

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

Dear Teen,

Welcome to the 6th Miss Lights of the Delta Outstanding Teen Pageant. It will be held during the Thanksgiving weekend, Friday evening, November 27 and Saturday, November 28. It is an Official Preliminary to the Miss Arkansas' Outstanding Teen and Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageants. Accordingly, we are governed by the same rules and operate under the same franchise as they do. Miss Lights of the Delta Outstanding Teen is OPEN to all young ladies in the state who are at least 13 on the date of the State pageant and no more than a 17 year old high school Junior. A 17 year old high school Senior must compete in the Miss pageant.

We are looking forward to a great and fun Pageant this year and are so glad you plan to be a part of it. Daley Johnston is our reigning Lights of the Delta Outstanding Teen and was selected for the Top Ten at the State pageant this summer! Our winner this year will receive a \$300 cash scholarship, an official crown, and entry into the State Pageant, wardrobe assistance and guidance needed to prepare her for competition in the Miss Arkansas' Outstanding Teen Pageant in Hot Springs June 29 – July 3. The 1st Runner-up will receive a \$200 cash scholarship and entry into next year's Lights pageant, the 2nd Runner-up will receive \$150 cash scholarship and if there are enough entries, awards will also be given to the 3rd and 4th Runner-ups. Mississippi County residents are eligible for the Arkansas Northeastern College Scholarship Award of tuition for 15 college credit hours.

TO ENTER THE PAGEANT, YOU MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Read the State and Local Contestant Contract, make sure you qualify, sign, date and notarize this form. You may submit a contract used in another pageant this year without needing to make any changes (August 2009 to now). Also include required verification. Read, sign and notarize the Contestant Release and Indemnity Agreement.
2. Complete an Official Resume and Platform Issue. Be sure to be specific in filling out these forms as this is what the judges will be referring to during your interview. These must be typed on the computer, not handwritten. **SPECIAL NOTE: IN YOUR RESUME UNDER THE FOLLOWING 3 ENTRIES-MARKETING PLAN, LEGACY, WHY I SHOULD BE AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING TEEN – YOU ARE TO WRITE ABOUT MISS LIGHTS OF THE DELTA TEEN.** Keep these simple and limit to 1 or 2 sentences. Use your space on that page for Accomplishments, Interesting Facts – you should include clubs you belong to, church organizations, travels, hobbies, sports. **ALSO ELIMINATE THE LINE AFTER NAME THAT SAYS TITLE.**
3. Secure a business concern to sponsor you in the pageant. They will get advertising for the sponsorship; you need to get a check from them for \$100 payable to the Northeast Arkansas Scholarship Pageant.
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 in color if that is what you send in. It will be returned to you.
5. Copy of Birth Certificate – will be returned to you.
6. Latest School Transcript – 7th, 8th grade only may submit Report Card if transcript not available, it will be returned to you.
7. Release signed by current ED if you are a current title holder (found on our website)

8. Queen's Intent Contract (found on our website) - this can not be filled on the computer, you print it off and do it by hand. This confirms that you understand Lights is not just a crown but that the titleholder will be involved in activities and events.

9. Cover Sheet (found on our website) - this cannot be filled by computer, print off and fill by hand.

All the above should be mailed to me by the deadline – November 20. Please email me that you are working on your forms so that I will be expecting them. You can email your photo or other items from your entry and we will place you on the contestant list.

*Teens will compete in **FITNESS/ACTIVE WEAR**: type of outfits wore at State this summer, stretch shorts and sports bra style tops, any style of top but no tank tops or skorts.

***TALENT - TIME IS NO MORE THAN 2 MINUTES!** You should use a CD for accompaniment. Have only one song on the CD you turn in and be sure and make a practice copy so you don't wear out your performance one. Have your name on CD. **BE SURE AND HAVE A BACK-UP CD WITH YOU!**

***EVENING WEAR**- Gown of your choice.

***INTERVIEW** –No business type suits; teen appropriate and trendy (dress, skirt and top, capris with jacket, pant suit) Interviews will be 6 minutes with no opening and no formal closing. You may be asked at the end if you would like to add anything and will be given 30 seconds to do so.

