**Miss Massachusetts’ Teen**

**2023 GUIDE TO COMPETITION**

Congratulations on yourdecision to compete for the title of Miss Massachusetts’ Teen, a preliminary to Miss America’s Teen. The competition is intended to encourage and reward talent, and increase communication skills, community service and academic achievement. Since it parallels the Miss America competition, it will provide you with experience that will be beneficial when you are age qualified to begin to seek the coveted and historic title of Miss America.

This year’s competition on **May 6-7, 2023,** will determine which contestant will represent the Commonwealth in Orlando in Summer 2023 at the Miss America’s Teen competition. The entry fee again this year will be **$300**, with a special **EARLY ENTRY** discounted price of $250 if received prior to **March 1, 2023**. The **FINAL DEADLINE** for all applications, headshots, music, and entry fees is **March 25, 2023**. The competition will be held BMC Durfee High School in Fall River. After receiving your completed paperwork and all applicable fees, you will receive a schedule for the days of the competition, directions to the school, and other information for the actual competition day. Saturday will be used for as a Technical/Dress Rehearsal Day and this will take place at Spotlight Dance Studio in Taunton, MA. A special hotel rate will be available at a host hotel in the area for overnight accommodations. **More info will follow**. To help you understand and prepare for the competition, we have prepared this Guide and urge you to read it carefully.

**A MANDATORY Orientation for all Teen Contestants will be held on April 2, 2023,** at Spotlight Dance Studio. Further information will be sent out upon receipt of your application and fee. We will be going over walking patterns, modeling, hair and makeup tips, and other information pertinent to your participation in our program. You will also learn the opening production number and fitness routine with our competition choreographer. You will present your talent for the committee and your fellow contestants (this will be presented in the costume you plan on performing in at the actual competition). It will also give you the opportunity to meet your fellow contestants, Jenna McLaughlin, MMAOTeen 2022 and staff of the teen competition. At least one parent and/or adult guardian **is required** to attend this Orientation session. Local titleholders may have one additional person from their local competition attend. There is no fee for the Orientation. Again, further information will be sent out as soon as it becomes finalized and will include a schedule, directions, and other important information.

**APPLICATION FOR ENTRY PROCESS**

Once again, this year, the application process has been streamlined and hopefully, will be easier to navigate. There are two folders in the Application Packet: **Part A** is entitled **Informational Documents** and there are 4 (including this document). These are to assist you in preparing some of your documents that will be submitted, along with guidelines for filling out the Contract and other forms. Part B is called **Documents to Return for Entry into the 2023 Competition.** These are the 12 forms that must be returned with your entry fee to be accepted as a contestant. Two documents (Talent Lock-In and Scholastic Achievement) are optional. The talent lock in form can be used to register your talent so no other contestant can use the same song/talent selection. The Scholastic Achievement form is for those contestants who wish to be considered for an additional scholarship based on their academic achievement. The Interview Fact Sheet and Community Service Initiative statement require you to send in **7 copies** of each. Please see the document entitled **Forms** **Checklist** for all information needed regarding your Contestant Application process. **Ticket, Fitness Wear, and Fundraising information** will be forthcoming.

**JUDGING**

Miss Massachusetts’ Teen is selected through a judging procedure, which involves **five** phases of competition:

**SINGLE NIGHT PAGEANT (Scored on scale 1-10)**

**Private Interview Competition (30 %)**

**Talent Competition (20%)**

**Health and Fitness Competition (20%)**

**Evening Gown Competition (20%)**

**On-Stage Conversation (10%)**

As a contestant appears in each phase of competition, each Judge will award you between one and 10 points, The high and low score a contestant receives in each phase of competition is dropped and the remaining scores are totaled and factored by the point distribution. Each Judge gives his/her completed Score Sheet to the auditors, who tabulate the scores**.**

Throughout the competition, the Panel of Judges will be asked to think about the job description for Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen, as well as the qualities and attributes necessary to perform the job.

**PRIVATE INTERVIEW COMPETITION**

During the Private Interview Competition, the Judges have the opportunity to learn as much possible about a contestant and the “qualities and attributes” she possesses to be Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen; her commitment to advance your Community Service Initiative Issue and serve as a "role model,” her ability to express her beliefs, and her ability to fulfill the job responsibilities of Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen.

