Pageants national optional banner
- Custom Designed plaque

Additional Awards

We will also recognize contestants for the following achievements with no absolutely no cost to enter!

- Overall Interview
- Overall Interview Appearance & Introduction
- Overall Eveningwear
- Academic Achievement
- Volunteer Service
- Erin Joy Award



Pageant Scoring

Preliminary Score

Every contestant will be scored during the Eveningwear, Interview, and Interview Appearance and Introduction phases of competition. Each of these areas are equally weighted and will be added to determine the Preliminary Score. These scores will determine the Top Finalists for each age division. The Top Finalists will be announced during the Final Pageant.

Final Pageant Score

After the announcement, the Top Finalists will compete in Eveningwear and an on stage introduction. Based on their performance in these events the judges will give each Top Finalist a Final Pageant Score. The Preliminary and Final Pageant Scores will be added to determine our Queens Court and National Queen for each age division.

Victory Scoring

Contestants competing for our National Victory title will be scored in the three required phases of competition along with their on stage optionals of choice. Their scores from Eveningwear, Interview Appearance and Introduction, and Interview will be combined with the score of their highest scoring on stage optional. The total of these scores will be used to determine our winner and court.



Judging Information

- Judges will score independently and will not discuss or come to a consensus
- Judges will sign a questionnaire disclosing any acquaintance with a contestant that would impair their judgement. If this situation should arise, the Judge will only provide feedback for that contestant in the form of comments and an average of the other Judges scores will be used.
- Judges will not have the opportunity to read or view a program book until after the final pageant and program book photos are not judged.
- Judge's will not be scoring Contestant Bio Sheets, nor will any awards be given for Bios
- Judges will not be allowed to discuss results with contestants or parents.
- All scores will be provided to the contestants free of charge after January 1st.
- Comments will be provided upon request for a small fee.
- Judges are not informed of overall standings or placement in advance.
- All staff and Judges will be staying in the host hotel and attending pageant banquets but will not be taking notes or scoring during these events.
- Walking patterns and layouts will be sent out in your upcoming newsletters.
- Contestants are allowed to participate in both Queens and Victory competitions or choose to participate in Victory only.
- In the event that a contestant wins both the Victory and Queens title, they will be awarded the Queens title and the Victory title will be awarded to the contestant with the next highest score.
- Judges will not be informed whether contestants are competing for the Queens or Victory competition prior to the final pageant.



Required Events

Interview

Our judges will not be looking to stump or trick you and we do not base our questions on religious or political issues. They want to get to know you and find out why you want to be the next national queen. They will be looking for a natural conversationalist who is confident, comfortable, and poised. Often times the hardest questions are those that are the simplest in nature such as, "Why do you want to win?" Or "What do you do for fun?" Remember during your preparation to practice a variety of questions both challenging and simple so that you are not caught off guard and can show the panel all sides of your personality.

