



## Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges’ Orientation Overview

Welcome the judges and thank them on behalf of the Miss “Local” Organization for taking time out of their schedules to be with you. The purpose of this orientation is to:

- 1) Help the “five” or “six” or “seven” judges get to know each other. (There must be a minimum of five judges, but no more than seven to judge a Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Local pageant.)
- 2) Discuss the description of the Responsibilities of Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen
- 3) Discuss Competition Categories
- 4) Discuss Competition Percentages
- 5) Discuss Competition Criteria
- 6) Discuss Scoring
- 7) Discuss the Judges Schedule for the Competition and the Day
- 8) Discuss seating order during Private Interview and at the theater

Ask the judges to complete and sign the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Local Judges’ Affidavit. If the same judges’ panel is also judging the Miss Local’s “Miss” Pageant, they must not only sign the official Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Local Judges’ Affidavit, but must also sign the official Miss America Judges’ Affidavit.

- Explain to them that they need to make sure that each of them fully understands what they are signing. This document is their word that they will judge this pageant fairly.
- Ask them to take a look at the list of contestants and if they know any of the contestants, please acknowledge how they might know her on the lines that are provided in the center of the page... (e.g., if they have previously judged any of the contestants, if she is their neighbor, or their bosses’ daughter, or their friend’s daughter, etc.)
- Make sure that each judge understands that he or she cannot judge this pageant if they have provided for profit or otherwise (**compensated or uncompensated**) any product or service directly or indirectly to or for any potential or actual contestant in any National, State, or Local Miss America’s Outstanding Teen competitions other than in the normal routine duties as an official of a pageant competition organization.
- Also, make sure that with the pageant they are judging today, they will not have judged more than four Local Miss America’s Outstanding Teen pageants this Pageant Year...not only in the state in which they are judging today, but combined with any other Miss America’s Outstanding Teen pageants anywhere in the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen system. For any pageants where two titleholders have been crowned, that counts as two pageants that they have judged. **A judge cannot judge more than four Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Local pageants in any Pageant Year...no exceptions!!!**

Ask each of the judges to introduce themselves and perhaps mention a little background about themselves. (This will help them get to know each other. As the person providing the orientation, you might also mention your professional background, pageant background, and the fact that we are all volunteers for the Miss Local/State Organization.)

You might also ask each of the judges to talk a little about what they think they should be looking for in a Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen.

In general, as a Miss America’s Outstanding Teen System Local Pageant Judge, you are expected to:

- Preserve and promote the goals and spirit of the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Program
  - Serve the best interests of every contestant
  - Remember the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Program depends on your effectiveness as a judge
  - Apply judging criteria objectively
-



## **Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges’ Orientation Overview**

- Enable every contestant to receive a fair, unbiased, and objective opportunity while competing
- Prepare in advance for Interview Competition
- Disclose any conflicts of interest
- Maintain confidentiality of contestants’ information and scores
- Not allow anyone to influence your scoring
- Report to the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Organization anyone who attempts to influence your judging per the Judges’ Affidavit you sign

### **You Must Be:**

- ✓ Decisive
- ✓ Impartial
- ✓ Consistent
- ✓ Appreciative of the Arts
- ✓ Appreciative of Community Service Endeavors

Emphasize to the judges that the entire pageant process must be fair and ethical to all contestants. Therefore, once you are finished with this orientation, tell them that you prefer not to comment again on the judging process, unless it is to answer basic mechanics of judging or production questions. Also let them know that we believe that it is very important for the contestants and their parents to understand the judging procedure. Therefore, when you are finished with the Judges’ Orientation, you should give a condensed version of the judge’s orientation to the contestants.

Explain to the judges that because Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen is critical to the success of the Miss ‘Local’ Organization, the driving force of this orientation is to focus them on the responsibilities of Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen and ultimately the possibility of becoming Miss State’s Outstanding Teen. Tell them that you will educate them on how to use the four phases of competition to help them focus on the job description and each contestant’s abilities to fulfill that job description. The judges will also need to consider each contestant’s ability to be the primary Teen Representative of the Local organization, as well as, be able to assess the contestant’s desire to actually want to perform the duties and her ability to be manageable in this position.

Since 2011, Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Local Pageants have been judged by the panel of judges in four categories, rather than five categories. Therefore, the Evening Wear and On-Stage Question competitions are combined into one competition category called “Evening Wear/On-Stage Question”.

