



Miss Hospitality MISSISSIPPI

71ST ANNUAL COMPETITION • JULY 18, 2020 • HATTIESBURG, MS

A SCHOLARSHIP TRADITION

Established in 1949 under Governor Fielding Wright and the Mississippi Legislature, the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition is now more than 70 years old. Throughout this time, the program has championed the state's tourism and economic development sectors while supporting Mississippi's best and brightest young women through a scholarship program.

Designed for ladies ages 18 to 24, the program continues the tradition of beauty and grace while celebrating intelligent and sincere qualities of the modern woman. Local contestants serve a full year as their community's spokesperson, promoting visitation and development in their hometown. Contestants leave the program with lifelong friendships, communication and interview skills, public speaking tools, self-confidence, and a better understanding of their home state.

The young lady crowned Mississippi's Miss Hospitality will serve as the state's a goodwill ambassador, promoting the Hospitality State and sharing its story.



COMPETITION UPDATES

The State Office of Mississippi Miss Hospitality is closely monitoring guidelines surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of our participants is at the forefront of everything we do. Due to local, statewide, and national regulations protecting the safety of citizens, changes are being made to the 2020 competition.

Staff and advisory board members have explored safe alternatives to ensure the Mississippi Miss Hospitality tradition continues. All contestants will serve their local communities to promote tourism and economic development and will continue to hold their local titles. The statewide competition will still be held in 2020, and all competitors will have an equal opportunity to vie for the title of Mississippi's Miss Hospitality.

For the protection of participants, preliminary competition will be held through digital and video conferencing platforms. Details can be found in this guide. Based on results from the preliminary competition Top Ten contestants will be determined. Only Top Ten contestants will attend on-stage State Competition held July 18, 2020 in Hattiesburg, MS.

If local and state guidelines become less restrictive, the State Office will arrange statewide appearance opportunities for all Miss Hospitality contestants and Little Misses to join together and promote the state.

SCHOLARSHIPS & PRIZES

The Miss Hospitality program supports talented and intelligent women through a scholarship and prize program. Contestants are eligible for more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes, with all scholarships to be applied directly to school tuition accounts.

Education has always been a top priority for the Mississippi Miss Hospitality program. **Due to this year's competition limitations caused by COVID-19, all contestants meeting requirements outlined in this guide will be awarded a \$250 college scholarship to further their education.** Top Ten competitors will receive scholarships based on their final placement in the competition and will also be eligible for scholarships provided by partnering schools.

UPDATED REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a resident of Mississippi and represent her hometown and/or county, not the city where she attends college.
2. Must be a high school graduate who attends or plans to attend college.
3. May participate on the state level a maximum of two times. Contestants not crowned the state title holder in 2020 may retain their title and compete again in 2021, waiving the mandatory 1 year period between competitions.
4. Must be between the ages of 18 to 24 years on July 18, 2020. For contestants choosing to retain their local title in 2021 and turning 25 prior to the 2021 competition, age requirements will be waived.
5. Must have never been married or have children.
6. Must be in good health, sign a release of liability by the program, and participate in basic health screenings upon arrival to State Competition.
7. Must not hold or pursue another title from the date crowned as a local Miss Hospitality through the conclusion of the State Competition or the end of her reign if crowned Mississippi's Miss Hospitality.
8. Must maintain a minimum 2.5 scholastic average (on a 4.0 system), and arrange a class schedule to be no more than 15 hours per semester if crowned the state title holder. Current transcript must be provided.



PRELIMINARY COMPETITION & JUDGING

All preliminary competition will be conducted virtually on June 16 and 17, 2020. The State Office should be notified by contestants immediately if they are unavailable to interview on these dates. Contestants should ensure a strong internet connection and quiet space is available during their assigned interview times. A unique login code will be provided for each area of competition and further instructions will be provided.

