

LIGHTS OF THE DELTA PAGEANTS
NORTHEAST ARKANSAS PAGEANT ASSOCIATION
717 E. Main Street, Blytheville, Arkansas 72315

Dear Entrant,

This letter will introduce you to the Miss Lights of the Delta Pageant. It is an official preliminary to the Miss Arkansas Pageant and the Miss America Pageant. Accordingly, we are governed by the same rules and operate under the same franchise as they do. The Miss Lights of the Delta Pageant is an "open pageant". Any young woman, who meets contract requirements, that lives, works, or attends school anywhere in Arkansas is eligible to compete.

We are looking forward to a great pageant and a lot of fun, too. The winner of this pageant will receive a \$1000 scholarship, an official crown and sash, and she will also receive guidance needed to prepare her for competition in the Miss Arkansas Pageant in Hot Springs in July, plus many other prizes and awards. The 1st Runner-Up will receive a \$500 scholarship and entry into next year's Lights of the Delta Pageant. The 2nd Runner-Up will receive a \$350 scholarship. If there are enough entries, scholarships will also be given to the 3rd and 4th alternates. Mississippi County residents or students will be eligible for the Arkansas Northeastern College Scholarship Award of 15 college credit hours.

TO ENTER THE PAGEANT, YOU MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Read the Official Contract, make sure that you qualify, sign, date, notarize, and send in this form. (only need through pg. 16) You **do not** have to fill out the Attachments.
2. Complete a resume. Be sure to be specific in filling out this form, as this is what the judges will be referring to during your interview.
3. Secure a business concern to sponsor you in the pageant. They will get advertising for the sponsorship, and you will need to get a check from them for \$100 payable to the Northeast Arkansas Scholarship Pageant. **DO NOT SEND YOUR OWN PERSONAL CHECK.**
4. Enclose a portrait picture of you, **WAIST UP, OR HEAD AND SHOULDERS** (billfold size or larger) to be reproduced in the program. It may be color or black & white. The picture in the program will be color, if that is what you send in. It will be returned to you.
5. Copy of Birth Certificate
6. Latest school transcript
7. Indemnity Release

8. Proof of residency (if eligible by residence) or enrollment verification if eligible by school attending

9. Platform

10. Reigning title holder release (if applicable)

11. Queen's intent form (found on our website)

12. Cover sheet found on our website.

13. Confirmation of \$100 raised for the Children's Miracle Network, Miss America's National Platform. You must set up a web account at www.missamerica4kids.org . At the website, go to the "New Contestants" link. This will not have to be turned in until rehearsal. You should send your other forms earlier.

Forms are available on the web by going to missarkansas.org

Under local forms, we will use #1-resume, #2-critical issue, #4-contract, #5-indemnity release

Queen's Intent form & cover sheet can be found on our website. Do not send in a copy of the entry letter. You should keep that for reference.

One or two piece swimsuits may be worn in the Swimsuit Competition. Please be sure that the suit is in good taste. Also, you may have a choice of footwear (tall pumps or sandal-type heels)

The talent number CAN NOT BE LONGER THAN **90 seconds**. Please bring a CD for accompaniment. **Always bring a back up.**

We will be having a Christmas theme. For openings, we will be providing some type of tee shirt, probably "hoodies". We want you to wear them with jeans & boots or heels. You might want to wear a colored top under it & accessorize with a scarf. We will let you know the colors after we receive your entry.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 18 ENTRY DEADLINE -We absolutely must have all entry materials in our hands by this date so we can plan the pageants and get the program to the printer. An extension can be granted only by the Executive Director. However, **competition order is set in reverse order of entries received.** The last one that we receive will be 1st in competition order and the 1st one we receive will be last. That is why I stated that you did not have to wait on your CMN confirmation.

Friday, November 27 REHEARSAL starting at 4:00 at Blytheville High School Auditorium. A light supper snack will be available for you and your parent. No pageant clothes needed for rehearsal but be sure to bring heels, accompaniment CD and any props you might need for your talent. We will be practicing all phases of competition.

SPECIAL EVENT - all contestants are to bring to rehearsal a Christmas Tree Ornament they have decorated with their name, picture, anything! - to be placed on the Lights of the Delta Pageant Tree. You will enjoy seeing the ornaments that past contestants have brought.

SPECIAL EVENT – immediately after rehearsal, contestants will board a bus for a special tour of the Lights of the Delta Festival. If weather permits, we plan to have you take a hayride through the display, so bring a blanket, coat, hat, gloves. We will have photos with Santa, hot chocolate & popcorn. Only contestants and queens will be invited to this event, however, parents should carpool and visit the display. It is one of the largest Christmas moving lights display in the South. It is \$10 for a car full, so make some new friends! It is a great way to get you in the mood for Christmas. The new winner's name will be added to the Miss Lights of the Delta display. They are planning a new teen display for this year.

Saturday, November 28 INTERVIEWS will take place at the Blytheville Holiday Inn beginning at 9 a.m. (Will be later, if we do not split the pageant) Your exact time will be emailed or given to you at rehearsal. Wear suit, pantsuit, dress and heels. You should look like a modern woman applying for a job. Remember that we no longer have an opening but you will be allowed 30 seconds for a closing statement.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28: If we need to split the pageant, due to total number of Teen & Miss, PAGEANT will begin at 2:00 p.m. Opening Outfit will be Lights T-shirt, as described above. We will decide how we will split the pageant at a later date, but for ex - Teens might compete in Talent and Miss might compete in Swimsuit and Gown and Question. That info will be sent to you after the entry deadline.

***** If we do not have part of the pageant in the afternoon, we won't start interviews until later.

PAGEANT will begin at 7:00 p.m. Contestants will compete in what they did not do in the afternoon, if we split the pageant. Otherwise, we would do all of the pageant that night. After the pageant, there will be a reception for the new queens, former queens, judges, and everyone is invited to this. It will be at the Holiday Inn.

Tickets for each show will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children or students. A combination ticket for both shows (if we split the pageant) will be offered at \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. They will be available at the door.

If you enter and then win another Miss Arkansas Preliminary before our pageant, your sponsor fee will be refunded to you. If you just drop out of the pageant, it will **NOT** be refunded. We do encourage you to enter all preliminaries for which you are eligible.

We **do not** allow anyone except our hostesses backstage. We will be providing mirrors & racks.

For those that want to stay in Blytheville during the pageant, the Holiday Inn (870-763-5800), Hampton Inn (870-763-5220) and Comfort Suites (870-763-7081) will all offer special pageant rates. Ask for it when you make your reservation. The interviews are in the Holiday Inn, but the other 2 are just across the street.

If we can be of any help to you before our rehearsal on November 27, please feel free to call or email me. We will help any contestant who requests assistance; however, all contestants will be treated equally. Thanks you for your interest and I hope to hear from you soon. Remember the deadline date, **Wednesday, November 18.**

Marrietta Jerome
Director
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