HOW CAN I BE A LOCAL DIRECTOR OR CONTESTANT?
For additional information about hosting a local pageant or tea for your area or about becoming a contestant in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Pageant, please call (601) 408-4300, e-mail MsHosp@hattiesburg.org or visit www.MissHospitality.com.

TYPES OF LOCAL PAGEANTS
Local Directors may choose the type of event they would like to host in order to name their Miss Hospitality winner. Local pageant options are:

1. Formal Pageant
   A. Interview Competition – Contestants will wear a suit or a dress and engage in a five (5) minute interview with a panel of at least three judges. This portion counts for 40% of the total score.
   B. Little Black Dress/Commercial Competition – Contestants will model on-stage in individually chosen black cocktail dresses. In addition, they will give a 20-second commercial about their community. This portion counts for 15% of the total score.
   C. On-Stage Interview Competition – Contestants will have a short on-stage interview with the pageant emcee. This portion counts for 15% of the total score.
   D. Evening Gown Competition – Contestants will model on-stage in individually chosen evening gowns. This portion counts for 30% of the total score.

2. Tea Pageant
   A. Interview Competition – Contestants will wear suits and engage in a five (5) minute interview with a panel of at least three judges. This portion counts for 60% of the total score.
   B. Little Black Dress/Commercial Competition – Contestants will wear individually chosen black cocktail dresses for tea room modeling. In addition, they will give a 20-second commercial about their community. This portion counts for 40% of the total score.

3. Appointment
In the event there is only one entrant for a city or county, this entrant may be appointed as the Miss Hospitality representing that area.

CRITERIA FOR A LOCAL PAGEANT

Judge Selection
A minimum of three judges is recommended for the Formal and Tea Pageants. Selection of the judges is the sole responsibility of the local organization or group hosting the local pageant.

Judging
Judging is based on the following criteria: the person selected should be intelligent, articulate, photogenic, aggressive without being forward or self-centered, dignified and attractive; have a friendly spirit that is natural and spontaneous; be in good health; be gracious and sincere; and possess a general knowledge of state tourist attractions, history and economy. Special talents are not required, but accomplishments in public speaking and communication are of primary importance.

Expenses
Local Directors should ensure that the costs incidental to presenting the local pageant are provided. Neither contestants nor their families should bear these expenses:
1. Costs related to hosting the local pageant.
2. Remittance of the $275 state entry fee, which is payable to Mississippi Miss Hospitality Pageant.
3. Official black and white photos (see Photograph section for more).

Local Sponsors
Local Directors are encouraged to seek community business participation in costs needed to send the local representative to the State Pageant. Your local Miss Hospitality could appear at a business in exchange for a sponsorship. Below are examples of these sponsorships:
1. Photographs – Check with local photographers to see if they will provide their services at no cost or at a reduced cost.
2. Entry Fee - Local businesses may want to provide the $275 entry fee.
3. Advertisement Layouts – Newspaper distributors can aid in the design of ad pages for the Official Program Book at the State Pageant.
4. Wardrobe – A local clothing store may want to donate an outfit or evening gown for the local contestant to wear during pageant week.
CONTESTANT REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a resident of Mississippi.
2. Must represent her hometown and/or county, not the city where she attends college.
3. All local Miss Hospitality winners are required to attend the State Pageant.
4. Must be a high school graduate who attends or plans to attend college, must never have been married or have had children, and must be between the ages of 18 and 24 by the first day of judging (Wednesday) of the pageant week.
5. A contestant must not hold or pursue another title from the date she is crowned as a local Miss Hospitality winner through the conclusion of the State Pageant.
6. Must have a 2.5 scholastic average (on a 4.0 system) for the last completed semester. A transcript must be provided.
7. Must be in good health.
8. Young women who have entered the State Pageant previously are not eligible to participate again.

STATE PAGEANT REQUIREMENTS

1. May 26, 2017 – Each contestant must submit her Official Application Packet including Application, Medical Release Form, Official Transcript, Ad Sales, Ad Layout Originals and in PDF Format, Registration Fee and Photos on or before May 26. There will be a $40 late fee for packets received after this date.
2. Contestants must sell 4 FULL PAGES of advertising at $350 per page in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Program Book. All Ad Money and Ad Layouts are due on or before May 26.
3. If a contestant currently attends an out-of-state college or university and wins the State Pageant, she must immediately enroll in a college or university in Mississippi. A scholarship will be provided.
4. Contestants must be able to do their own hair and make-up at the State Pageant. There will be no one allowed in the dorm or backstage before the pageant competitions.

