

Therefore, it should be your constant endeavor to:

- Devote time, thought and study to learn the phases of competition and complete the duties and responsibilities of a judge.
- To work with your fellow judges in a spirit of harmony and cooperation.
- To score each contestant honestly in every phase of competition.
- To maintain confidentiality.

Most importantly, your score sheet is your personal statement, and your signature attests that you have scored in such a manner that the results will produce the best representative, a teen who will be a role model in your community – and who may represent your state and become Miss America's Outstanding Teen.

You will select a young woman who will represent the community in which she is competing – as a public servant, an advocate for local issues, a friend to local businesses and a role model to youngsters. It is crucial that you select the teen who best meets these criteria. While she will compete at the local/state competition and perhaps in the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageant, these considerations are secondary. Most contestants will return to their communities after the state competition and must be of the character and mindset to serve that community.

Consistent with the **Miss America** philosophy of judging, teen girls are being sought with the best composite of the following attributes and qualities – an outstanding young woman of these times:

- A role model who inspires and relates to young people
- An ambassador and representative of the MAOTeen Organization
- Attractive and well spoken with a confident and commanding presence
- Talented and charismatic
- Intelligent, outgoing, and approachable
- Reflective of teen girls her age
- A leader by virtue of her accomplishments
- One who takes personal pride in physical fitness and health.

As a judge, you must be:

- Decisive
- Impartial
- Consistent
- Appreciative of the arts
- Appreciative of community service endeavors

The philosophy of the Miss America's Outstanding Teen system of judging relies on the premise that "each contestant competes against herself", rather than being compared to other contestants.

The dimensions of the system promote:

- Equity (more than one contestant can receive the same score)
- Scoring each contestant individually
- Accumulative scoring
- Confidentiality

All aspects of the Miss America's Outstanding Teen system of judging mandate consistency.

### Judges' Materials

To acquaint you with each contestant, the volunteer in charge of judges should supply contestant resumes, platform essays, contestant photos, and other materials to assist you in your task. You are urged to study these materials carefully, and then use them as a basis for your questions as you meet the contestants at the Private Interview prior to the stage competitions. Please do not lose or misplace your judges' materials.

The system dictates that you must score each contestant immediately after she completes each phase of her individual competition.

Remember the contestant is competing against herself and must receive a score in a *1 to 10 point range*, using whole numbers only.

The four areas of competition you will be judging are:

- Talent
- Private Interview
- Evening Wear/ On-Stage Question
- Lifestyle and Fitness

At the State and National levels, the contestant's Scholastic Achievement is judged by a separate panel of judges.

### Talent

The Talent phase of competition provides an insight into a contestant's preparatory and performance skills.

### Criteria for Scoring Talent

The talent selection should distinguish the contestant's:

- True talent and entertainment value
- Interpretive ability
- Technical skill level (execution, technique, synchronization, control)
- Stage presence and on-stage personality
- Totality of all elements (including costume, props, voice, use of body, choreography)

You will see a variety of talents – vocal in every medium, dance in all forms, gymnastics, instrumentals and drama.

On judging each, keep in mind that these young women are not usually professionals. They are showing you an aspect of their character and values as much as their performing arts aptitude.

Will you be proud you selected this young woman when she performs her talent if she is selected as the Titleholder? Did you enjoy the presentation?

### Private Interview

This phase of competition is an opportunity to learn as much as possible about the contestant – her personal qualities and attributes. The basic tools for conducting this interview are a resume of personal credits and a platform essay which you will receive prior to the competition.

Questions should be directed to determine the contestant's ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the Local or State title, as described by the Judges' Chairperson or Executive Director.

Remember these contestants are 13-17 years old. Do not become too personal, and always stay within the bounds of good taste. Keep your questions short enough so that plenty of questions can be asked and please do not ask the contestant to perform any sort of talent during the private interview phase of competition.

## Criteria for Scoring Private Interview

- Overall “First Impression”
- “Naturalness” and relevance that would be of interest to her peers
- Strong communication skills (speech, vocabulary, grammar)
- An ability to express and distinguish her beliefs
- A confident and charismatic personality
- Attractive and stylish in an age-appropriate manner
- Leadership and sense of accomplishment
- Knowledge of and commitment to a community service advocacy issue

Can you envision the public, especially young people, being positively impacted by meeting this young woman?

As a judge planning for a contestant’s interview, you may choose to use “high-gain” questions to generate other questions spontaneously in response to points the contestant raised. When asking “high-gain” questions, be sure to encourage the contestant. “High-gain” questions are tough to answer. If you do not encourage while asking them, the contestant may feel interrogated. By using a lot of encouraging, you can take the edge off your “high-gain” questions and make the interview more conversational. In simple terms, “high-gain” questions require the contestant to **think** before responding.

Judge the contestant on how well she has stated her opinion; it is inconsequential whether her opinion aligns with your own.

It is up to you as a judge to make the Private Interview a positive process for every contestant, so please be prepared and courteous, and give each contestant your undivided attention.

## Lifestyle and Fitness

### Criteria for Scoring Lifestyle and Fitness

- Overall “First Impression”
- Physically fit
- Dynamic presence and attractiveness
- Sense of confidence and self-assurance
- Vitality, energy, and charisma

Can she complete the presentation with a memorable kind of vivacity and spirit?  
Does she meet the public’s expectation of a Titleholder?

### Evening Wear/On-Stage Question Criteria for Scoring Evening Wear/On-Stage Question

- Overall “First Impression”
- Walk, posture, carriage, beauty and grace
- Sense of confidence, poise, and stage presence
- Sense of style, personality, and age-appropriateness of evening wear
- Can she handle the pressure of speaking on-stage in front of an audience?
- Did she answer the question she was asked and did she have the ability to make the audience **want** listen to her?

The contestant’s **total** look, grace, charm, personality and ability as a speaker must be considered.

For information about the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen National Program, contact:  
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State/Local Official Judge’s Guide Brochure.doc

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### An Official Judge’s Guide for a Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Local or State Preliminary Competition

Founded in 2005, Miss America’s Outstanding Teen, Inc. has been organized to encourage positive achievement by helping to nurture and build the scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living and community involvement of our nation’s youth. In just a few short years, MAOTeen has made available over \$4 million in cash and in-kind scholarships through our Local, State, and National organizations.

*Agreeing to judge a Local or State MAOTeen preliminary is an honor and an awesome responsibility, not only to the entire MAOTeen Organization, but to the young women who, by entering the competition, have placed their trust in the integrity and objectivity of the judges’ scores.*

As a judge for a MAOTeen preliminary, it is imperative that you recognize as professional conduct:

- That you have been entrusted with the preservation and perpetuation of the goals, objectives and spirit of the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Organization.
- That the MAOTeen Organization expects your first and greatest concern to be the best interest of each contestant without distraction as to who she is or what her background may be.
- That the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen program depends in the largest measure upon your effectiveness as a judge.