



Competition Rules & Evaluation Process Miss Ohio Locals 2026-2027

The following information details the Miss Ohio 2026-2027 Local Season competition rules and evaluation process. This information applies to both MISS and TEEN contestants.

This information is subject to change to meet the requirements set by the Miss America Organization.

PHASES OF COMPETITION

Private Interview

Wardrobe: Contestant's Choice – Stylish Interview Attire

Materials: Contestant Fact Sheet, Community Service Initiative Essay, Headshot Photo

The Private Interview phase of competition allows insight into the contestant's ability to fulfill the responsibilities of a Local Titleholder and provides the opportunity to learn as much as possible about the contestant's qualities and attributes to fulfill the titleholder term. Allows insight into the commitment to advance and execute her community service initiative and have an exceptional term, as well as insight into the commitment to continue her education. Also allows insight into the ability to express and distinguish her beliefs and have a true knowledge of the world around her, in addition to getting a sense of accomplishments.

- Interviews may be up to ten (10) minutes as follows;
 - An opening statement to introduce her community service initiative, up to thirty (30) seconds.
 - Questions from the panelists for nine (9) minutes.
 - An optional thirty (30) seconds for the contestant to finish responding to a question or closing statement.
- A podium will be provided, and contestants are required to stay behind the podium during the interview.
- Contestants are not to approach the panelists or panelist's table at any time.
- Contestants may not bring anything with them into the interview session.
- Contestants are not permitted to perform any portion of their talent during the interview.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING PRIVATE INTERVIEW - Overall "first impression"; exceptional communication skills including speech, vocabulary, and grammar; a confident and charismatic personality; ability to express and distinguish her beliefs; attractive and stylish in an age-appropriate manner; leadership and sense of accomplishment; and knowledge and understanding of her community service issue. Can you envision the public, and especially young people, being positively impacted by meeting this young woman?

- Each panelist will score the Private Interview phase of competition from 1 to 10 and the high and low scores will be dropped.
- The Private Interview phase of competition will account for 30% of the contestant's total score.

On-Stage Question

Wardrobe: To be determined by the Local Director, usually Same as Private Interview Interviewing for the position

Provides an opportunity for the audience to hear about the contestants chosen community service initiative. She may provide a unique perspective as well as convey her commitment and desire to create further interest in her CSI. This brings a glimpse of the interview on-stage in an interactive and engaging way to showcase each contestant's intelligence, personality, charisma, and aptitude. A sense of composure when presenting ideas to an audience is a must a Local Titleholder.

- Each contestant will answer one question about her Community Service Initiative.
- There is a 30 second time limit to answer the question.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING ON-STAGE QUESTION – Consider first impression reaction. Ability to articulate thoughts, along with ease of communication, stage presence, engaging presence, and relatability. Sense of confidence, composure, intelligence, and a true understanding of her chosen community service initiative. Only consider how she answers the question, not whether you agree with her answer.

- Each panelist will score the On-Stage Question phase of competition from 1 to 10 and the high and low scores will be dropped.
- The On-Stage Question phase of competition will account for 10% of the contestant's total score.

Health & Fitness

Wardrobe: Contestant's MUST wear an outfit from the Rebel Athletic Miss America collection

This phase of competition allows the contestant to showcase her commitment to health and fitness initiatives. Contestants should demonstrate comfort, confidence, energy while on stage in front of an audience. A contestant's discipline and commitment to health and fitness is a key to success in all other areas of life, and the rigors of being a Local Titleholder

- Contestants must provide their own fitness outfit from the Rebel Athletic Miss America collection. Visit <https://www.rebelathletic.com/mao.html> to order an approved outfit.
- Contestants will move to a pre-blocked high energy routine for approximately 20-30 seconds.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING HEALTH AND FITNESS – Overall "first impression"; physically fit; dynamic presence and sense of confidence and self-assurance. Can she complete the presentation with vitality, energy, and spirit. Does she meet the public's expectation of a Local Titleholder.

- Each panelist will score the Health & Fitness phase of competition from 1 to 10 and the high and low scores will be dropped.
- The Health & Fitness phase of competition will account for 20% of the contestant's total score.

