Miss Texas
& Miss Texas' Teen

2026 COMPETITION CATEGORIES

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

30%
PRIVATE
INTERVIEW

10%
ON STAGE
CONVERSATION

20%
HEALTH AND
FITNESS

20%
TALENT OR
HERSTORY

20%
EVENING
GOWN



On the final night of competition, a minimum of twelve contestants will be named as semifinalists and compete in the Final Competition events.



The semifinalists include the contestants with the highest preliminary competition scores and two People's Choice winners. The People's Choice winners may already be among the semifinalists selected by the judge's scoring.

FINAL COMPETITION

30%
COMPOSITE
SCORE

10%
ON STAGE
CONVERSATION

20%
HEALTH AND
FITNESS

20%
TALENT OR
HERSTORY

20%
EVENING
GOWN

The points earned prior to the Final Ballot determine the Top 5 contestants who will participate in the Final Conversation. Each judge then ranks the final five finalists on the Final Ballot individually in the order which they believe each finalist should place. The point totals from the Final Ballot alone determine the outcome of 4RU, 3RU, 2RU, 1RU and the winner.



PRIVATE INTERVIEW

Wardrobe
Delegate Choice - Stylish Interview Attire (age appropriate)

Procedure
MISS: No more than 30 second opening; 9 minute Q&A; Optional 30 second wrap up or closing statement
TEEN: MISS: No more than 30 second opening; 7 minute Q&A; Optional 30 second wrap up or closing statement

Miss Texas delegates will follow the guidelines listed below.

- The delegate will stand at a podium. Each delegate is introduced by the panelist chair. She may begin by presenting a brief (no more than 30 seconds) introduction/Service Initiative overview. Once the intro is complete, the panelists begin the interview. The brief introduction/overview will not be timed with a bell. However, contestants are encouraged to utilize 30 seconds or less as any time beyond that will only give them less time to field questions by the judges.
- At the nine-minute thirty second mark (9:30), timekeeper indicates thirty (30) seconds remain for interview by ringing a bell. The bell informs the delegate of 30 seconds remaining and delegate may choose to use the time to finish her response to the last question or proceed in a closing statement.
- At the ten (10) minute mark, the timekeeper will ring the bell again which indicates the interview time is up. This concludes the delegate's private interview phase.

Purpose
Allows insight into

- Ability to fulfill the qualifications, responsibilities, duties, and term of the titleholder
- Personal qualities and attributes relevant to the titleholder position
- Commitment to her CSI (community service initiative)
- Ability to express her own beliefs in an authentic and relatable manner
- Sense of accomplishments/goals above and beyond the fact sheet
- Spontaneity, intelligence, sense of humor, charm and charisma
- Authenticity and ability to answer questions in a conversational, unrehearsed manner
- Ability to serve as a role model who is reflective of her generation

HEALTH & FITNESS

Judges to evaluate the following
Overall first impression of a dynamic presence that radiates health, high energy, engaging vitality and a sense of confidence

Procedure

- The organization will present each delegate in a pre-blocked, high energy stage routine with movement and posing
- Each delegate will not exceed 20-30 seconds
- No props are allowed
- State competition may include LED video footage/voiceover of the delegate representing their health & fitness initiatives

Purpose
This phase of competition is where the delegate showcases her commitment to health and fitness initiatives. At the state organization's discretion, this phase may include a voice-over on her experience with self-care, health goals, and related initiatives, or a health/fitness statement. A delegate's discipline and commitment to being physically healthy is a key to success in all other areas of life, including the rigors of representing the Miss America or Miss America's Teen program as a national titleholder.

Allows insight into

- Comfort and confidence level on stage
- Overall impression of health and fitness commitment
- On stage presentation and energy, comfort in front of an audience, confidence
- Ability to gauge the audience's impression of the contestant
- Spontaneity and lack of "robotic" stage presentation
- Ability to determine if delegate could serve as a national health/fitness ambassador

TALENT / HERSTORY

Purpose
To underscore the Miss America and Miss America's Teen commitment to supporting performance arts education initiatives and women's individual efforts in dance, music, opera/vocal, drama, magic, oratory and circus arts

Procedure
Each delegate shall present a talent selection, not to exceed 90 seconds per delegate

Performance Talent Requirements
Talent must be either a performance talent (listed on the most recent "Miss America Organization Approved Performance Talent List" OR be in compliance with the guidelines for the HERStory stage presentation. If the performing arts talent is not listed it must be approved by the National MAO office. Approved talent presentations include: Vocal; Dance; Instrument; Gymnastics; Baton Twirling; Painting; Magic; Stand Up Comedy; Dramatic Reading; Monologues; Slam Poetry; Spoken Word; Flags/Color Guard Presentation; Martial Arts Demo; Silks; Roller Skating; Hula Hoops; Balancing Acts; Unicycling; Juggling; Theatrical Science Experiments; Ventriloquism; Rodeo/Roping; Cheerleading; Contortionist; Sign Language Interpretation; Storytelling (HERStory).

