



Miss Black Deaf America

ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility Rules

- 1) The contestant must be a deaf or hard of hearing female whose age shall not be less than seventeen or more than twenty-eight? A copy of a birth certificate or other satisfactory document as proof of age shall be required. The contestant must submit a formal audiogram signed by a certified audiologist, showing evidence of bilateral and unaided hearing loss within two years prior to Miss Black Deaf America Pageant.
- 2) The contestant must be a United States citizen before submitting an application for the State Pageant.
- 3) The contestant must be single, never have been married or had a marriage annulled, and must have never given birth to a child.
- 4) The contestant must never have been convicted of any crimes, other than minor traffic infractions (i.e., no felony).
- 5) The contestant must be a high school graduate by the time of the national pageant (Miss Black Deaf America). The contestant may qualify for the State Pageant before graduation from high school.
- 6) The contestant must have fluent receptive and expressive sign communication skills.
- 7) The contestant must submit an official application, an audiogram, a professional photograph, and an entry fee by the deadline stated on the MBDAP entry form.

Judges Criteria:

The contestant shall possess talent, poise, charm, intelligence, inner beauty, social ability, and maturity. The contestant must demonstrate good moral character before and during the State Pageant, and if chosen as Miss Black Deaf America, must maintain exemplary conduct.

The contestant will be judged in five (5) categories:

Private Interview:

Each contestant will have a private interview with the judges during the competition week before the final pageant.

Platform Presentation:

The platform presentation must be made within two (2) minutes on a topic that is very important to her. The contestant will be expected to state her platform idea, explain why she chose that particular platform, explain why she supports that platform, and back up her statements with personal experience, statistics, research, or information to support her concept. Some ideas of platform topics include: literacy, leadership, diversity, accessibility, health, education, etc. If she wins the Miss Black Deaf America title, she will use same platform during her two-year reign.

The platform presentation will be the first category during the pageant. The contestant must wear business attire when presenting her platform, as if she is giving a presentation at a workshop.

Talent:

The contestant must be able to present her talent routine or performance within four (4) minutes. The contestant must present the talent routine live and in person. The contestant must furnish her own props, at her expense, needed for her performance. If her talent runs beyond the four minute limit, she will not get points in the talent portion of her overall score. **Power point presentations and slide presentations will not be allowed. This is not allowed at the national pageant so we want to comply with the national pageant. The purpose of the talent portion is to see how well the contestant can perform in front of an audience and the talent portion is solely based on the contestant so that is why a power point presentation and slide presentation will not be allowed.**

The talent portion is the second category during the pageant. In deciding upon her talent routine, the contestant should consider the fact that she will be performing before a primarily deaf audience. Her talent will be decided by a panel of judges, who will make their decision based primarily on their visual observation of the contestant's talent.

Evening Gown:

The contestant will model in an evening gown during the third portion of the pageant. The gown must be floor length and should be something she would wear to a gala or a military ball.

Onstage Interview:

The contestant, in her evening gown, will have an onstage interview during the fourth portion of the pageant. She will be alone onstage with the master and/or mistress of ceremonies. The contestant will answer two questions. The first question will be a "warm-up" question with no points. The second question will be scored.

Wardrobe:

The contestant must bring her own wardrobe and a costume (if needed) for her talent performance. The wardrobe information is included.

The contestant will be required to do an opening performance at the State Pageant. The contestant coordinator may request the contestant to have a particular outfit for the performance. The contestant must provide the outfit. The outfit will also be worn during the introduction of the contestants in the beginning of the pageant.

Additional Requirements:

- 1) The contestant must send one (1) color 5 x 7 photograph (waist-up) taken by a professional photographer. The background of the pictures should be plain and done in a studio environment. The picture must be submitted no later than April 15th.
- 2) The contestant must be available to attend the MBAP competition week from June 5th to 9th.

- 3) The contestant will follow the schedule given by the Contestant Coordinator and attend all rehearsals, activities, and events as stated during the MBDAP competition week.
- 4) The contestant will sign a contract upon her arrival at the MDTP competition week. In the contract, there will be more rules such as appropriate behavior, curfew, no drinking and drugs allowed, etc.
- 5) The contestant will be responsible for her lodging, transportation, some meals, per diem, and anything that is being stated.
- 6) If a contestant does not win the title of Miss Deaf Texas, she may participate in the Miss Black Deaf America Pageant again, if eligible.
- 7) The winner of the Miss Black Deaf America Pageant shall relinquish the title to the first runner-up should she marry or become pregnant during her reign.
- 8) The winner of the Miss Black Deaf America Pageant shall relinquish her state title to the first-runner up of the state pageant if she wins at the Miss Black Deaf America Pageant to focus on her national duties.
- 9) The winner of the Miss Black Deaf America pageant shall relinquish the title to the first-runner up if she is convicted of crime or any improper conduct during her reign.
- 10) Failure to adhere to any of these rules may automatically disqualify the City representative from competing in either the State Pageant or the National Pageant.