SCORING is: Interview-35%, On-stage Question – 5%, Talent – 35%, Evening Wear – 15%, and Physical Fitness/Active Wear -10%. Pageants are required to use a Final Ballot. Auditors will give Judges the Top 5 in random order and the Judges place them in the order they feel reflects their overall performance. This will determine the final ranking.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 18: **ENTRY DEADLINE** – We absolutely must have all entry materials in our hands by this date so that 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 and the 1st one we receive will be last.

We will use a Christmas theme. For Opening, the pageant and Lights Festival will be providing some type of tee shirt, probably “hoodies”. We want you to wear them with jeans and boots or heels. You might want to wear a colored top under it and accessorize with a long, winter scarf. I will let you know the style & color of the shirts in the information letter you will receive before the pageant.

Friday, November 27: **REHEARSAL** – starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Blytheville High School Auditorium, 600 N. 10th St. 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 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 Christmas Tree. You will enjoy seeing the ornaments made by past contestants.

SPECIAL EVENT: immediately after rehearsal, contestants and queens will board a bus for a special tour of the Lights of the Delta Festival. This is one of the largest moving light displays in the South. If weather permits, we plan to have a hayride through the display so bring a light blanket. We will have photos with Santa, hot chocolate and popcorn. Bring or wear jeans, sweater/sweatshirt. Depending on the temperature you may also want to have gloves and a cap or earmuffs with you. Only the girls may go with us on

bus/hayride but parents may follow in their cars. It is \$10 a car to tour the Lights, so make some friends and car-pool!

Saturday, November 28: Depending on the number of contestants, we may split the pageant and have a Saturday afternoon competition and Saturday evening competition. Specific competition events will be determined when we finalize the competition schedule.

INTERVIEWS – will take place at the Blytheville Holiday Inn beginning at 9 a.m (later if we do not split the pageant). Your exact time will be emailed or given to you at rehearsal.

COMPETITION: If split, the AFTERNOON COMPETITION will begin at 2 p.m. Opening Outfits will be Lights of the Delta T-Shirts which will be given to you by the Lights Association and jeans or slacks. Specific competition events will be designated later, for example, Teens in Talent and Miss in Swimsuit and Evening Gown.

SATURDAY EVENING COMPETITION will begin at 7 p.m. (with or without an afternoon competition). We will again open in Lights of the Delta T-shirts and jeans/pants.

SPECIAL EVENT: After the pageant there will be a reception/party for the new queens and out-going queens that everyone is invited to attend. It will be at the Holiday Inn. There will be food and a chance to visit... this is a fun time that the girls and parents have enjoyed in the past.

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

If you enter and then win another Outstanding Teen 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. But we also encourage you to not wait until after other preliminaries to enter so that you get placed in the line-up sooner.

We do not allow anyone except our hostesses backstage. There will be Hostesses to help get your wardrobes in and help fasten gowns, etc. There will be no hair or make-up people backstage. You may bring lighted make-up mirrors, curlers, curling irons. We will have mirrors and dress racks but you may also bring your own rack.

For those that want to stay in Blytheville during the pageant, the Holiday Inn (870-763-5800), Hampton Inn (870-763-5220), and Comfort Inn Suites (870-763-7081) will all offer special pageant rates – this is available by calling the motels directly to make your reservation. The Interviews are in the Holiday Inn but the other 2 motels 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. Thank you for your interest and I hope to hear from you soon. Remember the deadline date, Wednesday, November 18!

Eva Lee Graves, Teen Director

Phone: 870-763-2951, cell: 870-740-7476, Email: neapageant@sbcglobal.net

Mail forms to: Lights Pageant, 717 E. Main, Blytheville, AR 72315

(I will be away Oct. 2-12; during that time please contact Nancy Goodman, Asst. Teen Director:
email: goodmannancy@hotmail.com cell 870-762-6133 evenings: 870-762-2156)