

## Pageant Overview

The pageant is comprised of 3 areas of competition. Each category carries a percentage of the total score. Each category is judged and scored independently from all other categories.

Personal interview = 45 points. Speech and Communication = 30 points. Pop Question and Formal Wear = 25 points. Total = 100 points.

The **interview** will take place Sunday, June 23rd, tentatively starting at noon at the Avon Township Office. This is a required part of the judging. The interview will last 9 minutes for Miss, 7 minutes for Juniors, 5 minutes for Littles, and 3 minutes for Tinies. Times may be adjusted to shorter times if needed to accommodate all contestants. There are no wrong answers. The judges will be especially interested in your ability to express your thoughts, sincerity, and getting to know you. Be aware of your appearance, vocabulary & manners. Check to be certain your clothing fits correctly when seated and your skirt is not too tight or short.

The judging panel is composed of qualified men and women who are genuinely interested in you. They are serious, yet fun-loving people. They want to enjoy this experience as much as you. Be yourself!

The pageant will be on Sunday, June 23rd, starting at 4:30pm, at the Round Lake Beach Civic Center. Candidates agree the time, manner, and method of conducting and judging shall be solely within the discretion of the pageant officials and the decisions of the judges are final.

The pageant will start with each contestant introducing themselves. This will NOT be judged. The opening introduction gives you a chance to get on stage, have fun, and relax a little before your speech. It is also designed to give the audience a chance to meet you, so relax and have fun!

### **Speeches**

- Contestants can wear the same outfit for Interview and Speech or a similar outfit can be worn for Speech.
- Jewelry and shoes should be appropriate for the outfit. Avoid jewelry you might fidget with such as bracelets.
- Speech time limits and Subjects are:
  - Miss (1 minute): **How would you bring your platform to Round Lake Area and explain why?**
  - Junior (45 seconds): **What do you think is the best personality trait a person can have and why?**
  - Little (30 seconds): **What does being a friend mean to you and why?**
  - Tiny (30 seconds): **What is your favorite animal or toy and why?**

**For Miss:** What is a platform? A platform is a cause that a contestant chooses to volunteer her time to, bring awareness to, raise money for, or implement a program she has created that will help address the problem. Choose a topic that has personally touched your life or that you feel passionate about. Your subject may be any

organization or topic that is important to you and the Round Lake Area, as long as it is not immoral, political, or controversial.

**For All Speeches:** This is your opportunity to tell the judges about something that may not be covered in the regular interview process. Something you know well and are comfortable speaking on. No props, poems, or singing is permitted. The topic should be appropriate for all age levels. It is imperative that you memorize your speech and that you do not go over the time limit.

Practice, practice, practice is the only way to get it right. To help memorize your speech, write out an outline of the key points on a card and review it many times. If you happen to forget a line, thinking back to that card will help you remember what the next line of your speech is. If you do forget a line, take a deep breath, think, and then start your speech where you stopped at. Judges know that public speaking is one of the hardest things to do. It's how you handle the situation that is the most important. Remember they don't have a copy of your speech, so they won't know if you forgot a line, so keep going, and if you do stumble, do it gracefully. While doing your speech remember to make eye contact with the judges throughout your speech, not just the beginning and the end.

**Here are a few general guidelines for Interview clothing:**

- Always choose clothing that fits correctly and makes you feel great.
- Check hems on skirts to see that the skirt isn't too short when you sit down and that it is straight all the way around.
- Make sure blouses and jackets can button without gaps.
- All shirts must be full length, no cropped shirts.

**Formal Wear:** The contestants' outfit is a chance to make an on-stage statement of her personality, and to demonstrate her gracefulness, moving with poise and confidence. Just like speech, practicing walking in your shoes is a must. Use small steps to achieve a smooth, graceful walk. Take your time, practice your smile, turns, walking pattern, and poses. Have someone video-tape you to help you know what to work on. You should look like you are a movie star on the red carpet. Your walk is your first impression to the judges before you ever answer a question or do your speech, so it is important to practice! Still have questions? Google PAGEANT WALK and you will find lots of videos.

Choose a **Gown/ Dress** that reflects your own individual style. You will see a wide variety of gowns - partially beaded-chiffon with fuller skirts - halter style with straight skirt - fully sequined and beaded, with trains and without. Judges are told monetary value of clothing has no value in selecting a queen. Choose one in your best color that compliments you and makes you feel like a queen. Refer to Dress Guidelines for more information.

Here are a few general guidelines for Formal Wear:

- Dress should be age appropriate.
- Make sure to practice in your gown, including short flights of steps and simple pivots/ turns. You should be able to walk without stepping on your dress.
- Choose accessories to enhance your look, not overwhelm you.
- For Miss - Shoes should have a back and a heel between 2-4". Juniors, Littles, and Tiny contestants should wear age-appropriate shoes they are comfortable walking in and are appropriate for their dress.

Remember, the Pageant, in essence, is a job interview, and you need to "dress the part". As you make your clothing selections, they should fit the description of classic, elegant, and stylish. Please ask your director any questions regarding attire.

**MAKE CERTAIN TO TRY EVERYTHING ON AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE THE PAGEANT**