Interview Appearance & Introduction

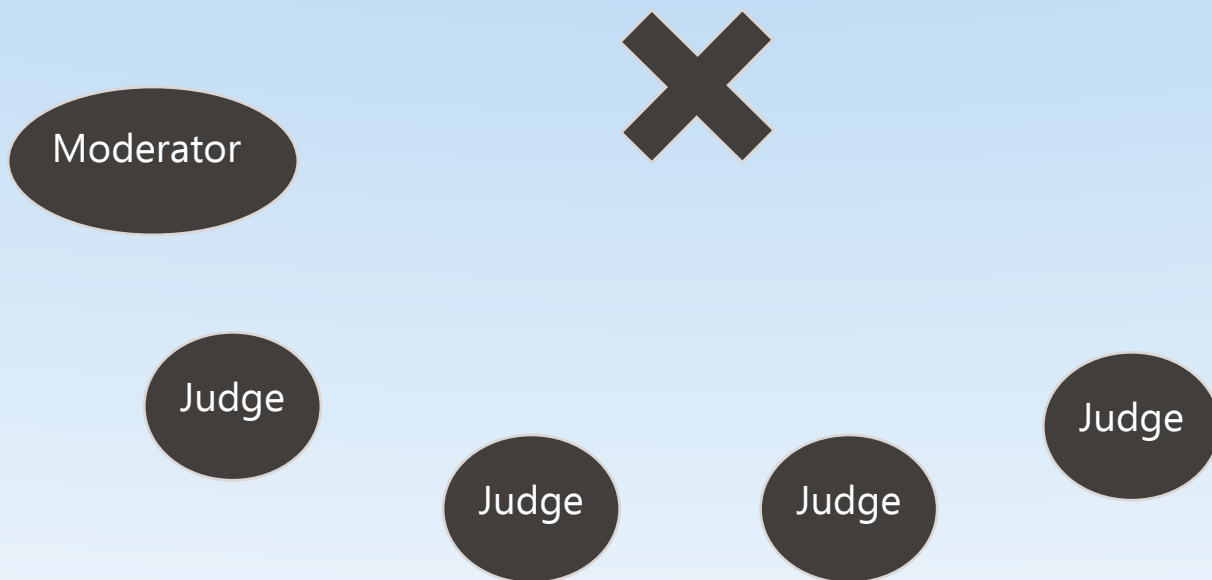
For Interview Appearance our goal is to teach our contestants the importance of making a strong first impression. Judges will be looking to ensure that not only was the dress code met but also that the outfit choice and styling choices compliment the contestant. In Introduction our goal is for our contestants to learn public speaking skills that can be utilized in your future studies and career. With that in mind our judges will be looking for a confident and natural delivery. Contestants can be creative but please note that the panel is not scoring based on content or uniqueness but rather on your approach, poise, and speaking ability. In addition, it is important to remember that this category is comprised of two elements. You will only receive one score but it will encompass the Judges' ratings on both the styling and the delivery of the introduction.

Eveningwear

In Eveningwear our judges will be looking for a natural walk that shows confidence and comfort on stage. Ideally your walk would have limited poses, an excited and happy expression, relaxed arms and shoulders, and picking up or holding your gown is discouraged. Judges will be looking for your stage presence, the ease in your movements, and poise in your moment in the spotlight.

Interview Room

To start our "Round Robin" Interview and the Interview Appearance & Introduction phase, contestants will meet in the interview waiting room where they will be separated into their groups. Once the judges are ready to begin, each contestant will be brought into the room individually by a staff member. Each contestant will enter the interview room and stand on the marked "X" and wait to be instructed by the moderator. Once given their cue, the contestant will perform their introduction followed by a turn to model their interview outfit. Contestants in the Princess age group may perform a pivot or circle turn. Contestants in all other divisions should perform a pivot turn. After all contestants in the group have performed their introduction, the moderator will bring the group to the room and direct each contestant to their first judge to start the interview. The moderator will remain in the room to keep time and will notify contestants when they will rotate to their next judge. Once all of the contestants in the group have met with each judge, they will be sent off to take photos and get ready for their next event. Final diagrams of the Interview Room and State will be send in your newsletters and any updates will be emailed prior to Nationals. Please remember to arrive 15 minutes early to the interview holding room to be lined up.

