

2015 Miss Apple Blossom Festival Scholarship Program

(A local preliminary competition to Miss Virginia & Miss America Scholarship Programs)

Dear Contestant,

On behalf of the Miss Apple Blossom Festival Pageant, I'm inviting you to become one of our contestants for the 2015 pageant, to be held on Saturday, November 15, 2014. We hope to be offering over \$9000.00 in scholarships for our top five winners, along with numerous other gifts and prizes.

Please type your information on the attached Local Contract, fact sheet & eligibility forms. **The forms must be typed and cannot be altered in any way – this is per Miss Virginia guidelines.** The Contract must be notarized and signed. If you cannot get it notarized by rehearsal evening, we have someone at the rehearsal that can notarize it.

With regards to the Contract and eligibility information, please read the eligibility forms very carefully. In order to compete, you must choose eligibility in one of the 3 areas on the form – these are not our rules, but regulations from the Miss America Organization. You may choose eligibility based on residency, education, or employment. You must also send me a copy of your birth certificate with a seal (NOT a birth registration), and a legible copy of your driver's license. If you are proving eligibility by residency and want to use a VA driver's license as a proof, be sure that the issue date of your license is dated at least 6 months prior to the pageant. If you just renewed your license, just have the DMV issue you a form or letter stating that you have had a VA license before your renewal.

If you haven't done so already, please send me a headshot that you'd like to be used in the newspaper and program book (we prefer these photos to be "camera-ready" images). We can use color prints, but black & white reproduce better at the printers.

A platform statement (essay) on an issue that you would address as Miss Apple Blossom Festival (and possibly Miss Virginia) is required. It is an issue that is important to you, a subject that has substance and value, and one that you feel you can influence. Please see the attached instructions for the platform essay. Your name should be at the top of the page and the topic should be identified with a statement title. Remember to tell how you can make a difference with this topic.

A resume is also required, and the details on that will be in the paperwork attached. The platform statement and resume will be given to and read by the judges.

DEADLINE - All required paperwork should be emailed to us at missappleblossom@yahoo.com, OR they can be mailed to Bridget's home address – 819

Armistead Street, Winchester VA 22601 – no later than November 5th, 2014. *But I must have a commitment from you that you'll definitely be competing and your photo no later than October 27th for planning purposes!* I cannot stress the importance of getting all these documents and required eligibility paperwork to me by the October 27th date. If you want your photo in the program book and newspaper, I must have it no later than October 21st! We cannot be held responsible for your photo not appearing in the book/paper if I have not received the photos by October 21st. If you have an issue meeting this deadline, please let me know so we can discuss a solution. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

We consider the receipt of your application as your commitment to competing to our pageant. Therefore, the following will occur once we receive your paperwork:

1.) A pageant sponsor will be secured for you. The area merchants are paying to support you and we do expect you to fulfill your obligation as being their representative. It really is quite embarrassing to have someone drop out at the last moment, so please be sure you can compete. We will ask for a note of apology to the sponsor should you drop out at the last minute.

2.) A chaperone/hostess will be calling you prior to the pageant. This chaperone will open their home to you and will help you pageant preparations. Every contestant will stay with her hostess family on Friday evening, rather than in a hotel. Your chaperone will see that you are where you need to be on time during Friday night and Saturday. Please return their calls/emails promptly.

The new Miss Apple Blossom Festival will come stay with one of us for a week sometime prior to the Miss Virginia pageant in order to prepare for the state competition. This enables you to obtain concentrated and focused attention towards the upcoming state pageant. You will also have the opportunity for several mock interview practices.

If you currently hold another Miss America Preliminary title, I will be glad to call your sponsor in order to grant you permission to participate in our pageant. Should you win the Miss Apple Blossom Festival title, you will have to relinquish your previous title, and you must use the Miss Apple Blossom Festival title from that moment on. However, you will be allowed to attend your other pageant, but you must use our title and not your former title. This is in accordance to Miss America guidelines, and they strongly encourage your participation in as many pageants as you desire to compete after the state pageant is completed.

The new Miss Apple Blossom Festival is the official hostess of the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, held in Winchester from April 30 - May 2, 2015. This is a mandatory appearance! We will provide you with a list of required appearances the day after you win this title.

Also, please note that if you are a finalist winner and are awarded any scholarship money, the scholarship winnings expire on midnight the day before the selection of Miss Apple Blossom Festival 2016. If you do not request your scholarship winnings prior to that day, you will forfeit your scholarship winnings.

I hope you will read over the application thoroughly, complete and mail all necessary materials. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me. Please remember, we need to know by October 27th if you are definitely planning on being a contestant. An email or phone call would be appreciated along with the Miss Apple Blossom information sheet that is found with the initial letter.