The scoring categories and applicable percentages are as follows:

Private Interview - 25%

Talent - 35%

Evening Wear/On-Stage Question - 25%

Lifestyle and Fitness - 15%

At the conclusion of the On-Stage competition, judges will be asked to complete a Top-5 Final Ballot. Explain that you will review each of these phases in a little more detail in a short while.

It is our belief that we are looking for a teen to fulfill certain responsibilities. Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen:

- Is a teen.
  - She typically lives at home.
  - She is still a full time high school (or middle school) student.
-



## Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges’ Orientation Overview

- Being Miss Local's Outstanding Teen, Miss State's Outstanding Teen, or Miss America's Outstanding Teen is a privilege and an opportunity.
- Travel and appearances will typically not interfere with her studies and school activities.

We want to emphasize that we are not looking for a particular “**kind**” of young woman at the local level, state level or at the national level of the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization, although she needs to meet the criteria for each competition category. As Miss Local's Outstanding Teen, Miss State's Outstanding Teen, or Miss America's Outstanding Teen she can be any “kind” of accomplished young woman. This means she can be or have a desire to be an athlete, scientist, cheerleader, band member, artist, debater, interested in politics, cooking, acting, or interested in marrying and having children in the future. We ask that you keep an open mind and an open heart and that special young woman will make herself known to you.

Our determination of the best teen to fulfill the responsibilities is based upon the tradition of a “pageant”. You use those phases of competition to assess each contestant's ability to serve as the Teen Representative for our organization.

### 1. Responsibilities/Duties of Miss Local's Outstanding Teen

- (Review the Complete Responsibilities/Duties of Miss Local's Outstanding Teen. These duties should be supplied by the Local Executive Director or the applicable representative. While this appears in writing as just a few sentences, it can be quite lengthy to describe.) State that the local director has (hopefully) provided each of the judges with a copy of the expectations of Miss Local's Outstanding Teen and that you would like to review these duties with them. Read the duties aloud.
  - Also Miss Local's Outstanding Teen MUST be:
    - An Ambassador of the Local Teen Pageant Organization
    - Well Spoken
    - Attractive, with a Confident, Comfortable, and Commanding Presence
    - Talented
    - Intelligent and an Eloquent Communicator
    - A Proven Achiever
    - A Leader by Virtue of Her Accomplishments
    - A Role Model Who Inspires and Relates to Young People
    - A Role Model Who Cares About Her Community
    - Committed to a Platform Issue of Broad Public Interest
    - Able to Relate to Young People
    - Able to speak with teens from all walks of life and make them feel comfortable around her and not act like a “prima donna”
    - Outgoing and Approachable
    - Reflective of Teens Her Age (we do not want someone who appears to be a “Miss”)
    - Contemporary in her style and fashion - a relatable and individual ‘it girl’ who can connect with today's modern teen
    - Energetic, Charismatic, Outgoing
    - Genuine, trustworthy, compassionate, patient, appreciative, dedicated
    - Physically fit and emotionally ready to handle the duties and responsibilities
-



## Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges’ Orientation Overview

- Manageable and Flexible
  - Enthusiastic About Working with Her Pageant Family
  - Able to Understand that Her Year is What She Makes it
  - Punctual
  - A Teen with a Sense of Gratitude and Humility
  - Able to completely understand her position and how important her actions are to the overall success of the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Program at the Local, State, and National levels
- *(The responsibilities/duties should be placed on the inside cover of the judge’s binders/books as a constant reminder.)* Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen does not have to be the best-spoken, the MOST attractive, the MOST talented, etc., but she must possess ALL of those qualities. Remember, her title is Miss Local’s **Outstanding** Teen, not Miss Local’s “**Average**” Teen.
- (If the current Local teen titleholder is available, perhaps she can speak to the judges and address what she has done during the year. This is actually great for the judges to better understand the responsibilities of Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen.)
  - Just because the contestant is cute or talented or funny does not mean she can successfully accomplish the responsibilities. She must still possess ALL of the qualities required to fulfill the responsibilities.