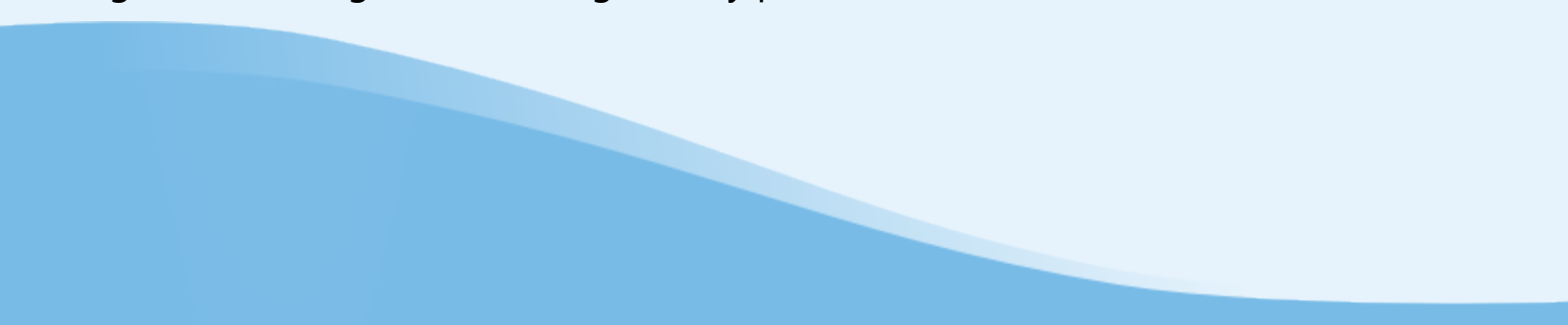


Eveningwear Dress Code

Princess, Sweetheart, & Preteen Divisions

- Ball Gown styles are strongly preferred
- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- Gowns may not be strapless. Halter and One Shoulder are allowed
- Gowns should be floor length and not more than ¼ inch off the floor
- Hoop skirts are not permitted
- Shoes for the Princess & Sweetheart divisions should not be more than 2 ½ inches tall, Preteens should stay at or under 3 inches
- Trains are permitted
- No Makeup of any kind is allowed for this event
- Light and/or bright colors are generally preferred but darker colors are allowed

Junior Teen Division

- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
 - Gowns may be any style but should be considered appropriate for the age division and not viewed as sexy or revealing
 - Back of the gown may have modest cutouts or use netting or beading
 - Gowns should be floor length and not more than ¼ inch off the floor
 - Hoop skirts are not permitted
 - Trains are permitted
 - Necklines with beading or netting may be worn but should be modest
 - Light and/or bright colors are generally preferred but darker colors are allowed
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Teen & Coed Divisions

- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- Gowns may be any style but should be considered appropriate for the age division and not viewed as overly sexy or revealing
- Back of the gown may have modest cutouts or use netting or beading
- Gowns should be floor length and not more than ¼ inch off the floor
- Hoop skirts are not permitted
- Slits to the knee are permitted but should be modest
- Necklines with beading or netting may be worn but should be modest
- Light and/or bright colors are generally preferred but darker colors are allowed

Ms, Woman, & Classic Woman Divisions

- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- Gowns may be any style
- Back of the gown may have modest cutouts or use netting or beading
- Gowns should be floor length and not more than ¼ inch off the floor
- Hoop skirts are not permitted
- Slits above the knee are permitted
- Necklines with beading or netting may be worn
- Dresses may be any color that compliments the contestant



Interview Dress Code

Princess, Sweetheart, & Preteen Divisions

- Interview outfit may be a suit or tailored dress in the color or print of your choice
- Dress necklines must be modest and cannot be strapless, one shoulder, or halter style
- Dresses may have sleeves or be sleeveless
- Shoes may be any color that compliments your outfit and may be closed or open toe
- Pantsuits or jumpsuits are not permitted
- Pantyhose may be worn but are not required
- Shoes for the Princess & Sweetheart divisions should not be more than 2 ½ inches tall, Preteens should stay at or under 3 inches
- Skirts should be no higher than one inch above the knee
- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate
- No Makeup of any kind is allowed interview or introduction

Junior Teen & Teen Divisions

- Interview outfit may be a suit or tailored dress in the color or print of your choice
- Dress necklines must be modest and cannot be strapless; one shoulder, off shoulder, and halter styles are permitted
- Dresses may have sleeves or be sleeveless
- Shoes may be any color that compliments your outfit and may be closed or open toe
- Pantsuits or jumpsuits are not permitted
- Pantyhose may be worn but are not required
- Skirts should be no higher than two inches above the knee
- Judges are looking for age appropriate styles and are allowed to use their discretion on what is considered age appropriate

Coed, Ms, Woman, and Classic Woman Divisions

- Interview outfit may be a suit or tailored dress in the color or print of your choice
- Dress necklines must be modest and cannot be strapless; one shoulder, off shoulder, and halter styles are permitted
- Dresses may have sleeves or be sleeveless
- Shoes may be any color that compliments your outfit and may be closed or open toe
- Pantsuits or jumpsuits are not permitted
- Pantyhose may be worn but are not required
- Skirts should be no higher than two inches above the knee



Example Questions

Princess & Sweetheart

- What makes a good friend?
- What are you most excited about for pageant week?
- What is the first thing you would do as the new queen?

