**Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding Teen**

**2022 GUIDE TO COMPETITION**

Congratulations on yourdecision to compete for the title of Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding Teen, a preliminary to Miss America’s Outstanding 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 **April 9-10, 2022,** will determine which candidate will represent the Commonwealth in Orlando in July 2022 at the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen competition. The entry fee again this year will be **$300**, with a special **EARLY ENTRY** discounted price of $250 if received prior to **February 15, 2022**. The **FINAL DEADLINE** for all applications, headshots, music, and entry fees is **March 1, 2022**. The competition will be held at a location to be determined. 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. 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 Candidates will be held on March 6, 2022,** at Spotlight Dance Studio in Taunton. 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 candidates (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 candidates, Tess O’Riordan, MMAOTeen 2021 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 6 (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 2022 Competition.** These are the 12 forms that must be returned with your entry fee to be accepted as a candidate. One document (Talent Lock-In) is optional and can be used to register your talent so no other candidate can use the same song/talent selection. The Resume and Social Impact Initiative statement require you to send in **7** copies of each. Please see the document entitled **Forms** **Checklist** for all information needed regarding your Candidate Application process. **Ticket information** will be forthcoming.

**JUDGING**

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

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

**Private Interview Competition (25 %)**

**Talent Competition (35%)**

**Lifestyle and Fitness in Sportswear Competition (10%)**

**Evening Wear/ On-Stage Question (20%)**

**Scholastic Achievement Competition (10%)**

As a candidate appears in each phase of competition, each Judge will award you between one and 10 points, The high and low score a candidate 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’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding 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 candidate and the “qualities and attributes” she possesses to be Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding Teen; her commitment to advance your Social impact 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’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding Teen.

The **ten-minute** interview will be conducted in a room at the competition. Candidates individually will be brought into the room, introduced to the Judges by name and then proceed to a podium. The Judges will then begin to interview you. Scoring is to reflect only the quality of the interview content.

A candidate 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 candidate’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 candidate 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’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding 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 candidate during the Private Interview Competition, the Judges will be asked to consider their "overall first impression” of the candidate, her knowledge and understanding of her social impact initiative issue, her ability to fulfill the job responsibilities as Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding 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).

**TALENT COMPETITION**

The Talent Competition is not an end in itself, but rather an insight into a candidate’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 candidate’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’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding Teen.

**The time limit for a candidate’s talent presentation is 90 seconds (1 ½ minutes).** Nothing longer will be accepted, and this will be strictly enforced! If a candidate 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 candidate is a singer, she must perform that talent live. She cannot be judged on any material that is prerecorded. If a candidate 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 candidate 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 candidate 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. Candidates will be judged solely on what they are doing live, and no exceptions will be made.

If a candidate 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 candidate 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 candidate or used as accompaniment for a dance. A candidate’s talent selection will be “locked in” once she submits the application packet and all applicable fees to participate in the teen program.

A candidate 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 candidate, the background tape or track CANNOT have voices, instruments, or other noises that mimic the talent of the candidate (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 candidate 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 candidates). (i.e., a tap dancer with tap sounds on her background tape).

Candidates 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 candidate 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 candidate’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 Saturday 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 candidate’s, they may not overpower her. In the case of a musician, an accompaniment may include the instrument that the candidate is playing on stage, but again, the instrumental must not overpower the candidate.

Candidates 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 1st** 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.

*Criteria for Scoring Talent Competition*

The Judges will score a candidate’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’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding Teen be considered as part of the scoring for Talent. They are not considered during preliminary night competitions.