DEADLINES FOR LOCAL DIRECTORS

1. April 28, 2017 – Local Miss Hospitality winners must be selected by this date. Local Directors are to notify State Pageant Officials with the name, address, and phone number of the local Miss Hospitality within one week of selection or by April 28. Contestants will not receive information regarding the State Pageant until their names have been received by State Pageant Officials.
2. The deadline for all materials to be received by the State Pageant Office is May 26, 2017. **THIS DEADLINE MUST BE ENFORCED. A $40 late fee will be charged to the contestant if all materials are not received by the deadline.**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are used for judging and publicity. They should be of exceptional quality. Photograph requirements are as follows:

1. Two (2) 5x7-inch and eight (8) wallet-sized black and white official photos must accompany the application. These should be of portrait quality and made by a professional photographer for best reproduction.
2. Official photos must all be the same pose. The required pose is head and shoulders only. Contestants should not wear crowns and/or sashes in the official photos.
3. The photographs in the contestant’s program advertising pages are not required to be the same pose as the official photographs. They should be of a good quality to produce advertising pages that are of a good quality.
4. Polaroid, outdoor or candid snapshots will not be allowed.
5. Do not submit soft focus photos. They do not reproduce clearly.
6. Type contestant’s name and title on a label and affix it to the back of each photo. Do not write directly on the photos.
7. Do not staple photos together or use paper clips without protection.
8. PHOTOS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.
STATE COMPETITIONS AND JUDGING

Panel Interview Competition
The Panel Interview Competition is a five-minute competition held on Wednesday of the pageant week. Direct, concise and relevant questions ranging from world affairs to state and local politics, information on the state of Mississippi, ambitions, goals and personal interests may be asked. Each contestant should wear a business suit or dress and heels for this competition.

One-on-One Interview Competition
This competition will take place on Thursday of the pageant week. Each judge will meet with each contestant for three (3) minutes. The basic tool for conducting this interview is the contestant's Official Pageant Application, which lists personal credits and serves as a guide for getting to know the contestant. Each contestant should wear a business suit or dress and heels for this competition.

Mississippi Speech Competition
Each contestant will have 90 seconds to present an original speech based on the question “How would you promote our state to a visitor of Mississippi?” No visual aids may be used. Contestants will present the speech before the judges on Friday morning of the pageant week. The contestants will wear Miss Hospitality t-shirts (provided) and black shorts for this competition.

Little Black Dress/Commercial Competition
Contestants will model a black cocktail dress of their choice. When selecting a dress, take into consideration that there will be a production number performed. In addition to modeling the black dress on-stage, contestants will present an original 20-second commercial on some important aspect of their city or county.

Evening Gown Competition
Contestants will model an evening gown of any color. When selecting a dress, take into consideration there will be a production number performed. During the Evening Gown Competition on Saturday night, the Top 10 will be asked an on-stage question by the emcees. This portion will be scored separately from the evening gown competition.

Friday Night Preliminary Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Scoring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panel Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-on-One Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi Speech</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Black Dress/Commercial</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Gown</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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Saturday Night Final Competition

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<tr>
<td>Mississippi Speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Black Dress/Commercial</td>
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<td>Evening Gown</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-Stage Interview</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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Other awards include: Top 3 Speech, Top Ad Sales, Spirit of Miss Hospitality and Most Photogenic Award.

STATE PAGEANT SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES
The Mississippi Miss Hospitality Pageant offers more than $100,000 in scholarships and prizes. The following colleges and businesses provided scholarships to the winner and alternates: Belhaven College, Blue Mountain College, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, East Central Community College, East Mississippi Community College, Hinds Community College, Holmes Community College, Itawamba Community College, Jackson State University, Jones County Junior College, Meridian Community College, Mississippi College, Mississippi Delta Community College, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Pearl River Community College, Rust College, Southwest Mississippi Community College, University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, Forrest General Hospital, Lawrence and Bonnie Warren, HMP Nursing Services, The First National Bank, Merit Health Wesley, Great Southern Bank, Walnut Square Gifts and Stationery, Regions Bank, London and Steelman Realtors, Floyd's Formals, The Staples Family, Howard Industries, Community Bank, Mississippi Power, Barnes and Noble at Southern Miss, Priority One Bank, Accents, Rebekah Staples, Former Miss Hospitality's and the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Board of Directors.

The 2016 Mississippi Miss Hospitality Pageant was Presented by VisitHattiesburg and the MDA in conjunction with Forrest General Hospital, USM and the City of Hattiesburg.


Platinum ($1,000): Aramark-USM Catering, Bonnie and Lawrence Warren, HMP Nursing, Mississippi Tourism Association, Parris Jewelers, Petro Nissan, Phillips Family, Southern Oaks House and Gardens, Susan's Shoppe, U-Save Car and Truck Rental, USM Photo Services, University Florist


($100): Accents