### 2. Scoring

- Each of the judges must individually use the four phases of competition and the Top-5 Final Ballot to find the one young woman who can best accomplish the responsibilities of Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen. The judges for Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Local Pageants do not judge by “caucus”...so remind the judges that they are NEVER allowed to discuss how they’re scoring with the other judges until after the pageant is over and the new titleholder is crowned.
  - In the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Program, we use an ‘Olympic’ scoring system. Scoring from a low of ‘1’ to a high of ‘10’. We use whole numbers, and no decimals. The auditors will drop the highest and lowest score given by the panel of judges for each competition category. Tell the judges that they should **not** be concerned about the high and low scores being dropped because the Auditor is responsible for this.
  - ***THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT:*** If the judge feels the contestant’s performance in any phase of competition is ‘average’, she must be given a ‘4’, ‘5’, or ‘6’. The biggest problem we have in the scoring at local pageants, and even at some state pageants, is with judges who score too high. Emphasize that unless they use the lower end of the scale as well, they are hurting the truly great performers, whether it is in Talent, Private Interview, Evening Wear/On-Stage Question, or Lifestyle and Fitness. Giving a score of ‘10’ has no value if the lowest score that is ever given is a ‘6’. The judges have to **not** think of this scoring as a punishment to the contestant if she receives a ‘2’ or ‘3’. After the contestant is finished with each phase of competition, the judges must ask themselves “was that contestant below or above average in that competition?” If she was below ‘average’, the score MUST fall into the ‘1’ to ‘3’ range. If she was ‘average’, the score MUST be in the ‘4’ to ‘6’ range. If she was above average the score given must be in the ‘7’ to ‘9’ range, and if she was ‘outstanding and could not have been better’, the score should be a ‘10’.
-



## Miss "Local's" Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges' Orientation Overview

- Remember, in school 70% was a "C"; ***THAT IS NOT THE CASE WHEN JUDGING MISS AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING TEEN PROGRAM PAGEANTS.*** In pageants, average is 50% or a '5'. Judges must understand the importance of what happens when they put their scores down on those score sheets. To be an effective Judge, you **MUST** use the ENTIRE point range!
  - Remind the judges to review the scoring criteria of what should be factored into scoring in these areas of competition at the bottom of each score sheet before each phase of competition. It will help each of the new judges understand what they are doing and will be a refresher for the judges who have judged before. Even experienced judges need to step back and be reminded every once in a while what the criteria is for each judging category. A scoring guide as to the range of points that should be given for "Below Average", "Average", "Above Average", and "Perfect" is included in the bottom section of each score sheet as a reminder to you.
  - Encourage the judges to NOT GET OVERWHELMED BY ONE PHASE OF COMPETITION AND CARRY IT OVER INTO THE OTHERS PHASES. JUST BECAUSE A CONTESTANT IS A "9" IN PRIVATE INTERVIEW, DOES NOT MEAN THEY SHOULD GIVE HER A '9' IN LIFESTYLE AND FITNESS, WHEN SHE IS ACTUALLY A '3'.
  - You will receive a separate score sheet for each competition category. Sign your score sheet as soon as you get it. Write your score on your score sheet for each contestant as soon as she completes the phase of competition.
  - You will also receive a Judges' Worksheet. Here is our recommendation for using the Judges' Worksheet:
    - Make notes about each contestant.
    - Record your scores on the worksheet because you will need to be able to recall all contestants in all phases of competition and anyone you overlook might end up as a contestant on the Final Ballot.
    - For every contestant:
      - ✓ Write down a brief description of what she's wearing
      - ✓ Write down her talent selection
      - ✓ Write down all of your scores in every phase of competition
      - ✓ Circle scores of 8 or more to easily spot them when considering the Top-5 for the Final Ballot
      - ✓ This is your worksheet to keep - you do not need to turn it in
-



## Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges’ Orientation Overview

- Explain the Private Interview process:
  - All Teen Private Interviews at the Local Pageant are 6:00 minutes in length:

Local Teen Private Interview Competition	Time Length
Personal Introduction	None
Questions and Answers (Discussion)	6 minutes
Contestant Additional Closing Comments	None