**LIFESTYLE AND FITNESS IN SPORTSWEAR** **COMPETITION**

The Lifestyle and Fitness in Sportswear Competition is designed to determine the level of fitness of a candidate 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 candidates on another level. They will be able to see a little of her overall commitment to physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

For this phase of competition, you will purchase and wear an official MMAOTeen shirt and/or crop top (TBD). Each candidate will provide her own black yoga capri-length pants. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE MATERIAL ON YOUR PANTS IS NOT TOO THIN AS THE STAGE LIGHTS WILL SHINE THROUGH THEM AND SHOW YOUR UNDERGARMENTS! THE PANTS SHOULD BE OF A “STURDY” MATERIAL!! You will be expected to perform a short physical routine that will be taught to you by our choreographer. White socks and white 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 candidates MAY be required to wear a fitness crop top.

*Criteria for Scoring Lifestyle and Fitness in Sportswear Competition*

The Judges will consider the overall “first impression” of each candidate, 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’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding Teen.

**EVENING WEAR and ON-STAGE QUESTION**

The Evening Wear/On-Stage Question phase of competition is designed for the judge to assess the candidate's beauty, poise, grace, and commanding stage presence, as well as for the candidate 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’ Outstanding Teen Program, or Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Program, will spend much of their time in service addressing groups, both large and small. As an advocate of her social impact 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 candidate has the opportunity to speak extemporaneously before an audience on some subject on which she is knowledgeable.

Evening Wear allows for all "after five wear", including evening gowns (any length), evening pant outfits, and cocktail dresses. We request that candidates 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 candidate 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’ Outstanding 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 **guideline**s that are provided by **Nationals** 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 candidates, but you should make sure your teens understand what is appropriate.***

*Criteria for Scoring the Evening Wear/Onstage Question Competition*

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 candidate 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 candidate’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’ Outstanding Teen and Miss America’s Outstanding Teen will be considered as the candidates appear before the Judges and are scored according to the established criteria in this phase of competition.

**SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT COMPETITION**

Each contestant must 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’ Outstanding Teen and copied for each judge. Additionally, each contestant’s Fact Sheet and Platform Issue Statement 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’ Outstanding 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:

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| 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 SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVE?**

In 1989, the Miss America Organization founded the Platform Issue (now called the Social Impact Initiative concept, which requires each candidate 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 candidates. We of course understand that because the teen candidates are younger their resumes may not contain less extensive community service work and volunteerism than the resumes of the Miss candidates. Once chosen, Miss America's Outstanding 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’ Outstanding Teen will receive a *minimum* $1,250 scholarship and the opportunity to represent the Commonwealth’s teens in the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen competition. Other awards (amounts to be determined based on number of candidates) 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, the Top Fundraiser, and the Top Program Ad Seller. A cash award (1/2 of the amount collected) will be awarded to the People’s Choice Winner.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?**

If you are selected as Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding Teen 2022, you will represent the Bay State at the national finals sponsored by the Miss America's sister organization, Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program. The 2022 annual Miss America's Outstanding Teen Competition **requires** Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding Teen to be in Orlando, Florida for approximately one week during late July. The national finals in 2021 made available more than $27,000,000 in scholarship grants and in-kind awards to the national candidates. 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 Orlando 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 Orlando for early registration** and the rest of the family and members of the state committee join them in Orlando on the following Monday or Tuesday. Many families of the state titleholders decide to make the week in Orlando their family vacation for the year, as there are many amusements and activities in the Orlando area for all to enjoy. There are two nights of Preliminary competition, and the finals are held on one evening. There will be an Official Host Hotel of the MAOTeen Competition and group rates will be available. There are many other housing options in the Orlando area that we can assist your family with should you win the state title. Many families choose to rent a condo or house for the time there to make it more cost effective.

You will also have community service opportunities and other appearance opportunities as Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding 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 MMAOTeen 2022 and/or her family without the prior permission of the Teen Director. Any requests for appearances **must** be forwarded to the ED 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 Candidate 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’ Outstanding Teen Facebook and Instagram Pages to find more up-to-date information as well as to keep up with Tess’ travels throughout her year as MMAOTeen 2021.

We wish you much success as you compete for the title of Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding 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 **March 6th** and having you as a candidate in our 2022 Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding Teen Competition!

Donna Klamkin

State Teen Director

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