Preteen & Junior Teen

- What are your favorite and least favorite phases of competition?
 - If you could travel anywhere, where would you choose?
 - If you had a million dollars, how would you spend it?

Teen & Coed

- Why do you think you'd make a great national queen?
- If your family were here, how would they describe you?
- What does success mean to you?
- If you could change one thing about yourself would you?

Ms & Woman

- What three things do you always have in your bag?
- If you could relive a moment in your life, would you?
 - Why do you want to represent American Coed?

Example Introductions

Princess & Sweetheart

A future model and prima ballerina, I live for the stage! Someday I hope to grace the stage, but for now I enjoy playing with my friends and spending time with my favorite pets. Coming to you from Massachusetts I am.....

Junior Teen & Preteen

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. As an aspiring teacher my dream is to educate the youth of our country. A volunteer tutor and honor roll student I am well on my way to accomplishing my goals. Until then, I can be found kayaking, cheerleading and volunteering for the American Heart Association. Representing Massachusetts, I am

Teen & up

Working in direct care I truly believe that we give our hands to serve and our hearts to love. Whether its working one on one with my clients or studying for my degree I know that my work will make a difference. In my spare time this avid runner can be found training for my next race, enjoying the outdoors with my two dogs, or finding the latest binge-worthy shows. Hoping to leave a lasting impression from Massachusetts, I am.....

Please Note

Introductions have a maximum time limit of 30 seconds and should not include your age. A staff member will be present to keep time for each contestant.



Optional Competitions



Actress

Showcase your acting chops with a short commercial of your choice. Our judges will be looking for personality, stage presence, and confidence in your performance. All commercials must be performed by memory and handheld props will be allowed. You may send your own commercial to be approved or use one of our samples.



Talent

Entertain the crowd with your skills in this competition. Talent entries can be anything that can be performed on stage. All entries have a maximum time limit of 2 minutes. Judges will be looking for stage presence and entertainment value. Handheld props may be used, microphone and stand can be provided. All music must be submitted in advance.



Model

Walk the runway in our Model competition. Outfits in this competition should be an off the rack ensemble that shows your personality and personal style. All walks and routines should be kept natural and age appropriate. Pro-am or glitz style routines are not permitted. Outfits should be appropriate for your age, however, light makeup is allowed for our Princess, Sweetheart, and Preteen age groups.

Optional Competitions



Speech

Our Speech competition is designed to promote strong presentation and public speaking skills. Contestants will perform a speech up to 150 words by memory for our panel of judges. Topics can be chosen from our list of examples or you may choose one and have it approved. Two copies of speeches are required at check in.

Fashion

Fashion is the place for personality and creativity. Entries in this competition can be high fashion or customize pieces that show your unique style and expressiveness but should still be age appropriate. Light makeup is allowed for our Princess, Sweetheart, and Preteen divisions, and all walks should be natural, not glitz or pro-am styles.

Photogenic

Our Photogenic competition allows contestants to show off their gorgeous photos and natural beauty. Our panel will be looking for bright colors, complimentary styling, and beautiful natural smiles. Makeup and editing are allowed in all age divisions, however, photos should be considered age appropriate and reflect and enhance the contestants natural beauty. Please note: Photogenic scores will not count toward the Victory Competition

Other Awards

Academic Achievement

Our Academic Achievement competition recognizes our contestants that are outstanding students. This year Academic Achievement forms will be due prior to the pageant. Instructions will be sent in your newsletters.



Volunteer Service

Recognizing our queens who provide their time and energy to helping their community, our Volunteer Service award is a favorite of our pageant experience.

This year, entries in the Volunteer Service competition will be due prior to the pageant and instructions and forms will be sent out in your upcoming newsletters

Stay Tuned!

Keep an eye on your inbox for your newsletters for more info on exciting new events coming to Nationals Week!