It is mutually agreed upon by and between MBDAP and the contestant that the MBDAP shall have no liability whatsoever to a contestant. The MBDA shall have no liability for loss, damage, or injury resulting from any cause to the property of or to the contestant, or for any lost profits, sales, or business opportunities, or any other type of direct or indirect or consequential damages. It is further understood and agreed that all claims against the MDTP for any such damage, loss, or personal injury are expressly waived by the contestant and assumed as the contestant's responsibility.

The contestant agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the MBDAP from all claims, actions, and suits, including court costs, attorney's fees and other expenses, arising out of the negligent acts or omissions of the contestant.

By signing my name, I am stating that I understand the eligibility rules, criteria for selection, and additional requirements in this document.

City Pageant Entrant Name (print): _____

(Signature): _____

(Date): _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18): _____

(Date): _____

CONTRACT

This is a sample of the contract that you will be required to sign upon your arrival. These rules are to ensure that the Miss Black Deaf America Pageant is a pleasant experience for

We ask you to please observe these rules during your time in St. Louis:

- 1) No alcoholic beverages will be consumed, regardless of age.
- 2) Do not smoke in public.
- 3) No drugs at any time.
- 4) Be sure that your chaperone is with you at all times in public.
- 5) No dating is allowed during the competition week. Your male friend may greet you along with friends and family in the hotel lobby when time permits. (Regarding greeting you in hotel lobby, no kissing or obvious affection allowed).
- 6) No visitors (including family members) in bedrooms and/or dressing rooms please. REPEAT – NO VISITORS! However, contestants may visit each other in their bedrooms and/or dressing rooms. The Co-directors are allowed to visit you anytime.
- 7) Contestants must participate in ALL pageant activities and there will be no exceptions.
- 8) Contestants must wear their city sash at all times.
- 9) Contestants are required to be ON TIME for all pageant activities. REPEAT – ON TIME!!
- 10) The curfew is 11:00 p.m. for contestants and chaperones.
- 11) Do not participate in interviews for radio, television, or newspapers unless you have prior consent of the MDTP State Co-directors.
- 12) Complete and final authority for this pageant rests with the MDTP committee.
- 13) Contestants and chaperones are required to sign a contract, which consists of an agreement to abide by the rules during the competition week.
- 14) Contestant will be automatically disqualified for failure to adhere to the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant rules and guidelines. Immediately upon determination of disqualification, the Miss Black Deaf America Co-Directors shall notify the contestant’s chaperone and city representative (if one is available) of all actions, which have resulted in her disqualification.

I, _____, have observed, do understand, and shall abide by the rules during the competition week from July 2nd until you depart on July 8th.

The undersigned parties below have agreed to the terms and conditions outlined above.

Contestant

Date

Chaperone

Date

THIS AND THAT...

Transportation:

You and your chaperone may either drive to St. Louis or fly to St. Louis airport. Please check the flight schedule and get in touch with Miss Black Deaf America Pageant coordinator to make sure the flight schedule you pick out is acceptable. You are responsible for your own transportation after the pageant.

Meals:

Meals will be on your own

Pageant Accommodations:

All the rehearsals and competition will be at the Hotel in St Louis.

Entry Fee:

Remember to send in your entry fee by the deadline by May 10th 2007

Spending money:

If you want to bring spending money, it is up to you. We will be doing some activities around in St. Louis.

Sash:

Make sure you wear your sash all the time.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

The 2007 Miss Black Deaf America Pageant will follow these guidelines. All of the contestants will have private interviews with the judges prior to the competition. The exact number of contestants going to Finals is based on the total number of contestants in the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant. If we do not have preliminaries, all of the contestants will compete in all categories with exception of the onstage interview. The top contestants will be chosen to go onto the onstage interview.

You are required to do an opening performance at the state pageant. Thus, the Contestant Coordinator will request you to have a particular outfit for the performance. You must provide the outfit. This outfit will also be worn during the introduction of the contestants in the beginning of the pageant. You will be informed of the theme of the pageant and this outfit.

Chaperones are expected to be present and assist with contestants as needed during rehearsals and the Pageant, as well as off stage.