Sincerely,

Bridget Aikens, Contestant Co-Chair
819 Armistead Street
Winchester, VA 22601

Crystal Pullen, Contestant Co-Chair
208 Long Green Lane
Winchester, VA 22603

2015 Miss Apple Blossom Festival Scholarship Competition

(A local preliminary competition to Miss Virginia and Miss America Scholarship Programs)

CONTESTANT SCHEDULE

Paperwork: Send all paperwork by **October 27, 2014**. Make sure that your eligibility info is current. Here are some things to note:

1. If you are not a permanent Virginia resident, you must have a lease or utility bill dated at least 6 months prior to the pageant date, or you must have been in college for at least one full semester in Virginia.
2. If you were a student in a Virginia college last semester, please submit grades from your spring semester **and** your fall schedule from the registrar's office. It cannot be printed off the Internet. It must be from the registrar's office in an envelope showing all semesters enrolled.
3. If you are a Virginia resident you may show residency if you are a freshman in college; however we need a high school transcript and a copy of your fall courses from the college registrar.
4. We are sorry to say, but if you are an out of state college freshman you will not be eligible to compete this semester in the pageants.
5. Please be sure that your driver's license is issued at least 6 months prior to the pageant. If you just got your license renewed, you must have a report or letter from the DMV stating that you have had a license in the state before your renewal.

I need everything sent to me on time because if there is an eligibility problem we can try to correct it before it is too late. The Miss Virginia Organization will not let you compete if the eligibility information is incorrect. ***I CANNOT stress the importance of getting all of these documents and required eligibility paperwork in to me by deadline date – it is crucial that you be aware of the deadlines!*** Thank you for understanding the importance of this matter.

Scoring: The following are the scoring values for all local pageants:

Interview – 25%, Talent – 35%, Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit – 15%,
Evening Wear – 20% and On-Stage Interview Question – 5%.

Sponsors: A Sponsor is provided for you and we encourage you to visit their place of business to thank them when you get to town. If they are not at the pageant, please phone them or send them a thank-you note for their sponsorship.

Talent: There can be no duplication of talent among contestants. Please call me or e-mail me ASAP with your talent type and title – it is on a First Come, First Served basis. If duplicate requests are received, the date received will determine which request is accepted. I need your CD of music accompaniment that you will use, if applicable. Please make an additional copy of the CD and bring that rehearsal, just in case the copy you sent me doesn't work at rehearsal (we have had that happen before!). And remember, the talent is limited to 90 seconds.

Rehearsals: **Since we only have ONE dress rehearsal, attendance at the rehearsal is extremely important and mandatory!** Please be on time...we are teaching the opening number first.

Chaperones: You will be assigned a chaperone/hostess who will take care of you during your stay in Winchester. They will be calling you a week or two before the pageant. You will stay with them on Friday evening, and they will transport you where you need to be at the given times. Please return their calls if they have left you a message.

DEADLINES AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

October 27, 2014 – All contestants must have turned in the following:

1. typed and signed application,
2. contestant eligibility form and copies of ALL eligibility documentation,
3. copy of U.S. driver's license,
4. contract signed and notarized (if needed, the documents can be notarized at rehearsal, but send it to us by the deadline),
5. picture emailed by October 21st (or 3 copies, any size, if mailed),
6. platform essay & resume,
7. talent accompaniment CD,
8. copy of your birth certificate.

Please email all this information to Bridget & Crystal at missappleblossom@yahoo.com, or mail to Bridget at – 819 Armistead Street in Winchester, Virginia 22601.

FRIDAY, November 14, 2014 - 4:45 pm UNTIL 10 pm – FULL DRESS REHEARSAL
is at Daniel Morgan Middle School Auditorium (located at 48 S. Purcell Avenue in Winchester). *This is a full dress rehearsal – please bring your opening number outfit, evening gown, talent outfit and swimsuit.*
OPENING NUMBER ATTIRE – black pants and bright or sparkly pink top.

PAGEANT DAY:

SATURDAY, November 15, 2014 – INTERVIEWS will be held at the Aikens Group/H & W Construction Co. office building located at 1025 Martinsburg Pike in Winchester. Interview times – TBD. Your chaperone will transport you here.

The **MISS APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL PAGEANT** will take place that evening at 7:00 p.m. (November 15th) at Daniel Morgan Middle School Auditorium, Winchester. ***All contestants MUST be at the school no later than 5:30 p.m.***

The **AFTERGLOW PARTY** will begin promptly after the pageant. It is expected that every contestant attend the party (only contestants are free of charge). The Party location has yet to be determined, but we will pass that information along to you as soon as we can.

HOTELS – Suggested for family and friends:

Fairfield Inn Marriott
250 Front Royal Pike
Winchester, VA 22602
540-665-8881

Hampton Inn
1204 Berryville Avenue
Winchester, VA 22601
540-678-4000

Hilton Garden Inn
120 Wingate Drive
Winchester, VA 22601
540-722-8881

Courtyard by Marriott
300 Marriott Drive
Winchester VA 22602
540-678-8822

Please call or email if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in November!

Bridget Aikens & Crystal Pullen
Contestant Co-Chairs
Miss Apple Blossom Festival