Entry Fees

National Queens Competition

Our contestants competing for the titles of Miss American Princess, Sweetheart, Preteen, Junior Teen, Teen, and Coed will have an Entry Fee of \$550 and an Ad Fee of \$300. Your Ad Fee covers one full page in the program book. The purchase of this page is required and can be counted toward our advertising prizes.

Our Contestants competing for the titles of Ms American Coed, Ms American Woman, and Ms American Classic Woman will have an entry fee of \$650. These divisions will not be required to pay an Ad Fee or submit an advertising page. They are eligible to sell advertising and earn advertising prizes.

National Victory Competition

Our Contestants competing only for the titles of Miss and Ms American Victory will have an entry fee of \$450. Contestants competing for Victory only are not required to pay an Ad Fee or submit an advertising page. They are eligible to sell advertising and earn advertising prizes. Contestants in our National Queens Competition may also be compete for the Victory competition for an additional fee of \$150.

National Optional Competitions

Our Optional Competitions have an entry fee of \$150 per entry. Please note: Optional competitions are judged by a separate panel of judges.

Opening Number Outfit

Our Nationals theme and opening number are always a favorite highlight of Pageant Week! This year's theme and outfits will be announced in your upcoming newsletters along with pricing, ordering instructions, and size charts. All contestants are required to purchase an opening number outfit.

Program Book

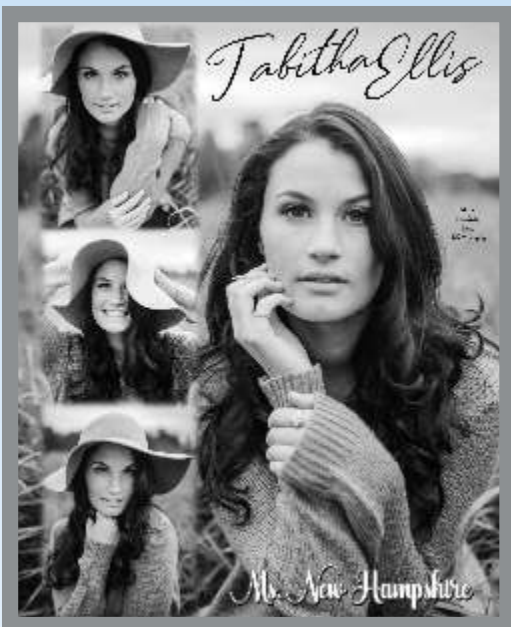
Our national program book is a beautiful keepsake to remember your time with American Coed! Each contestant will have a feature photo with space to recognize any friends, family, or sponsors that provided support on your way to Nationals. In addition to the feature photos, the program book has pages available for contestants who wish to participate in our Advertising Program. This program is a great way to build public speaking skills, gain support and sponsorship, make connections with local organizations, and earn some amazing prizes!

Feature Photos & Ad Pages

Program book photos should be a headshot or “head and shoulders” photo with you as the focus. Full body shots or photos wearing your crown and banner should not be used. All pictures will be submitted online and instructions will be provided in your email newsletters leading up to Nationals.



Advertising pages should be formatted for an 8.5x11 page and will be printed in black and white. Ad pages can include well wishes, sponsor logos, and crown and banner photos. You may design your own pages or contact our program book designer to have your pages created for you. All ad pages will be submitted online and instructions will be provided in your email newsletters leading up to Nationals.



National Cover Girl

Our National Cover Girl title will be awarded to contestants who sell 10 pages in the national program book. Our National Cover Girl winners will be crowned during our Preliminary Eveningwear and will receive an amazing prize package to enjoy during Nationals week and throughout their year as National Royalty!



Prize Package

To reward our Cover Girl queens for their hard work promoting American Coed they'll each receive an amazing prize package to include:

- 6 nights stay at the Wyndham Resort for the 2020 National Pageant
- American Coed National Cover Girl crown and banner
- Custom designed crystal award
- Accommodations paid for the National Queens Weekend & Photo shoot
- Features on National Website and Marketing Materials

Advertising Prices

Full Page: \$300

1/4 Page: \$75

Half Page: \$150

Business Card: \$30



National Miss American Coed Pageant

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