Performing Arts Talent / HERStory

Wardrobe: Contestant's Choice: Talent Costume or Outfit

The Performing Arts Talent / HERStory phase of competition allows insight into the contestant's preparatory and performance or storytelling skills. Overall presentation skills and ability to deliver a captivating presentation. Looks at selection of presentation, interpretive ability and entertainment value relative to the category of performance art. Her stage presence, on-stage personality, and personal connection to her story. Allows a look at the totality of the performance elements of the on-stage presentation and the ability to capture the attention of an audience while performing.

SPECIAL NOTE: Contestant's talent choice must be one of the pre-approved talents listed below.

Vocal	Instruments	Dance	Gymnastics (all types)
Painting	Baton Twirling	Magic	Stand Up Comedy
Monologue	Dramatic Reading	Slam Poetry	Flags/Color Guard Presentation
Spoken Word	Martial Arts Demo	Silks	Roller Skating
Hula Hoops	Balancing Acts	Unicycling	Theatrical Science Experiments
Juggling	Ventriloquism	Rodeo/Roping	Cheerleading
Signing	Contortionist	Storytelling (HerStory)	

Cheer Skills (*Partners approval by request*) Ballroom Dancing (*Partners approval by request*)

Any talents not listed above may be submitted to the Local Director for review and approval by the Miss America Organization.

Talents must also adhere to the following guidelines.

- The time limit for Talent competition is ONE (1) minute and THIRTY (30) seconds or less. Panelists will be informed immediately if a contestant runs over her allotted time and instructed to adjust scores accordingly.
- If a contestant wishes to perform a double talent, i.e. singing and dancing, or singing and playing piano, she must do both live on stage. She will only be scored for what is done live.
- There can be no duplication of a talent act among the contestants. This is determined on a first come, first serve basis. The first contestant to register her talent is the one who will have preference.
- For vocalists, the background track may not include vocals.
- For those playing instruments, the background track may not include instruments that mimic the instrument played by the contestant
- A contestant may not include in a vocal medley the same song another contestant is planning to sing as a solo or as part of a different medley.
- The local program may, but is not required to provide a piano or other instruments for competition.
- The local program is not required to provide any specific floor or material for dancers. It is the dancer's responsibility to fully understand the facility's environment for the competition.
- No props will be permitted unless they are absolutely functional! A contestant may NOT use any of the following:
 - No mood setters or background enhancers.
 - No props that imitate those used in a Broadway or screen version of her music.
 - No props that require excessively large stage areas and complicated setting up.
 - No use of motion pictures, slides or projections of any kind.
 - No live animals.
 - No props involving safety hazards such as: fire batons, sword twirling, knife throwing, archery, etc.

Performing Arts Talent / HERStory (Continued)

CRITERIA FOR SCORING PERFORMING ARTS TALENT / HERSTORY - Looks at talent presentation as well as the performance and interpretive ability and technical skill level including execution, technique synchronization and control. Allows insight into stage presence and on-stage personality and a look at the totality of the elements; Costume, Props, Music, Voice, Use of the Body, and Choreography, as well as how entertaining, and relatable the performance is.

- Each panelist will score the Performing Arts Talent / HERStory phase of competition from 1 to 10 and the high and low scores will be dropped.
- The Performing Arts Talent / HERStory phase of competition will account for 20% of the contestant's total score.

Evening Gown

Wardrobe: Contestant's Choice - Evening Gown

The Evening Gown phase of competition allows contestant to present her sense of style in evening wear in a fashion suitable for an appearance as a Local Titleholder. Part of a Titleholders role will be attending events, fundraisers, award presentations and other formal events. This often involves walking a red carpet, posing for press photographers, modeling in fashion shows, promoting various Local, Miss Ohio or Miss America partners. Allows an insight into the contestant's ability to capture the audience's attention, her comfort, style, confidence, and composure.

- Contestants will walk a pre-blocked pattern for approximately 45 seconds.

CRITERIA FOR SCORING EVENING GOWN - Allows a look into how the contestant exhibits her own personal style, attitude, personality, grace, presence, and confidence in evening wear. Allows a look into composure, confidence, the attention she captures on the stage, her command of the stage, presence, and how she appears in the spotlight. First impression reaction and a look at posture and carriage. Note: Neither the gown itself nor the estimated cost of the gown will be considered in scoring.

- Each panelist will score the Evening Gown phase of competition from 1 to 10 and the high and low scores will be dropped.
- The Evening Gown phase of competition will account for 20% of the contestant's total score.

FINAL PLACEMENT

The points from all FIVE phases of competition will be totaled to determine the Titleholder(s) and Runner-Up Positions.