	Preliminaries :(if needed)	Finals:
Private Interview	25%	25 % (carried over)
Business Attire/Platform Presentation	35%	35%
Talent	15%	15%

Evening Gown	10%	10%
On Stage Interview	15%	15%
	100%	100%

Private Interview Competition

- ❖ Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the entire Panel of Judges in a closed room.
- ❖ This competition will take place at a time other than the preliminary and final competitions.
- ❖ Each contestant should wear business attire, which would be a suit or a dress to reflect a career woman. It could be the same one used for platform presentation.
- ❖ Each contestant is counted 25% and judged on:
 - Attire
 - Presentation
 - Content
 - Clarity

Platform Presentation:

- ❖ Each contestant is to wear a business suit of her choice. She should bring an extra suit in case something happens to the original one.
- ❖ Each contestant must be able to present her platform presentation by herself, live and in person within two minutes. Please pay close attention to this two-minute limit; exceeding it can result in disqualification.
- ❖ No props or music allowed.
- ❖ Each contestant should provide at least two copies of her presentation to enable the interpreter to be well prepared to voice for her.
- ❖ Each contestant's platform performance is counted as 35% and is judged on:
 - Overall first impression
 - Presentation (physical carriage)
 - Quality
 - Presentation (delivery)

***You will notice that the highest category is Business Attire/Platform Presentation. The purpose of this change is that the Miss Black Deaf America is looking for a Miss Black Deaf America who will demonstrate intelligence, charm, and is able to give good speeches to different audiences.

Talent Competition:

- ❖ Each contestant must be able to present her talent routine or performance by herself, live and in person within four minutes. Please pay close attention to this four-minute limit; exceeding it can result in disqualification.
- ❖ She must furnish her own props for her performance.
- ❖ If each contestant plans to use audiotape/CD for music background, she must bring at least two tapes in case one breaks.
- ❖ The Contestant Coordinator will coordinate the programs and rehearsals for all contestants and will assist in adjusting sound levels for music, etc.
- ❖ If each contestant plans to use an interpreter to voice for her during this competition, she should provide at least two copies of her presentation to enable the interpreter to be well prepared.
- ❖ Each contestant's talent performance is counted 15 % and judged on:
 - Appropriateness
 - Presentation
 - Creativity/Artistic Expression

Evening Gown Competition:

- ❖ Each contestant is to wear an evening gown of her choice. She should bring an extra gown in case something happens to the original one. The evening gown should be ankle length. Sequins are fine.
- ❖ She is counted 10% and judged on:
 - Overall First Impression
 - Presentation

On Stage Interview Competition:

- ❖ Each finalist will reply to a question asked by the Master and Mistress of Ceremonies during the Final Competition. Questions will be devised by the Panel of Judges prior to the program.
- ❖ Each finalist is to wear an evening gown for this competition, as you will be doing this competition right after the evening gown competition.
- ❖ Each finalist is counted 15% and judged on:
 - Quality of response

YOUR WARDROBE FOR THE 2007 MBDAP

Competition Week:

- ❖ Neat, yet comfortable summer clothes for workshops and rehearsals
- ❖ Casual sundresses for dinners
- ❖ Bathing suit, beach towel, and suntan lotion
- ❖ Shorts – you may wear shorts, they must be 3 inches from your knees (SMILE) – if they are too short, we will tell you to change
- ❖ Shoes as necessary for each outfit
- ❖ Dress or suit for private interview
- ❖ Talent outfit
- ❖ One evening gown for pageant
- ❖ Introduction outfit (we will let you know what you need)
- ❖ Business suit for platform (you can wear the same one as you wear for your private interview)

Additional Hints:

- ❖ It is always a good idea to have plenty of things like extra pantyhose, aspirin, Band-Aids, needles/thread, safety pins, buttons, and so on. Anything can happen – those things will help you handle any surprises or accidents.
- ❖ Each contestant should also come equipped with her own make-up (for on-stage and off-stage). Remember the on-stage lights are very strong, so use stronger make-up. Experiment with make-up on stage before you come to Tyler, so you have an idea of what you look like on-stage.
- ❖ A small hand mirror is also helpful for the dressing room.
- ❖ It is strongly recommended that you bring your own iron.

- ❖ If you plan to have props as part of your talent routine, please bring them.
- ❖ And most important of all, bring cash!

Contestants should remember that during the Competition Week, they will be “in the limelight.” All sorts of people – especially media people- will be around taking pictures and interviewing various people. Neatness and good grooming are essential. Grubby old clothes will not be acceptable!! Toward this end, we discourage blue jeans, tube tops, and halters.

The schedule for the week of competition will be sent out to you as soon as the schedule is finalized.