The **ten-minute** interview will be conducted in a room at the competition. Contestants individually will be brought into the room, introduced to the Judges by name and then proceed to a podium. You will give a 30 second opening statement. The Judges will then begin to interview you for 9 minutes. There will then be an optional 30 second closing statement. Scoring is to reflect only the quality of the interview content.

A contestant is not required to remain behind the podium during the interview. Likewise, you do not have to move from behind the podium. It is important that you do what is most natural and comfortable for you. The Judges will pose questions based on a contestant’s resume and social impact initiative issue statement, and on issues that are important to young adolescents today.

Please remember that it is appropriate for a contestant to respond to a question -- "I do not know the answer." The wardrobe for Private Interview Competition is age appropriate for a teen applying for the job to be Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen. This means that a “business suit” is not appropriate considering today’s teen fashion. We recommend a dress, skirt, or pants outfit.

*Criteria for Scoring Private Interview Competition*

In scoring a contestant during the Private Interview Competition, the Judges will be asked to consider their "overall first impression” of the contestant, her knowledge and understanding of her social impact initiative issue, her ability to fulfill the job responsibilities as Miss Massachusetts’ Teen, and her sense of accomplishment. They will also be asked to consider her confident and commanding presence, personality, personal appearance, and attractiveness, and whether she has validated opinions and responses (in context and communication competencies).

**PERFORMANCE TALENT/HERStory COMPETITION**

The Talent Competition is not an end in itself, but rather an insight into a contestant’s preparatory and performance skills. Consideration is given to whether your talent selection fits those skills and your personality. The Talent Competition acknowledges the "quality" of the talent being presented, the "technical skill level,” the "feeling" with which the technical skill is presented, and the contestant’s “stage presence." During the Talent Competition, she is judged on technical quality, and entertainment and performance value criteria. As in all phases of competition, she is also scored against the stated criteria and the additional factors of the "qualities and attributes," and job responsibilities necessary to be Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen.

**The time limit for a contestant’s talent presentation is 90 seconds (1 ½ minutes).** Nothing longer will be accepted, and this will be strictly enforced! If a contestant runs over her allotted time of 90 seconds, the Judges will be notified, and they will be instructed to adjust their scores accordingly. You will be required to perform your talent for our production staff at Orientation and when you arrive at the venue for the competition and our staff will time the performance to ensure compliance. If your performance exceeds the time limit, you must keep your talent to the time limit or be subject to disqualification from participation in the program.

Talent performances must be live. If a contestant is a singer, she must perform that talent live. She cannot be judged on any material that is prerecorded. If a contestant wishes to pantomime or lip-sync to a recording, there must be full disclosure that she is doing so. There must also be full disclosure of the name of the artist on the recording. There can be no illusion that she is actually singing. Likewise, if a contestant wishes to display her own artwork or a dress she designed, she can only be judged on her speech about the artwork or modeling on stage and cannot get credit for the art itself or the dress she made.

A contestant may prerecord herself as a backup vocalist or instrumental accompanist and use that tape to accompany her live talent performance here. However, it cannot be announced to the Judges that the accompaniment tape contains any performance by her. Contestants will be judged solely on what they are doing live, and no exceptions will be made. If a contestant wishes to perform a double talent (example: singing and dancing, or singing and piano playing), she must do both live on the stage. She will only receive points for what she does live on the stage during the competition. For example, if a contestant dances to a prerecorded tape of her singing, she would only be judged on her dancing. If she sings on that stage and performs a dance segment with it, she would be judged on both singing and dancing.

The same song may be played on a musical instrument by a second contestant or used as accompaniment for a dance. A contestant’s talent selection will be “locked in” once she submits the application packet and all applicable fees to participate in the teen program.

A contestant must submit notarized authentication that she created the work if she plans to present a talent act that involves prior original work on her part (example: music arrangement, song writing, dramatic reading, etc.) if you wish to receive credit for it. Such authentication should be submitted when you arrive for the competition.

