

# *The Miss Berks County Scholarship Organization*



*232 West Main Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530*

January 19, 2018

Dear Potential Contestant,

Thank you for your interest in our program. This letter provides all of the necessary general information about the upcoming 2018 Miss Berks County Scholarship Pageant.

The Miss Berks County Scholarship Pageant will be held on **Saturday, March 03, 2018** at Oley Valley High School. To prepare for entry into the pageant you should download the page of General Information about the Pageant, the Entry Application, the instructions for completing the “Fact Sheet,” “Critical Issue Essay,” “Talent Request Form,” and the “Contestant Checklist.”

**Deadline for entry applications, fact sheets, critical essays are Saturday, February 17, 2018.** On-stage rehearsals will be held the day of the pageant, March 03, 2018. You will need to be present all day as we will complete the interview portion of the judging and rehearse and run the show. The pageant will begin promptly at 7:00pm.

Two Miss Titles and one Teen title will be awarded during the pageant. The Miss titleholders will be: **Miss Berks County** (closed to eligible contestants who live, work, or attend school in Berks County) and **Miss Greater Reading** (open to eligible contestants who live, work, or attend school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania). The Teen titleholder will be **Miss Greater Reading's Outstanding Teen** (open to eligible contestants who live, work, or attend school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania). The winners will receive monetary scholarship awards and will advance to the Miss Pennsylvania and Miss Pennsylvania's Outstanding Teen Pageants held in Pittsburgh. This non-profit pageant is an official local preliminary of the Miss America Organization.

Before the final ballot the **Miss** winners are selected based upon five areas of scoring:

- Interview: 25%
- Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit: 10%
- Talent: 30%
- Evening Wear: 15%
- On-stage Question: 20%

All contestants must prepare a one-page critical essay/platform statement describing a social issue they would address if selected as a titleholder. The judges may discuss a contestant's platform advocacy in the interview portion of the competition.

The entry qualifications for **Miss Contestants** are as follows:

**Age** | Contestant must meet the following requirements:

- Must be born on or between January 1, 1993 – December 31, 2000.
- Contestant must be at least 17 years of age AND at least a senior in high school to compete in the current pageant season.
- Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on the first day of the State Competition.
- Must not be older than twenty-five (25) years of age as of December 31, 2018.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a Contestant cannot turn twenty-six (26) years of age at any time during the calendar year in which she will compete.
- For the avoidance of doubt, 18-year-old high school juniors or sophomores, but not a graduating senior, must compete at MAOTeen.

**Residency** | Contestant must satisfy at least one (1) of the following requirements:

- Contestant must prove she is a Pennsylvania resident for the six (6) month period preceding the local pageant date OR
- Contestant must prove she is a full-time employee in Pennsylvania for the six (6) month period preceding the local pageant date OR
- Contestant must prove she has successfully completed at least one semester as a full-time (at least 12 credit hours) student and be presently enrolled and attending classes on a full-time basis at an accredited college or university in Pennsylvania. Also, no more than six (6) months may have elapsed between the completion of the last full-time semester attended and the beginning of the next full-time semester to be attended at a college or university in Pennsylvania.

**Miss Berks County** contestants must meet the following requirements:

- Contestant must prove she is a Berks County resident OR
- Contestant must prove she is a full-time employee in Berks County OR
- Contestant must prove she has successfully completed at least one semester as a full-time (at least 12 credit hours) student and be presently enrolled and attending classes on a full-time basis at an accredited college or university in Berks County. Also, no more than six (6) months may have elapsed between the completion of the last full-time semester attended and the beginning of the next full-time semester to be attended at a college or university in Berks County.

Before the final ballot the **Teen** winners are selected based upon five areas of scoring:

**Teen** winners are selected based upon four areas of scoring:

- Interview: 25%
- Lifestyle & Fitness in Sportswear: 15%
- Talent: 35%
- Evening Wear & Onstage Question: 25%

All contestants must prepare a one-page critical essay/platform statement describing a social issue they would address if selected as a titleholder. The judges may discuss a contestant's platform advocacy in the interview portion of the competition.

