

# *Miss Monroe County Scholarship Program*

*PO Box 1922*

*Monroe, Michigan 48161-1922*

Spring, 2018

To Our Perspective 2018 Miss Monroe County Contestants:

Welcome and Congratulations on entering a program sponsored by the Miss Monroe County Scholarship Program. You are among a select group of young women who have chosen to participate in a program which recognizes the intellectual and artistic capabilities you possess, and affords you the opportunity to obtain scholarship money to help you pursue your dreams and achieve your goals. With tremendous support from the citizens and businesses of Monroe County and through the dedicated and focused work of the Board of Directors, the 2017 Miss Monroe County Scholarship Program was able to award over \$19,000.00 to the (5)-five young women who competed for the title. The Top 2 Contestants were awarded the following scholarships: Miss Monroe County 2015-\$5,000.00 and 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up-\$2,500.00. Each 2017 Non-Finalist received a \$500.00 Scholarship Award. For the thirteenth year, every contestant who was enrolled as a full-time student at Monroe County Community College received an in-kind scholarship, and due to the generosity of the MCCC Board of Trustees each Contestants received an in-kind scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00. Through the benevolence of the Estate of Judith A. Graning—a long-time Miss Monroe County Pageant Board Member and Seamstress—the Program was able to offer a \$250.00 Non-Finalist Interview Award and a \$250.00 Non-Finalist Talent Award. This year we were also able to offer the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Miss Monroe County Legacy Award-\$750.00; the Bill Wilt Design Community Service Award-\$300.00; the Miss America 1988-Kaye Lani Rae Rafko-Wilson Overall Swimsuit Award-\$250.00; Don Willman Memorial “Miss Congeniality Award”-\$250.00; the Morley Oerther/David Biniecki Memorial Overall Talent Award-\$300.00; Alana Rae Wilson “Be the Difference” Award-\$400.00 and the Brittany Lynn Tincher Style & Grace Award-\$400.00. The Most Advertising Sold contestant received a \$1,000.00 scholarship. It is our desire to increase the scholarship awards given out at the 2018 Pageant and enable the Program to reach new heights through orchestrated teamwork of Contestants, Parents, Citizens, Businesses and Board Members. We are excited to begin this new competition year as we see it to be a wonderful journey.

The 2018 Miss Monroe County Scholarship Pageant will be our 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Pageant and will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at the La-Z-Boy Center—Meyer Theater located on the campus of Monroe County Community College. The Miss Monroe County Scholarship Pageant is an official franchised program of the *Miss America Organization*. The winner of Miss Monroe County 2018 will represent Monroe County in the *2019 Miss Michigan Scholarship Program* and hopefully Monroe County and the State of Michigan in the *2020 Miss America Program* in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The *Miss America Organization* is one of the nation’s leading achievement programs and the world’s largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the *Miss America Organization* and its state and local organizations made available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance.

*In order to be eligible to compete in the Miss Monroe County Scholarship Pageant you must:*

- Be a citizen of the United States of America.
- Reside or be a full-time student, or be employed full-time in Monroe County, State of Michigan.

- Be a registered student at a College/University and submit transcripts as proof thereof upon request.
- Never have been married or have any children.
- Be a high school graduate or hold a GED, and can produce Diploma as proof thereof upon request.
- Be at least (17)-seventeen years of age at the time of your first appearance in the preliminary round of local competition on August 18, 2018, and be no older than (25)-twenty-five years of age on December 31, 2019.
- Have never been convicted of any crime and do not have any criminal charge pending.
- Submit Copy of Birth Certificate and Copy of Driver's License
- Submit (4)-Four 5 X 7 Color Glossy, Head and Shoulder Shots **(ALL ONE POSE)** with Contestant's Name marked on the Back of Each Photograph for Publicity in Newspapers and/or Program Book.
- Possess and display a talent presentation no more than **1 minute, 30 seconds in length – (90 seconds total).**  
*(This talent may be singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, dramatic reading, art display, theater monologue, sports exhibition, dress designing, creative poetry, writing, comedy routine, etc.)*
- Select and Promote a Platform Issue that is:
  - a) Of interest to you.
  - b) An issue of concern to the American people.
  - c) One that clearly displays a personal connection.
  - d) Clear that you have researched, thought about and understand the platform and its impact at the Local, State and National Levels.
  - e) One that you are prepared to articulate your own position on.
  - f) One that you are prepared to promote during your reign as Miss Monroe County 2018, Miss Michigan 2019 and Miss America 2020.