Regardless of the talent performed by the contestant, the background tape or track CANNOT have voices, instruments, or other noises that mimic the talent of the contestant (i.e.: A vocalist may have background vocals with “oohs and aahs” or other background lyrics but cannot have a tape with a voice singing the melody line for the contestant to sing along with. The same would be said for instrumentalists, dancers and any other talent which could provide an unfair advantage if a judge could not determine from the talent on the tape/track versus the live performance of a contestants). (i.e., a tap dancer with tap sounds on her background tape).

Contestants may not request lighting plots. The production staff will determine all lighting! Hand, stand or lavaliere microphones will be available. Entrances and exits during Talent Competition occur in a "blackout" while the main traveler is open. Only the contestant will be permitted on stage during her talent performance.... no other person can be part of her act.

*Props*

No props are permitted unless they are absolutely functional! Therefore, there will be no props that imitate those used in a Broadway or screen version of a contestant’s music, no props that require excessively large stage areas and complicated setting up, no use of motion pictures, slides or projection of any kind, no live animals or birds, and no props involving safety hazards, such as fire batons, sword and/or knife twirling, bow and arrow skills. You are responsible for having your props delivered to the Auditorium at the competition facility on Sunday AM. You must also arrange to have them removed following the show on Sunday.

*Music*

A live orchestra is not used during our stage production or during talent presentations. Canned or commercial tracks (many as inexpensive as $10.00) are readily available through many companies. Several production companies we know contain special divisions oriented toward competition talent competitions. These or other commercial compact discs are more than adequate for use on our stage. Remember, however, that they must be timed less than 90 seconds. In the case of a vocalist, an accompaniment may contain background vocal parts. While those voices should blend with the contestant’s, they may not overpower her. In the case of a musician, an accompaniment may include the instrument that the contestant is playing on stage, but again, the instrumental must not overpower the contestant.

Contestants should not attempt to prepare their own music file unless they have access to the professional recording equipment necessary to ensure that they will have a quality file for their talent performance during the Talent Competition. Among the commercial companies from whom we have purchased tracks for our productions are: Bill Wolfe <https://www.talentwolfe.com/> and Musical Creations [www.musicalcreations.com](http://www.musicalcreations.com). You should ask for a catalogue as prices vary between companies. Both can make key changes and edits because of the computer technology used in the development of their tapes.

Your talent music is due with your paperwork by **March 25th** and will be uploaded and sent electronically to the State Director. It is advisable to bring a back-up copy of your music with you on the day of the competition in case of any problems with the original copy that you submit electronically. The contestant who wins the state competition will have to submit a Music Clearance form and may be required to change her talent selection if it is not BMI/ASCAP approved.

*Criteria for Scoring Talent Competition*

The Judges will score a contestant’s talent performance on her selection of her talent and performance (distinguishing your personality and skills), interpretive ability, technical skill level (execution, technique, synchronization, control), stage presence (on-stage personality), and totality of all elements (including costume, props, music, voice, use of body, and choreography). Ultimately, the Judges will be considering whether they enjoyed your presentation. Only on the final night of competition, the “qualities and attributes” as well as the job responsibilities of Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen be considered as part of the scoring for Talent. They are not considered during preliminary night competitions.

**HEALTH AND FITNESS** **COMPETITION**

The Health and Fitness Competition is designed to determine the level of fitness of a contestant and to obtain a glimpse into her daily routine and lifestyle. It is an opportunity for the judges and the audience to get to know the contestants on another level. They will be able to see a little of her overall commitment to physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

You will be expected to perform a short dance/physical routine that will be taught to you by our choreographer as well as a “modeling” segment. Black or white socks and sneakers must also be worn (please make sure that they are clean and in fairly new condition). More information is available on the Fitness Wear Order Form. Please note that at Nationals, the contestants MAY be required to wear a fitness crop top from the official Miss America’ Teen Sponsor.

*Criteria for Scoring Health and Fitness Competition*

The Judges will consider the overall “first impression” of each contestant, and her attractiveness and presence, her lifestyle statement of strong physical fitness and health, a sense of confidence and composure, her display of energy, charisma, and expression. The Judges will also consider both the “qualities and attributes” and the job responsibilities of Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen.