The entry qualifications for **Teen contestants** are as follows:

**Age** | Contestant must meet the following requirements:

- Contestant must be between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) years to compete in the current pageant season.
- Must be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age on the first day of the State competition.
- May not have graduated from high school before the start of the MAOTeen National Finals, except for 16-year-olds (or younger) who graduated early.
- May not turn eighteen (18) years of age on or before July 31 of the year of the National Finals in which she will compete.
- For the avoidance of doubt, 18-year-old high school juniors and sophomores, but not a graduating senior, must compete at MAOTeen.

**School:**

- Contestant must reside in, be enrolled in and attending classes on a full-time basis at an accredited public, private or home schooling program.
- Contestant may NOT have graduated from high school prior to the start of Miss America's Outstanding Teen Competition in August 2017 EXCEPT for 16-year olds (or younger) graduating early.

**Residency** | Contestant must satisfy one (1) of these requirements:

- Contestant must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the six (6) month period prior to the local pageant date OR
- Contestant must be a full-time student in a high school, junior high school or middle school (or the equivalent) located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who has already completed one semester of school during the last semester (Fall 2017).

There is no entry fee for **Miss Contestants**. Miss contestants must simply raise a minimum of \$100 for the Children’s Miracle Network (CMN). If a contestant has competed in other local pageants of the 2016 season, \$400 makes a contestant eligible for *all* local pageants for that competition year. **CMN donations must be made in full no later than February 17, 2018 at 11:30pm. If the full donation is not made by that time, you will not be permitted to compete.** Donations are made through the contestant’s registration on the MissAmerica4Kids.org website. A separate letter will detail how to donate to CMN.

There is a \$100 entry fee for **Teen Contestants**. Checks should be made payable to “The Miss Berks County Scholarship Organization.” Teen contestants must also register for the MissAmerica4Kids.org website but it is optional to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network.

If you are selected as a winner of the pageant, you **MUST** be available for official Miss Pennsylvania activities. If you cannot attend the events listed below, you are not eligible to compete for a local pageant title.

The **Miss winners** of the pageant must be available on the following dates:

- Saturday in April 21, 2018: Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Pageant Orientation in Pittsburgh; and
- Sunday, June 17, 2015 to Saturday, June 23, 2018: Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Pageant in Pittsburgh.

The **Teen winners** of the pageant must be available on the following dates:

- Saturday in April 21, 2018: Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Pageant Orientation in Pittsburgh; and
- Wednesday, June 20, 2018 to Friday, June 22, 2018: Miss Pennsylvania’s Outstanding Teen Pageant in Pittsburgh.

If you would like to compete in the Miss Berks County Scholarship Pageant on February 17, 2018, please complete the required paperwork and return it to me promptly via email. ***For portions of paperwork that require your signature, please sign and then scan the documents, saving them as a .pdf, before emailing them.*** This will make the process much smoother for both of us. Also, make sure you proofread your paperwork. What you send is will be provided to the judges—with or without mistakes. Finally, please submit all of your entry paperwork to me on or before the deadline of February 17, 2018. ***There will be absolutely no late entries—if your paperwork is not complete and received by the deadline, you will not be permitted to compete.***

It is imperative that each contestant make an effort to sell program book ads. While it is not mandatory to sell ads, it is highly recommended, as pageant donations fund the scholarships.

Most importantly, if you have any questions or need advice, do not hesitate to ask. The pageant committee is full of knowledge and is happy to help guide you towards your goal of becoming Miss Berks County, Miss Greater Reading, or Miss Greater Reading's Outstanding Teen!

Thank you for your interest. The committee looks forward to seeing you at the 2018 Miss Berks County Scholarship Pageant!

Best Regards,

[missberkscounty@aol.com](mailto:missberkscounty@aol.com)