- Explain that the individual who is timing the Private Interview will stop the contestant at the end of the Questions and Answers Discussion.
  - Interviews are to be conducted press conference style.
  - Recommended format for judges to ask questions: Instruct the judges’ panel that Judge #1 will ask the first question for contestant number one and then questions should be asked randomly from the judges’ panel for the remainder of time for contestant #1. Judge #2 will ask the first question for contestant number two and then questions will be asked randomly from the judges’ panel for the remainder of time for contestant #2. Judge #3 will ask the first question for contestant number three and then questions will be asked randomly from the judges’ panel...and so on. Basically, what we’re saying is don’t go down the line asking questions once the first question is asked.
  - Be courteous in asking questions.
  - Questions should be clear, brief, and easy to understand. Two part questions are acceptable, but must be easy for the contestant to understand.
  - Be prepared to ask each contestant a minimum of 7 questions.
  - Explain types of questions to ask. (*Show Sample Interview Questions, if available*).
  - Don’t be afraid to ask questions that will challenge the contestants...and tell the judges to feel free to ask questions that will give them a little more understanding of who the contestant is.
  - Judges’ should not get into a debate with the Contestants. It is perfectly normal to have a follow-up question if a judge would like to know more about an answer. However, it is a Judges’ job to evaluate how a Contestant answered the question and if she validated her opinion... **not** if her opinion matches the Judges’ own personal opinion.
  - Judges’ questions should be for the purpose of finding out what the Contestant is thinking and her ability to communicate.
  - Explain the purpose for a contestants’ Platform Issue.
  - **Avoid Deadly Silences!**
- Remind the judges to make the Private Interview process positive for the contestant. The contestant should feel good about her interview and ready to give her best performance during the pageant...not upset and feeling already “defeated”.
  - Remind the judges to give each contestant their undivided attention. Instruct the judges to not write notes during the contestants’ presentations. There will be a little time in-between each of the contestants’ interviews to jot down a few “reminder” notes about each contestant.
  - Instruct the judges to not put a score down for the contestant until after each contestant completes her presentation.
  - In Private Interview - The Private Interview phase of competition is an opportunity to learn as much as possible about the contestant - her personal qualities and attributes to be Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen;
-





## Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges’ Orientation Overview

her level of communication skills; her opinions and aspirations; her sense of accomplishment, poise, and presence as well as her ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the position you have been requested to fill.

You will need to assess your overall “first impression” of her. She needs to have exceptional communication skills, including speech, vocabulary and grammar. She needs to possess a confident and charismatic personality and have the ability to express and distinguish her beliefs. She needs to have knowledge and an understanding of her platform issue and have a commitment to community service. She needs to have leadership qualities and a sense of accomplishment as well as be attractive and stylish in an age-appropriate manner. You need to ask yourself if you can envision the public and especially young people, being positively impacted by meeting this young woman.

These teens will most likely be speaking to our youth, many times at school assemblies. Students have asked everything from “will you have sex with me” to pulling the contestant aside after an assembly and asking “will you go home with me and help me tell my parents I’m pregnant?” Is she charismatic enough, dynamic enough, mature enough, and intelligent enough to fulfill the responsibilities of Miss Local's Outstanding Teen?

- Briefly describe the different kinds of questions:
    - Behavioral - Remember, past behavior is an indicator of future behavior. “How did you handle it when \_\_\_\_\_???”
    - Situational: Give the contestants a situation and ask them how they would handle it.
    - Role Play Questions: “Pretend we’re a third grade class, what would you tell us about your platform.” (Pay close attention to how she handles the material with children. Many contestants ignore your question and tell the judges what they want the judges to know).
    - Credential Questions: Does she have any credentials and, if she lists them, is she telling the truth?
    - Experience Questions “What did you learn from...?”
    - Opinion Questions: Is it valid, well-reasoned, and defensible?
    - Dumb Questions: Can she think on her feet?
  - Private Interview - Final Thoughts:
    - Did you like her when she walked into the room?
    - Did you like her *more* when she walked out of the room?
    - Did she confidently present herself in an appealing manner?
    - Did the minutes fly by, or drag?
    - Did you wish the interview could continue?
  - In Lifestyle and Fitness - Teens will compete in Lifestyle and Fitness, most likely wearing some type of aerobic/active wear clothing. This competition is designed to see how well the contestant maintains a lifestyle of good physical health, whether she meets the public’s expectation of a titleholder, and whether or not she has the sense of confidence and self-assurance needed to be a titleholder. Value your “first impression”. The contestant’s drive, energy, dynamic presence, and attractiveness are to be likewise considered. This whole phase of competition is a great indication of confidence. Is she able to complete the presentation with vitality, energy, spirit, and charisma? Remember, this competition is not a substitute for Swimsuit competition. We are **not** looking for the perfect swimsuit body. We are looking for a teen that takes care of herself and participates in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. Do not give a contestant who is not physically fit points she does not deserve. Our objective is not to place a
-



## Miss "Local's" Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges' Orientation Overview

teen contestant, whose body is changing almost on a daily basis, in a position of having to diet herself into the perfect swimsuit body.