Virtual Panel Interview Competition - 30%

The Panel Interview will be a seven minute judged session held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 via a Go To Meetings video call. Direct, concise, and relevant questions ranging from tourism and economic development, world affairs, state and local politics, and information about Mississippi to personal ambitions, goals, and interests may be asked. An interview suit or dress shall be worn. This area of competition accounts for 30% of each contestant's preliminary score.

Virtual Mississippi Speech Competition - 25%

Each contestant will present an original, memorized 90-second speech based on "How would you promote our state to a visitor of Mississippi?" No visual aids may be used. Contestants will present the speech once to the panel of judges on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 via a Go To Meetings video call. A hometown t-shirt tucked into black shorts shall be worn. This area of competition accounts for 25% of each contestant's preliminary score.

Application, Education, Community Involvement, and Honors - 25%

Contestants will submit a completed copy of the provided application, to be returned typed for review by the judging panel. Contestants will also provide a transcript of their most recently completed semester of studies and a 75-word biography containing education, community involvement, and honors for review. Combined, these components will account for 25% of each contestant's preliminary score.

Overall Presentation - 20%

Contestants will be assigned an overall presentation score determined by each judge individually. This will account for 20% of each contestant's preliminary score.

Preliminary Competition Results

Scores are confidential and will not be shared. A professional tabulator will be employed to determine final scores. Based on preliminary competition scores, an announcement of the Top Ten contestants will be announced on June 19, 2020. All contestants will continue to serve their communities locally as Miss Hospitality, regardless of preliminary outcomes. Only Top Ten contestants will proceed to on-stage competition held July 18, 2020 in Hattiesburg, MS. The same panel of judges will perform preliminary and Top Ten scoring.

COMPETITION SCORING

Preliminary Competition

Panel Interview	30%
MS Speech	25%
Application, Education, Community Involvement, and Honors	25%
Overall Presentation	20%
TOTAL	100%

Top Ten Competition

Panel Interview <i>(brought forward)</i>	20%
MS Speech <i>(brought forward)</i>	15%
Community Commercial	25%
Evening Gown Competition	25%
On-stage Interview	10%
TOTAL	100%

STATE COMPETITION RULES

1. Local contestants must participate in virtual preliminary competition held June 16 and 17, 2020.
2. Each contestant must submit her Official Competition Packet, including typed application, medical release form, official transcript, 75-word typed biography, high resolution headshot, and ad sales and components in a one-time digital submission along with registration fee of \$300 mailed to the State Office. All components are due by **May 29, 2020**. A \$50 late fee will be charged for anything sent after this date.
3. Contestants must sell at least two (2) full pages of advertising at \$350 per page in the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Program Book. A program book will be provided to each contestant.
4. If a contestant is currently enrolled in an out-of-state college or university and wins the State Competition, she must immediately enroll in a college or university in Mississippi. A scholarship will be provided.
5. Contestants must do their own hair and make-up at the State Competition. There will be no one allowed in the accommodations or backstage prior to competition.

TOP TEN COMPETITION

Top Ten competition will be held in Hattiesburg, MS on July 18, 2020. Contestants will arrive in Hattiesburg the morning of Friday, July 17 for rehearsals, events, and dress rehearsal. Rehearsals and events will continue on July 18 with on-stage competition held that evening from 7-9pm. The following areas of on-stage competition will be judged:

Community Commercial Competition - 25%

Contestants will model a solid-colored cocktail dress of their choice. In addition to modeling the dress on-stage, contestants will present an original 20-second commercial on important aspects of their city or county, promoting their hometowns and all its offerings. When selecting a dress, contestants should consider the production number performed during competition.

Evening Gown & Interview Competition - 35%

Contestants will model an evening gown of any color. During the Evening Gown Competition on Saturday night, contestants will be asked an on-stage interview by the emcees, which will be scored separately from the Evening Gown Competition. When selecting a dress, contestants should consider the production number performed during competition.

Top Five Questions

Contestants moving on to the Top Five will model their evening gown while answering questions submitted by the judges.

