



Competition Scoring Criteria, Phases of Competition, Awards, Auditor Instructions and Sick Judge Rule

IMPORTANT NOTE: State and local leadership must inform all Miss America/Miss America’s Teen delegates that categories and scoring percentages may change at the National Competition.

Number of Panelists

The State and Local Organizations may choose a panel with at least five and no more than seven members. Olympic Scoring System to be used — subject to the “missing” (former ‘sick’) judge rule— high and low scores are dropped. At least one (1) panelist must be a novice to the program (more are preferred), meaning they have never served as a judge/panelist in a Miss America/Miss America’s Teen local, state, or national level competition. In an effort to maintain diversity within our system, officials must have a POC serving on a panel of five judges and a minimum of two POCs for a panel of seven judges.

Local Miss/Teen and State Miss/Teen Values

Single Night/Preliminary Night

· Private Interview	30%
· Talent/HERStory™	20%
· Health & Fitness	20%
· Evening Gown	20%
· On Stage Conversation	10%

Final Night Values

· Composite Score (multi)	30%
· Talent/HERStory™	20%
· Health & Fitness	20%
· Evening Gown	20%
· On Stage Conversation (Semi-Finalists)	10%

** A Top 5 ballot is optional for local competitions but is encouraged for competitions with more than ten contestants. The final ballot will be utilized for State Miss/Teen single night competitions with ten contestants or more and final night (multi-evening) competitions. For clarification, no top 5 ballot is used for competitions with nine contestants or less on any level of Miss/Teen.*



Private Interview- 30%

Wardrobe: Delegates Choice - Stylish Interview Attire (age appropriate)

Timing: 30 second opening, 9-minute Q&A, optional 30 second wrap up or closing statement.

Fact Sheet & Community Service Initiative (CSI) Statement:

- State/Local Organizations will use the same Fact Sheet throughout the competition year.
- Community Service Initiative (CSI) submission is a one-sheet document in which the delegate responds in a short essay regarding her personal CSI.
- A sample of the Fact Sheet and CSI will be provided.

Procedures

- The format decided must be uniform for all delegates.
- The delegate may be seated at a table or standing at a podium.
- The judge's chair introduces each delegate, takes her position, and presents a brief 30-second introduction/CSI overview. At either the conclusion of the CSI introduction (before the period) or at the 30 mark, the timekeeper will raise their hand, and the assigned judge will ask their first question.
- At the nine-minute thirty-second mark, the timekeeper indicates (30) seconds remaining for the interview. The head judge will inform the delegate of the remaining time, and the delegate may choose to use the time to finish her response to the last question or proceed with a closing statement.
- At the 10-minute mark, the timekeeper stands, and the head judge indicates the interview time is up. Concluding that delegate's private interview phase.

Purpose - Allows Insight Into the delegate's:

- Ability to fulfill the qualifications, responsibilities, duties, and terms of the titleholder.
- Personal qualities and attributes relevant to the titleholder position.
- Commitment to her community service initiative or CSI.
- Ability to express her own beliefs in an authentic and relatable manner.
- Sense of accomplishments /goals above and beyond the fact sheet.
- Spontaneity, intelligence, sense of humor, charm, and charisma.
- Authenticity and ability to answer questions in a conversational, unrehearsed manner.
- Ability to serve as a role model and if she is reflective of her generation.



Health & Fitness - 20%

Wardrobe: Delegate's choice of Rebel x Miss America Collab Red Collection (mandatory) fitness outfit. Judges to evaluate the following: Overall First impression of a Dynamic Presence, Radiates Health, High Energy, Engaging Vitality, and a Sense of Confidence.

Procedure:

- The organization will present each delegate in a pre-blocked, high-energy stage routine with movement and posing.
- Each delegate will not exceed 20-30 seconds.
- No props are allowed.
- State competitions may include, during Health & Fitness, LED video footage of the delegate representing their health & fitness initiative and/or a voice-over. Programs without LED screens may use video projection, providing the quality meets the State's expectations. This is not applicable for programs with no LED screens or video projection capabilities; however, Miss America encourages each State to raise its production value and set goals to implement such technology in the future.

Purpose:

The delegate showcases her commitment to health and fitness initiatives during this competition phase. At the local/state organization's discretion this phase may include a voice-over on her experience with self-care and health goals and related initiatives or a health/fitness statement. A delegate's discipline and commitment to being physically healthy is a key to success in all other areas of life and the rigors of representing the Miss America or Miss America's Teen program as a national titleholder.

Allows Insight Into:

- The delegate's comfort and confidence level on stage.
- The delegate's overall impression of health and physical fitness commitment.
- On-stage presentation and energy, comfort in front of an audience, confidence.
- The delegate's spontaneity and lack of "robotic" stage presentation.
- Ability to determine if delegate could serve as national health/fitness ambassador.



Performing Arts Talent/HER Story™ - 20%

Wardrobe: Delegate's Choice – Performance Arts Talents or HER Story™ Presentation.

Timing: Up to 90 seconds.

