

Frequently Asked Questions



What are the benefits of entering National American Miss? National American Miss is so much more than just a pageant! Our program is carefully designed to grow your confidence, teach you life-long skills such as interviewing, public speaking and presenting yourself in front of an audience all while gaining a competitive edge to succeed in whichever fields you may choose in your future. Aside from the millions we award contestants each year through scholarships and prizes, you and your family will create lifelong memories & friendships while gaining skills necessary to succeed not only in this competition, but also in life!

Is previous pageant experience required?

Absolutely not. Every girl, regardless of the amount of pageant experience, is very capable of doing well and even being chosen as a state or national representative for National American Miss. We will provide you with all the information, help and tools you will need to be prepared for pageant weekend. We are looking for a confident and enthusiastic young lady who can proudly represent her state. First time contestants make terrific contestants and wonderful representatives!

Is National American Miss a "beauty" or "glitz" pageant?

Definitely not! Our representatives are chosen on the basis of four required areas of competition. 30% of the score comes from her communication skills during her Personal Introduction, 30% from her poise and presentation during the Formal Wear Modeling Competition, 30% on personality, communication and confidence in an Interview, and 10% on participating in our Community Service Project. National American Miss pageants, while glamorous events, are not at all like typical "beauty" pageants. In fact, as you see above, all of the scoring in our pageant is based on personality, confidence and communication. Good communication and presentation skills are what we want to recognize and encourage. Braces, glasses, skin issues, varying heights, weights and appearances, are all a part of creating the special and unique individual that you are and that we want to celebrate!



Do I have to get "coaching" or other formal training?

No. Our official NAM Guidebook, along with the training from our experienced and professional staff, provide you with a solid foundation to create your own style and learn the stage technique for competitions. We also have rehearsals on pageant weekend to ensure that you are prepared to perform your very best when it's your time to take the stage!

What color or style does my formal dress have to be?

While there is no specific color or style that your formal wear dress should be, you'll want to make sure you feel confident and special in the dress. Also keep in mind: *is it age appropriate?* Are you comfortable in the dress and shoes you are wearing? Choose the color and style that looks best on you. Make sure you refer to the guidelines for your age division for dress length etc., found in the official NAM Guidebook.

Are the personal interviews one-on-one?

Yes, the required Interview competition will be conducted one-on-one with each judge. You will rotate until you meet and chat with each of the judges for approximately one minute or less. You will only be asked friendly, age-appropriate and open-ended questions. This is a fun, positive experience that will benefit each contestant in the future.

What is a Sponsor Fee?

The total sponsor fee is \$650 and can be divided into separate payments. The sponsor fee pays for the cost of producing the pageant: *awards, trophies, choreographers, emcees, lighting, sound, staging, judges' expenses, staff, florists, hotel ballroom rental, cash awards, printed materials, scholarships, office support* and all of the many other things that go together to make our program the best it can be for you and your family. You may have as many or as few sponsors as you wish contributing to make up your total sponsor fee of \$650. Businesses, family, friends, or fundraising activities are all great ideas for raising your sponsor fee. Without exception, sponsor fees are non-refundable. Remember, sponsor contributions can cover any pageant-related costs, such as: sponsor fee, production number outfit, final show tickets, optional contests, hotel room, roses, and more, so you don't have to stop at \$650.

What are the National American Miss State Residency Requirements?

Click for details on the [Residency Requirements for NAM.](#)



Do I have to raise my sponsor fee, or can we just pay it ourselves?

It is completely up to you. You can either raise your sponsor fee, or you can just pay it, whichever works best for you and your family. Remember that the total sponsor fee is \$650 and any additional contributions exceeding \$650 can go towards any costs that are pageant-related.

I would love to be in the pageant but how do I get sponsors?

The best place to begin is where your family does business. Great examples are *salons, dry cleaners, insurance companies, banks, doctors, dentists, local stores and businesses*, etc. Call ahead to make an appointment and dress in a professional outfit when you visit them. Visiting potential sponsors is also great practice for your interview. Most sponsors will want to ask you questions about the pageant and you can be prepared by referring to the sponsor pages in the [NAM Magazine](#) for more helpful ideas. Sponsors also receive recognition in your state yearbook and any contribution made towards your sponsor fee from a business is tax deductible for them!

If I choose not to enter Optional Contests, will it affect my chances of winning the overall title?

Absolutely not. Optional contest scores (*Talent, Photogenic, Top Model Search, Runway, Actress, Spokesmodel, Media Correspondent, Casual Wear, Dream Model, Fun Fitness, etc.*) have no impact on the outcome of the overall pageant. Optionals are scored by a completely separate panel of judges. Each optional contest is an opportunity for you to shine and be recognized for your talents and interests.

Do I have to sell advertising to enter?

No, selling advertising is not required. You will be given the opportunity if you wish to sell ads to receive special prizes or awards. This is a great opportunity for you to gain recognition in your community, make sure your hometown and community are recognized in your state yearbook, and earn fun prizes.

Do I have to stay at the pageant host hotel?

You are not required to stay at the pageant host hotel. However, NAM does set up a special discounted block for the State Finalists and their families. It is often well worth taking advantage of the low rate and being right there in the heart of it all. Spend your time having fun and making new friends rather than commuting. Click to learn more about the [Host Hotel](#).

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