

*Miss Lane County*



*Miss Linn-Benton*

Hello!

Welcome to the Miss Lane County and Miss Linn-Benton Scholarship Program! We are excited that you want to compete in this year's pageant and we will do our best to make sure your experience is educational, enriching and most importantly, fun! Enclosed in this packet you will find all of the relevant information about this year's program, which will take place at Hult Center for the Performing Arts on March 19, 2016. Before diving into the detailed goodies, please read the overview of the Miss America Program and the Miss Lane County Organization below.

The Miss America program was started in 1921 as a beauty pageant in Atlantic City New Jersey and has since become the world's leading provider of scholarships to women. The national program brings 53 state representatives, including Puerto Rico, District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands, together to compete for the ultimate title of Miss America. Miss America will spend a year travelling over 20,000 miles a month and promoting the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and her personal platform. Every year over 12,000 young women compete in local programs across the country with the hopes of being crowned Miss America. The Miss Lane County Organization is only one of hundreds of local competitions.

We are a non-profit volunteer-based organization that prides itself on empowering Lane County & Linn-Benton's young women to achieve their personal and professional goals, while providing a forum in which to express their opinions, talent, and intelligence. This year the Miss Lane County Organization will be offering 4 titles; Miss Lane County, Miss Linn-Benton, Miss University of Oregon and Miss Lane County's Outstanding Teen. The four women crowned will not only have the opportunity to compete at Miss Oregon, but also have year full of learning, new friendships and wonderful memories. She will also receive the crown and title to represent her community for one year. Remember, this is a scholarship program, not a beauty pageant. Miss Lane County is looking for an ambitious, self-confident, leader who is well-educated and physically conscientious. We are a community centered organization providing young women with the opportunity to engage in their communities, build confidence and life-long friendships, and earn scholarship money to encourage the pursuit of a higher education.

The competition consists of five basic areas of competition: interview, talent, fitness, evening gown and on-stage question. The interview is a private meeting between yourself and the judges and helps the judges understand your passions, hear your story, and assess your readiness for the job as a titleholder. The talent competition is the opportunity for you to showcase the skills a training that set you apart from the crowd. While this is not an all inclusive list, traditional talents include dancing, singing, playing an instrument and performing a comedic monologue or dramatic reading. Talents are limited to ninety seconds and must be performed on stage without assistance from another individual. Fitness is done in either fitness-apparel or Swimsuit, depending on the age-bracket you are competing in. It is intended to help the judges determine your physical health and well-being as well as your dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. The physical fitness competition is about health and wellness, not weight, and you should not let your size deter you from showing the judges that you are confident, intelligent, and compassionate. The evening gown competition is a showcase of style and grace. You wear a floor-length evening gown of the color, cut and style of your choice and will be evaluated on your confidence and poise. On stage question is the audiences chance to catch a sneak-peak at your interview. Questions are asked and answered on stage and are intended to demonstrate your ability to compose your thoughts quickly and communicate clearly.

We would like to thank you again for being a part of the Miss Lane County Scholarship Program this year. If you have any questions that are unanswered in this contestant packet, please feel free to contact the directors with questions, comments or concerns. We are here to help you grow and ensure that your time with the Miss America Program is an exciting and fulfilling experience. We are thrilled to have you competing and we look forward to meeting you soon!

So excited for the opportunity to support you through this,

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# Eligibility

There are three different age groups in the Miss America Program. The “Miss” division is for women between the age of 17 and 24 and the scores break down as follows...

- Interview – 25%
- Talent – 35%
- Fitness (in swimsuit) – 15%
- Evening Gown – 20%
- On-stage Question – 5%

Women who currently live, work or are enrolled full-time in school in Lane, Linn or Benton County for at least 6 consecutive months are eligible to compete in the Miss Lane County Scholarship Program. Additional eligibility requirements are discussed in the contestant contract.

The “Teen” division was started in 2006 and is a mentorship opportunity which connects local teens to the Miss contestants. This division is for women between the ages of 13 and 17. The teen score is broken down below...

- Interview – 35%
- Talent – 35%
- Fitness (in fitness apparel) – 10%
- Evening Gown – 15%
- On-stage Question – 5%

Young women who currently live, work or are enrolled full-time in school in Lane, Linn or Benton County for at least 6 consecutive months are eligible to compete in the Miss Lane County’s Outstanding Teen Scholarship Program. Additional eligibility requirements are discussed in the contestant contract.

The Outstanding Princess program is an optional part of a local competition and connects aspiring young girls between 5 and 12 with the Miss and Teen contestants. The older contestants serve as role models and mentors to help them explore their community, strive towards higher education and live with confidence and compassion. The Outstanding Princess program is not a competition and there are no “phases” to compete in. Princesses may do a group dance during show night and will have opportunities to meet and spend time with their Miss and Teen partners.

## Children’s Miracle Network

In 2007, the Miss America Organization partnered with the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) to raise money and awareness for this amazing non-profit organization. CMNH provides medical care to children with long term illnesses and health complications and never turns a patient away because of their inability to pay. Miss America and her state and local affiliates become good-will ambassadors for the CMNH and raise money to offset the enormous costs of equipment and providing care. Since the beginning of our partnership, the Miss America Organization has raised over 6 million dollars to support the children and volunteers of the Children’s Miracle Network Hospital.

Every contestant is required to register at the Miss America four Kids website. It is through this site that contestants can send e-mails and post a link to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Every “Miss” contestant will be required to raise \$100 for CMNH and “Teen” contestants are only required to register. Any contestant who is not registered and (if applicable) has not raised the minimum amount of funds by the day before the pageant will not be allowed to compete.

# The Role of a Title-Holder

A Miss America titleholder is an active member of her community, state and country and works to make the world a better place to live. Every titleholder has a personal platform in addition to the national platform of the Children's Miracle Network. This platform can be any organization, program, movement or idea with a mission to help others or raise awareness that inspires and motivates her. While there is no requirement to actively work in the community, great title-holders will always have a passion for others. Miss America travels over 22,000 miles a month serving her country and she is chosen out hundreds of women who dedicate their time and energy to bettering themselves and their communities.

Title-holders are self-confident and stylish. They conduct themselves with grace and poise and dress appropriately for their age and for the occasion. Great title-holders are frequently described as mature, genuine and professional. She has to remember that she is a representative for herself, her peers, her platform, the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and the Miss America Organization.

The Miss America Organization is first, and foremost, a scholarship program and has distributed over 45 million dollars in academic and achievement scholarships to date. Title-holders are ambitious and endeavor to pursue higher education. Many of them pursue jobs in teaching, medicine, law and communications. Because of the focus on community inherent to the Miss America program, many title-holders will also pursue social and political careers.

Miss America title-holders strive for all-around success and well-being. Titleholders are well-rounded, live healthy life styles, work hard in their communities and are driven towards academic achievement and professional success. They are ambitious, respectful, compassionate, intelligent and professional.

## Paperwork Checklist

- Local Contestant Contract (must be notarized)
- Platform Statement
- Contestant Resume
- Music Release Form
- BMI / ASCAP form
- 2 CD's of Music (if applicable)
- Ad pages
- Build Your Own Scholarship Paperwork
- Official High School / College Transcript
- Proof of Residency
- Proof of Enrollment
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Copy of Insurance Cards (if applicable)