The Platform was developed in order to make the Local Representative a much more relevant entity when appearing throughout her year. Your personal connection to the Platform Issue should be clearly understood, and you should be prepared to articulate your own position on the issues.

The Platform was not instituted to make the Contestant uneasy about not having previously worked towards a specific agenda prior to entering the Program. Nor was it instituted to be the main or only focus of the private interview segment of competition. Furthermore, the Platform choice and/or area of interest is not to be considered by the judges, and political correctness is irrelevant.

Our concern is that each Contestant selects an area of interest, learn all she can, and try to use her position to advance the causes of that Program. The Contestant should also feel comfortable to honestly answer that she recently adopted her Platform Issue, if that is in fact the truth.

- **Raise a minimum of \$100 to support the Children's Miracle Network and the Miss America Scholarship Fund by Monday, July 23, 2018.**

In 1989, the Miss America Organization founded the platform concept, which requires each contestant to choose an issue about which she cares deeply and that is of relevance to our society. Once chosen, Miss America and the state titleholders use their stature to address community-service organizations, business and civic leaders, the media and others about their platform issues. This legacy will continue.

Now, in addition to her personal platform, Miss America will also be a goodwill ambassador for Children’s Miracle Network. This new national platform will provide the Miss America Organization the opportunity to not only raise funds for Children’s Miracle Network, but also to raise additional funds for the Miss America Scholarship Foundation, thus maximizing exposure, awareness and impact for both organizations.

Children’s Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids by raising funds for 170 children’s hospitals across North America. The 170 hospitals affiliated with Children’s Miracle Network help 17 million children each year—kids with cancer, birth defects, pediatric AIDS, accident trauma and every affliction imaginable. These children’s hospitals are there 24 hours a day to provide state-of-the-art care, cutting edge research and community outreach programs that benefit children in every state in the U.S. To find out more about Children’s Miracle Network log onto [www.childrensmiraclenetwork.org](http://www.childrensmiraclenetwork.org).

Service, one of the four points of the crown, has always been important to contestants striving for the opportunity to be Miss America. To build on this, contestants competing at any level in the Miss America system will now be expected to raise a minimum of \$100 to support Children’s Miracle Network and the Miss America Scholarship Fund. This is not an entrance fee, but rather a new service requirement to participate in Miss America sponsored pageants. This service requirement will not only continue the Miss America Organization’s legacy of service and scholarship assistance, but also raise funds and awareness for Children’s Miracle Network.

- Submit a Contestant’s Resume
- Submit a Platform Issue Statement

**The Contestant’s Resume and Platform Statement should be typed on one side of an 8-1/2” X 11” page-using white paper with black ink only.** Your submitted paperwork will be seen by the judges and will be incorporated into your private interview with the judges. Detailed instructions for the resume and platform issue statement as well as samples will be given out at the orientation.

- Undergo a (10)-ten minute interview in front of a panel of (5)-five judges, which includes Answering of Questions posed by a panel of five judges for 9 minutes and 30 seconds and a 30-second Closing Statement.