- In Talent - The Talent phase of competition provides an insight into the teen's preparatory and performance skills. Does the contestant's talent selection fit these skills and her personality? The Talent competition acknowledges the quality of the talent being presented. As a judge you also need to consider overall "first impression", technical skill level; entertainment value; stage presence; and will you be proud you selected this young woman when she performs her talent if she is selected as the titleholder? If she is asked to entertain, as is the case with most Local titleholders, is she going to entertain the audience? Impress them? Embarrass her and the Local pageant organization? Did you enjoy the presentation? Take into consideration all elements of the presentation including music, costume, props, voice (if applicable), and choreography (if applicable). The maximum time length for a talent in a Miss America's Outstanding Teen State Pageant is 90 seconds. Please note that the maximum Talent Time Limit is 90 seconds at the Local, State, and National Levels of the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program.
  - In Evening Wear/On-Stage Question - Please judge your overall "first impression" of the contestant, her poise, personality, and ability to answer a question with eloquence and intelligence. You must ask yourself how you feel about the contestant's sense of confidence, personality, stage presence, sense of attractiveness, beauty, walk, posture, carriage, grace, appropriateness of attire, and sense of style. Can she handle the pressure of being on-stage in front of 2,000 or 3,000 people? Give special attention to whether or not the contestant answered the question in the context in which it was asked? You should evaluate the contestant's extemporaneous response to the On-Stage Question. The contestant's total look, grace, charm, and ability as a spokesperson and role model must be considered.
  - As previously mentioned, the final scoring of each Miss America's Outstanding Teen Local Pageant competition is done by completing the "Top-5 Final Ballot". Therefore, the final outcome of the pageant will be determined by the results of a "Final Ballot". Here are the steps that are used for Miss America's Outstanding Teen Local pageant judging:
    1. Contestants compete in all four phases of competition that you will be judging.
    2. Based upon these four competition categories, the Auditor will tally the total points for each contestant. High and low scores will be dropped in all categories.
    3. The list of the Top-5 contestants will be provided to each of the judges in the order in which they competed during the pageant (not by point totals).
    4. At this point, all previous scores leading up to the Top-5 will be discarded.
    5. (Note: If possible, you should show each of the judges a sample of what the Top-5 Final Ballot looks like so they can thoroughly understand the expectations of the Final Ballot. Perhaps use a set of fictitious names, and cross through all but five of them to demonstrate to the judges an example of what they will be seeing when they receive the Top-5 Final Ballot.)
    6. Each judge will then individually rank each of these Top-5 contestants whose names have not been crossed through as to whether the contestant should be the Winner, First Runner-up, Second Runner-up, Third Runner-up, or Fourth Runner-up. [**Note:** If the pageant is announcing fewer than
-





## Miss "Local's" Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges' Orientation Overview

Four Runners-up, the judges will still go through the process of ranking **five** contestants (or only four if the total number of contestants in the pageant is four) on the Final Ballot, but only the specified number of Runners-up will be announced.]

7. The judges will submit their individual rankings to the Auditor and the Auditor will assign points to each judge's contestant ranking based upon the following:

- ✓ Winner - 10 Points
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up - 5 Points
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up - 3 Points
- ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-up - 2 Points
- ✓ 4<sup>th</sup> Runner-up - 1 Point

8. These votes will determine the Winner and Runners-up.

### **Criteria that judges will be using to rank the Top Five:**

- Judges will consider the responsibilities and requirements of Miss Local's Outstanding Teen that were presented to them during the Judges' Overview and will list each of the Top-5 in the order in which they believe each should finish in the competition.
  - Judges should NOT necessarily decide the Top-5 placement strictly on the total points each of them have from their earlier scoring. Remind the judges that **THEY ARE SELECTING A PERSON, NOT CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION!** They must look at the "whole contestant" as a human being, not as a person defined by the categories of competition.
  - The contestant that each judge believes to be the best teen to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Local titleholder should receive the first placement; the second best should receive the second placement, and each judge will continue this process until all five have been ranked according to their individual beliefs in who would be the best teen to serve as the Local titleholder.
- Stress again to the judges the importance of judging FAIRLY in all categories of competition. Every one of these contestants, their families and friends, the local directors, the Miss State's Outstanding Teen Organization, and the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization have put their trust in each of the judges to judge fairly and honestly so that this scholarship program can survive... and hopefully thrive. Remind the judges that as they write down their scores to please keep in mind that ANY TIME AN AWARD IS GIVEN ON STAGE, THE INTEGRITY OF THE MISS AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING TEEN PROGRAM IS PUT ON THE LINE. Remind them to make sure that they review their score sheets before they turn them in. If approval was given to announce each judge's individual winners in the Talent and Lifestyle/Fitness categories onstage (which will **NEVER** happen), would each judge be proud of that announcement. If not, then the judge may need to consider changing the score. Remind the judges that we DO NOT do comparative judging in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen system in individual competition categories whereby contestants are compared to each other before scoring them. The only time that "comparison" becomes part of the criteria is when the judges are completing the Top-5 Final Ballot. We are merely asking the judges to be ethical and fair to all contestants, because if they are asking themselves whether or not they would be proud of announcing their individual winners in the Talent and Lifestyle/Fitness categories every time they put down a score, they don't have to worry about the perception of comparative judging.
-