**EVENING GOWN and ON-STAGE CONVERSATION COMPETITIONS**

The Evening Gown/On-Stage Conversation phases of competition is designed for the judge to assess the contestant's beauty, poise, grace, and commanding stage presence, as well as for the contestant to make an on-stage statement of her interests, opinions, and aspirations in answer to a question selected for her. One question will be asked, and the judge is to consider the answer to the question. Young teenage women representing Miss Massachusetts’ Teen Program, or Miss America’s Teen Program, will spend much of their time in service addressing groups, both large and small. As an advocate of her Community Service initiative issue and a spokesperson for our program, her ability to speak extemporaneously is critical. The evaluation process at each level of competition should include segments in which each a contestant has the opportunity to speak extemporaneously before an audience on some subject on which she is knowledgeable.

Evening Gown allows for all "after five wear", including evening gowns (any length), evening pant outfits, and cocktail dresses. We request that contestants not wear evening suits. Gloves are permitted. Evening wear allows a young woman to present a more personal "visual" expression, cuts the cost of the competition, and encourages more participation.

A contestant should exert her independence and individuality by choosing eveningwear, which is appropriate for her figure and reflects her personality. She should select eveningwear, which she might wear to a formal school dance or similar event, apparel that is exciting and in which she feels attractive. Remember too, Miss Massachusetts’ Teen Program is a **scholarship program**. It is difficult to justify or defend the expenditure of large sums of money on eveningwear for this phase of competition.

Here are the **guidelines** that are recommended regarding your competition evening wear:

***Eveningwear should be appropriate, stylish, and elegant. Extremely low necklines and backlines are not appropriate. High skirt slits can be embarrassing, especially if the judges are located lower than the stage level. You do not want to stifle the creativity of the contestants, but you should make sure your teens understand what is appropriate.***

*Criteria for Scoring the Evening Gown/Onstage Conversation Competitions*

The Judges will consider the Overall “first impression”; sense of confidence, composure, and poise; personality and stage presence; walk, carriage, posture, and beauty; sense of style and age-appropriateness of the evening wear.  Does the contestant take command of the stage by simply walking onto it?  Can she handle the pressure of speaking on stage in front of an audience? The will give special attention to whether or not she answered the question she was asked, and did she have the ability to make the audience want to listen to her? The contestant’s total look, grace, charm, and ability as a spokesperson and role model must be considered. Again, the "qualities and attributes" and the "job responsibilities" of Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and Miss America’s Teen will be considered as the contestants appear before the Judges and are scored according to the established criteria in this phase of competition.

**OPTIONAL COMPETITION: SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT**

\*\* This competition is **NOT PART OF THE JUDGING PROCEDURE** THAT DETERMINES THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION, but the overall scholastic winner will receive a cash scholarship award.

Each contestant who would like to be considered for this award, will submit a transcript of her grades directly from the contestant’s school in a sealed envelope. The seal will be broken by the person designated by Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and copied for each judge. Additionally, each contestant’s Resume and Social Impact Initiative essay will be copied and given to the scholastic achievement judges as well.

For contestants in grades 7 or 8, an official report card may be submitted in lieu of an official grade transcript. The report card must come directly from the contestant’s school in a sealed envelope. As with grade transcripts, the seal will be broken by the person designated by Miss Massachusetts’ Teen and copied for each judge. (Home School students must send sealed envelopes with transcripts or report cards from the institution that is overseeing their academic studies.)

This competition will be judged by a separate panel of middle and high school educators. The panel will consist of no less than 2 members and not more than 5 members. Judges may be Admissions Recruiters, Academic Deans, Registrars, Guidance Counselors and or Faculty Members from both middle and high school levels. No college personnel may serve on the judge’s panel.