*The Questions from the Judges can be drawn from, but are not limited to: Relevant Issues to Women of the 2000’s; State and National Issues Relevant to the Contestant; Role and Responsibilities of **Miss America**; Role and Responsibilities of **Miss Michigan**; Role and Responsibilities of **Miss Monroe County**; Current Events; Career Goals and Personal Ambitions; Education; Talent Competition; Platform Issues, etc.*

The judging will emphasize your poise in handling the question, and how well you articulate your beliefs on the issue, not the position you take.

- Compete in a Swimsuit to display your Physical Fitness.
- Compete in an Evening Gown.
- Answer (1)-One On-Stage Question regarding your Platform Issue during the Pageant.

The following are the current competition break-downs, as of today. Some of these guidelines may change pursuant to new directives from the Miss America Organization. You will be notified of any changes that will affect our 2018 Pageant.

- Interview—25%
- On-Stage Question—20%
- Talent—30%
- Evening Wear—15%
- Swimsuit—10%

Competitions are scored on a scale of 1.0 –10.0 using whole numbers. Please keep in mind that the scoring system used in the Miss America Organization is Olympic-type scoring where the highest and lowest scores for each Contestant in each phase of Competition is thrown out. The winner will be selected based on the highest total score that was earned after competing in all five phases of competition.

The Miss Monroe County Scholarship Program is also pleased to offer a \$300 Community Service Award that is sponsored by Bill Wilt Design. Applicants must demonstrate that they have fulfilled a legitimate need in their community through the creation, development, and/or implementation of a community service project. Judges will be instructed to evaluate the applications in terms of the following criteria: Creativity; Positive Impact on the Community; Long-Term Impact; Personal Involvement; Evidence Presented that Applicant’s Involvement was Over and Above the Applicant’s Normal Duties; and Probability of Continuing Involvement by Applicant. All materials submitted must be printed or mounted on 8 ½ x 11 paper and placed in a 2” three-ring binder for judging. Describe in 500 words or less your project or community service. Attach any news articles or photographs relating to your involvement or participation. Be specific as to your involvement in the creative process, as well as, the implementation of the project. Describe what motivated your initial interest in this area and evaluate your time commitment. How have you personally benefited from participation in this project? How has your community benefited from your community service? Attach two letters from individuals who are in a position to evaluate your project. Both letters should have the writer’s address and telephone number listed. One letter should be from a direct supervisor or president of the civic or charitable organization with which you worked. If you created and implemented the project on your own, have this letter written by any local civic leader who can honestly evaluate your contribution. The second letter should be from an individual and/or organization, which has benefited from your community service. Use of the Community Service Award is restricted to tuition, books, and/or educational fees. The winner has two years from the date of the pageant to use the scholarship money. At the end of the two-year period, any unused scholarship money from this award will revert back to the property of the Community Service Award Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of Monroe County.

*All Scholarship Awards must be used for educational purposes within (1)-one year of the date of the 2018 Miss Monroe County Scholarship Pageant.*

Requests for scholarship payment must be made through the:

Community Foundation of Monroe County  
28 S. Macomb Street  
Monroe, Michigan 48161  
Telephone: (734)-242-1976

**Reimbursements shall be paid only upon prior presentation of an original invoice for educational purposes. After the year has elapsed and without timely written request for extension before the year has expired, any unused portion shall be released back to the Scholarship Fund for use in future awards.**

**There is a mandatory Contestant/Parent Orientation Meeting on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at the College in the Administration Building Room #A-173 from 7PM-9PM and an Advertising Meeting that will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at the College in the La-Z-Boy Center in Room #Z-259 from 7PM-9PM.** We are looking forward to working with you! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at: [dsellsmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dsellsmonroe@gmail.com) or via telephone at Cell: (734)-735-6224.

Sincerely,

Dione Oerther  
Executive Director

*Miss Monroe County Scholarship Program Board of Directors:*

*Dione Oerther—Executive Director*

*Melissa Maniaci (Miss Monroe County 1995)—President/MMCOT Director*

*Jennifer Bellestri-Rimanelli (Miss Monroe County 1996)—Vice-President*

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