Judges will evaluate each performance talent or HER Story™ based on the following criteria:
- How engaging and compelling is the contestant's story or talent?
- How effectively does a contestant connect with audience on an emotional or entertaining level?
- Do they convey their story or demonstrate a talent skill with skill and confidence?
- How powerfully does the contestant deliver their story or demonstrate their talent? Are they able to engage the audience and maintain their attention throughout the performance?

Allows insight into
- Preparatory, performance or storytelling skills
- Overall presentation skills and ability to deliver a captivating presentation
- Interpretive ability and entertainment value relative to the category of performance art
- Stage presence, on-stage personality and personal connection to her story
- Totality of the performance elements of on stage presentation
- Ability to capture the attention of an audience while performing on stage

EVENING GOWN

Purpose
Delegate will publicly present her sense of style wearing an evening gown in a fashion suitable for an appearance as Miss Texas/Miss Texas' Teen. Part of a titleholder's role is to attend galas, fundraisers, awards shows, and other formal events. This often involves walking a red carpet, posing for press photographers, modeling in fashion shows, and promoting various national fashion designers who partner with the Miss America/Miss America's Teen programs.

Procedure
The delegate's evening gown presentation will be modeled on stage. The state organization may choose to utilize voiceover tracks of each delegate during their presentation. If this option is utilized, the delegate will answer one of the following prompts: What woman is most inspiring to them; What qualities of an empowered woman do they relate to most; or Share their most inspirational quote and explain why it resonates with them.

Allows insight into
- Ability to capture attention on stage and individual stage presence
- Comfort, confidence, and composure
- Overall impression of ability to represent the Miss America/Miss America's Teen organization at a high profile event
- Scoring is based on how the delegate carries herself/performs in this phase of competition, not on the actual gown she is wearing, nor the perceived cost of the gown

PRELIMINARY ON STAGE CONVERSATION

Purpose
To engage the audience in a conversational perspective on the delegate's ability to have an extemporaneous conversation or respond authentically to a question in a manner befitting a brand ambassador or state representative

Procedure
The preliminary conversation question will be a single question asked on stage regarding the delegate's service initiative and the response should not be longer than 20 seconds. A countdown clock/timer may be visible to the delegate and a bell may chime if she reaches the 20 second mark.

Allows insight into
- Commitment to the service point of the crown
- Unique perspective on community service and its impact
- Desire to create interest in her community service initiatives
- Brings the interview to the stage in an interactive, engaging way to showcase each delegate
- Highlights intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude for the titleholder's opportunity
- Sense of composure in presenting ideas on stage

FINALS ON STAGE CONVERSATION

Procedure and Purpose
Question will be asked following the semifinalist announcement. The question may touch on the five pillars of the brand (style, service, scholarship, success, sisterhood) or a topic following the Miss America format where the delegate is given a topic to discuss. The host may include a "warm up" question at the state organization's discretion. The delegate will have between 20 to 30 seconds to answer the question.

TOP FIVE BALLOT & FINAL CONVERSATION

Procedure and Purpose
The Top 5 finalists will participate in a final conversation prior to each judge completing their Top 5 ballot. The response to this conversation and/or question may be used by the judge in determining their individual ballot. The topic of this conversation/question may be based on the "Titleholder Role" and provide insight and a final look at the delegate's interest and abilities to perform the role of the titleholder. The points earned prior to the Final Ballot determine the five delegate names on the Final Ballot. After the determination of the Top 5, all competition points earned prior to the Final Ballot are not considered. Each panelist's Final Ballot counts as high and low scores are not dropped in Final Ballot. The point totals from the Final Ballot alone shall determine the outcome. The Final Ballot is only applicable at the state competition (Miss and Teen) and is not to be used at local competitions. The Final Ballot shall not be distributed to the panelists until all of the Top 5 delegates have completed their Final Conversation phase of competition. Panelists are to consider all factors and a delegate's overall performance on the Final Night when ranking the Top 5 finalists, along with the totality of the previously identified qualities and attributes of a State Titleholder. This includes the ability to meet the expectations set as the spokesperson for the brand and advocacy efforts on behalf of the State/National Organization.

Each judge must then place the candidates in the specific order the judge believes they rank in their capacity to be the state titleholder. The point totals from the Final Ballot alone determine the outcome. The point value of the ranking is as follows:
- 1st Place Rank: 10 points
- 2nd Place Rank: 5 points
- 3rd Place Rank: 3 points
- 4th Place Rank: 2 points
- 5th Place Rank: 1 point