## **Miss "Local's" Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges' Orientation Overview**

- Explain how to fill out the score sheets and how to make corrections. If they put down a score and decide to change the score, they should not try to change the number into another number by writing over the original number. Instead, they should mark through the original score, place their initials next to that score, and then put the score they want next to their initials. Have the judges fill in the contestants' names and numbers if this has not already been done. Have them sign and put their judge's number on each score sheet before passing it to the Auditors.

### 3. Preliminary Winner Announcements and Tie-Breaking Rules

- Some local pageants announce Preliminary Awards toward the end of the pageant, typically for the contestant receiving the most points in the Talent Competition and the contestant receiving the most points in the Lifestyle & Fitness Competition.
- If your local pageant announces Preliminary Awards and there is a tie for the most points in a specific phase of competition (Talent, Lifestyle & Fitness, etc.) and your local organization's directive is to break all ties, then there is a specific tie-breaking procedure in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program.
- Explain to the judges that if this happens and the ties need to be broken, then the auditor will prepare a slip a paper and it will be handed to each of the judges with the names of the contestants who are tied for the award. These slips of paper will be clearly identified as to the phase in which the tie exists. Each judge must circle his/her choice for the winner of the award.

### Other Reminders:

1. No talking at any time about contestants by the judges, or how the judges are scoring them.
2. Keep talking between judges to a minimum, if at all, during the pageant in the auditorium.
3. Judges should never talk to each other while contestants are on stage during their competition or during production numbers.
4. The judges should keep pleasant looks on their faces. Remember the contestants can see them, even in the theater or auditorium.
5. No clapping or applauding for any contestant except for when the awards and winners are being announced.
6. No laughing unless appropriate within the context of the contestant's presentation.
7. Do not discuss their scores with contestants, contestant's parents/families/friends, or even pageant officials...ABSOLUTELY NO ONE during or at any time after the pageant is over!!! If you are asked questions by anyone, tell them that you signed a judges' affidavit that does not allow you to discuss anything about their judging, and suggest that they contact the Local Director for further information.
8. Ensure that the judges turn off their pagers and cell phones.
9. You might want to discuss the planned schedule for the judges and the competition (e.g., meals, meeting times, transportation, group outings, attendance at the Local "Miss" pageant if being conducted during the same time frame, etc.).

The Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization has the strong belief that when we make any decision, we must ask ourselves 'How would we want our daughters to be treated?' We believe the underlying reason for every item in this orientation is that it is ultimately about fairness and ethics of the process. It assures that every contestant is treated with respect and with fairness. The judges must always consider the best interest of the

---



## **Miss “Local’s” Outstanding Teen Organization - Local Pageants Judges’ Orientation Overview**

contestants as the foundation of their judging. Selecting the right teen to fulfill the responsibilities of Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen is in the best interest of these teens. It is also, obviously, in the best interest of the local organization, state organization and the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Organization. When the right teen wins and the contestants feel they have been treated fairly, everyone wins. Only one will get the crown, but everyone wins.

**Note:** You might consider doing a “warm-up” interview where you give each judge an additional fact sheet and platform statement for a mock contestant they will meet to interview. You might want to ask a former contestant who had a strong interview to be the “Mock Interviewee.” It is best that the judges conduct this practice interview with someone they have not met. The judges will take it much more seriously. You should run this practice interview just like a real interview. This way the judges are comfortable with the signaling system. This also allows the panel of judges to get comfortable with each other’s interview style prior to the first “real” contestant walking into the room.