Purpose/Procedure:

To underscore the Miss America/Miss America's Teen commitment to performance arts education initiatives and women's efforts in dance, music, opera/vocal, drama, magic, oratory, circus arts, and storytelling. Each contestant will present her talent or HER Story™ presentation not to exceed 90 seconds per delegate.

Performance Talent Requirements:

Talent must be approved by the National office or previously approved as listed on the most recent "Approved Performance Talent List" OR comply with the HER Story™ stage presentation guidelines.

Procedure & Performance Description:

In the performance talent or HER Story™ competition, contestants will have 90 seconds to captivate the audience/judges with a talent performance or personal narrative. HER Story™ contestants may use LED screens, video projection, voiceovers, music backtracks, props, or any other creative means to enhance their storytelling experience; singers will use a microphone, pianists a piano, musicians a musical instrument, and so on. Regarding LED or video projection, this option only applies to States with these capabilities. The medium the contestant provides must be of professional quality and self-sufficient (start/stop). Pageant staff will not be responsible for advancing slides or executing the media provided by contestants other than to facilitate the incorporation of such into production.

Judges will evaluate each performance talent or HER Story™ based on the following criteria:

1. How engaging and compelling is the contestant's story or talent?
2. How effectively does a contestant connect with the audience on an emotional or entertaining level?
3. Do they convey their story or demonstrate a talent skill with skill and confidence?
4. How powerfully does the contestant deliver their story or demonstrate their talent? Can they engage the audience and maintain their attention throughout the performance?

Allows Insight into the delegate's:

- Preparatory, performance, or storytelling skills.
- Overall presentation skills and ability to deliver a captivating presentation.
- Interpretive ability and entertainment value relative to the category of performance art.
- Stage presence, on-stage personality, and personal connection to her story.
- It allows a look at the totality of the performance elements of the on-stage presentation.
- Ability to capture the attention of an audience while performing on stage.



Evening Gown-20%

Wardrobe: Delegate's Choice of Evening Wear - Appropriate for Red Carpet.

Timing: State/Local choice of timing to music.

Choreography: State/Local choice of blocking, choreography, and timing.

Purpose:

The delegate will publicly present her sense of Style by wearing an evening gown in a fashion suitable for an appearance as Teen/Miss Local or State. A titleholder's role is attending galas, fundraisers, awards shows, and other formal events. This often involves walking a red carpet, posing for press photographers, modeling in fashion shows, and promoting various national fashion designers who partner with Miss America or Miss America's Teen programs.

Local/State programs are to create an elegant runway/stage experience set to music appropriate for this competition phase.

If voice-over tracks are being utilized for each delegate during their elegant walk, state/local officials should focus on reflection topics: *What women are most inspiring to them? What qualities of an empowered woman do they relate most to? Share their most inspirational quote and why it connects with them.*

Questions regarding why the delegate picked their gown or any style questions/references are prohibited in any voice-over.

Allows Insight into the delegate's:

- Ability to capture attention on stage and individual stage presence.
- Comfort, confidence, and composure.
- Overall impression of ability to represent the Miss America or Miss America's Teen Organization at a high-profile event.
- Scoring is based on how the delegate carries herself/performs in this phase of the competition, not on the gown she is wearing or the perceived cost of that gown.



**Single ~~or Final Night~~
On Stage Conversation - 10%**

Wardrobe: Either Opening Number Apparel, Stylish Interview, OR Evening Gown

Finals Purpose:

Question or Panel Conversation may be immediately at the Call Out of Top Semifinalists, with the Delegate wearing Opening Number Apparel or after Call Out in a Stylish Interview.

Question at Competition Evening Gown - Gown should be the last competition in the lineup. The Top 10 or Top 15 (Or however your Semi-Finalist Call Out may be configured) Final Conversation/OSQ for each Delegate would be asked individually after completing a total evening gown moment on stage.

Questions:

The actual questions may touch on an aspect of the Miss America or Miss America's Teen brand, mission statement, the four points (Style, Service, Scholarship, Success), the brand foundation of 'sisterhood', the delegate's vision of the effective marketing of the Miss America/Miss America's Teen brand. Conversational Panel questions may be more open-ended and relate to the day's topics. All questions should be vetted by competition officials and not generated by a judging panel or individual judges. However, judges may pose the questions. These questions should allow the audience to gauge the delegate's understanding of the role of Miss America or Miss America's Teen as a spokesperson/advocate for the brand and the delegate's ability to have an engaging commentary on stage. The host may include a "warm-up" conversation at the Director's discretion. The delegate will have between 15-20 seconds to answer the question. Questions may not be political or divisive.

- Allows a final, high-energy conversation with panelists to determine the best delegate for the role.
- Bring the interview to the stage interactive to showcase each delegate.
- Highlights intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for titleholder's opportunity.
- It allows a look at the sense of composure in the final moments of a decision.
- It allows a look at the interactivity with the panelists and the audience.
- Allows top delegates to demonstrate the depth of understanding about the brand of the Miss America/Miss America's Teen Opportunity and how serving as Teen/Miss Local/State will set the stage for becoming a spokesperson for those pillars throughout the state/country.