*Criteria for Scoring Scholastic Achievement Competition*

To level the competition for contestants in grades 7-11 from a variety of educational institutions, the panel will evaluate the contestant’s scholastic achievement by asking themselves the following questions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Q1. Based **only on the student’s grade transcript or report card**, score her academic position from 1 to 10.  Q2. Based **on the total information provided for the student**, score her overall academic position from 1 to 10.  Q3. Is this student taking Honors, AP, or IB courses? If so, score her academic performance based on the grades she is receiving in these courses. If she is not, score her overall grade performance from 1 to 10. | Q4. Does this student hold leadership positions and/or participate in extracurricular activities in her school or community? Score her participation from 1 to 10.  Q5. ***Overall Score*** - Based on the previous 4 Questions and your **total evaluation** of this student, score her **overall** Scholastic Achievement from 1 to 10. |

**WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE?**

In 1989, the Miss America Organization founded the Platform Issue/Social Impact Initiative (now called the Community Service Initiative concept) which requires each contestant to choose an issue about which she cares deeply and that is of relevance to our country. We are now requiring the same for our teen contestants. We of course understand that because the teen contestants are younger their resumes may not contain less extensive community service work and volunteerism than the resumes of the Miss contestants. Once chosen, Miss America's Teen and the state titleholders will use their stature to address community service organizations, business and civic leaders, the media, and others about their social impact initiative issues. Since 1989, Miss America titleholders have appeared at thousands of public speaking engagements and charitable events to generate awareness for a variety of causes, including homelessness, HIV/AIDS prevention, domestic violence prevention, diabetes awareness, character education, literacy, etc. This again is a wonderful opportunity for teens to get off on a great resume-building year of service. The closer we emulate our Miss program, the closer the teens will be to graduating right into the Miss America competition with a competitive edge.

**AWARDS**

Miss Massachusetts’ Teen will receive a *minimum* $3000 scholarship and the opportunity to represent the Commonwealth’s teens in the Miss America’s Teen competition. Other awards (amounts to be determined based on number of contestants) in the form of cash scholarships will be presented to the announced runners-up. There will also be awards given to the Community Service Winner, Scholastic, the Top Fundraiser, and the Top Program Ad Seller. A cash award (1/2 of the amount collected) will be awarded to the Online People’s Choice Winner.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?**

If you are selected as Miss Massachusetts’ Teen 2023, you will represent the Bay State at the national finals sponsored by the Miss America's sister organization, Miss America's Teen Program. The 2023 annual Miss America's Teen Competition **requires** Miss Massachusetts’ Teen to be in Dallas, TX (or a location TBD) for approximately one week at a date to be determined (probably in late July/early August). The national finals in 2022 made available more than $27,000,000 in scholarship grants and in-kind awards to the national contestants. The Miss Massachusetts’ Scholarship Program will pay the national entry fee and the cost of the winner’s airline ticket to the national event. Although not required, the Teen's family will, no doubt, want to travel to the competition to support their daughter. This travel expense should be factored in, **as the family must pay their own expenses**. **The titleholder’s mother or other adult guardian MUST accompany her daughter to the Competition for early registration** and the rest of the family and members of the state committee join them for the preliminaries and the finals. There are two nights of Preliminary competition, and the finals are held on one evening. There will be an Official Host Hotel of the MATeen Competition and group rates will be available.

You will also have community service opportunities and other appearance opportunities as Miss Massachusetts’ Teen. We will not, however, schedule you for any appearances that interfere with your schooling. It is very important that **no** appearances may be booked by MMATeen 2023 and/or her family without the prior permission of the Teen Director. Any requests for appearances **must** be forwarded to the State Director in charge of bookings. The titleholder’s family is expected to assist with transportation and chaperoning at appearances as needed. At times, the competition staff may not be available to transport/chaperone, but if a parent is able to attend, then the appearance may be booked. **Please read the Contestant Contract and Attachment A VERY carefully**.

Don’t forget to visit our website at: [www.mmaoteen.org](http://www.mmaoteen.org) or the Miss Massachusetts’ Teen Facebook and Instagram Pages to find more up-to-date information as well as to keep up with Jenna’s travels throughout her year as MMAOTeen 2022.

We wish you much success as you compete for the title of Miss Massachusetts’ Teen. If you have any questions regarding the competition or the paperwork, please email [donnaklamkin@gmail.com](mailto:donnaklamkin@gmail.com).

We look forward to meeting you at Orientation on **April 2nd** and having you as a contestant in our 2023 Miss Massachusetts’ Teen Competition!

Donna Klamkin

State Teen Director

Revised 2/2023