

2019 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 2019 pageant, to be held on Saturday, October 27, 2018. **We are looking to be offering nearly \$10,000.00 cash and in-kind scholarships for our top five winners, along with numerous other gifts and prizes from individuals and businesses from the Winchester community.**

Please type all your information on the attached Local Contract, fact sheet & all other required eligibility forms. **The forms must be typed and cannot be altered in any way – this is per Miss Virginia guidelines. And your Contract must be notarized!** Please mail me the original notarized Contract. If you scan and email it to me, you **MUST** be sure you bring the original Contract to rehearsal!

Please read the Contract and 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; please review the contract to make sure that you will not "age-out" this year. If you are proving eligibility by residency and want to use a Virginia driver's license as proof, please 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, you must have the DMV issue you a form or letter stating that you have had a Virginia license before your renewal.

If you haven't done so already, please send me a headshot to be used in the newspaper and program book (email it best, and we prefer these photos to be "camera-ready" images). We can use color prints, but black & white photos 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 a social impact issue that is important to you, a subject that has substance and value, and one that you feel can influence or benefit others. 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.

PAPERWORK DEADLINE – Once completed, please email all paperwork to missappleblossom@yahoo.com, OR you can mail it to Bridget's home address – 711 Apple Pie Ridge Road, Winchester VA 22603 – PLEASE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 18, 2018!!!

However, I prefer to have a commitment from you that you'll definitely be competing AND your photo no later than October 15th for planning purposes! I cannot stress the importance of getting all these documents and required eligibility paperwork to me by the October 18th date. If you want your photo in the program book and newspaper, I must have it no later than October 15th – this is the printer's deadline! Please understand that you can definitely still compete here, but we cannot be held responsible for your photo not appearing in the book/newspaper if I have not received the photos by October 15th. 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 in the 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. We understand that sometimes unexpected things do occur which requires one to drop out at the last minute, but since we secure a sponsor for you, we will ask for a note of apology to the sponsor should you drop out at the last minute.

2.) If you are not from the Winchester area, a chaperone/host family will be calling you the week of the pageant. We offer this opportunity only to contestants that are not from the area in order to help offset hotel costs. This chaperone will open their home to you and will help you with your pageant preparation if desired. 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. However, if you prefer to stay in a hotel (at your own cost), please let us know.

The new Miss Apple Blossom Festival will 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, and 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 will be the official hostess of the 92nd Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, held in Winchester from April 26 - May 5, 2019. This is a mandatory appearance! If you have a school conflict (like exams) we will work it out with your school as we have done so in the past. We will provide you with a list of additional appearances the day after you win this title. You do **NOT** need to be here the entire week of the Festival.

Also, please note that if you are a finalist and are awarded any scholarship money, the scholarship winnings expire on midnight the day before the selection of Miss Apple Blossom Festival 2020. 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. Please complete and email/mail all necessary materials. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email me. Please remember, we need to know NO LATER THAN October 15th if you are definitely planning on being a contestant. An email would be appreciated with the entry form that is found within the initial welcome letter.

Sincerely,

Bridget Aikens, Contestant Co-Chair
711 Apple Pie Ridge Road
Winchester, VA 22603

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

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / REQUIREMENTS:

Paperwork: Send all paperwork **ASAP**, but no later than **October 15th 2018**. 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. If it is printed from the internet, the web address of the school **MUST** be visible. Or you can get it 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 pageant.
5. Please read and check the age requirement in the contract to make sure you do not **"age-out"** this year.
6. Please be sure that your **driver's license is issued at least 6 months prior to the pageant date**. If you just got your license renewed, you must have a report or a letter from the DMV stating that you have had a license in the state before your renewal, or send us a copy of your expired license.

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 any eligibility information is incorrect.** That is why I stress the importance of getting all of these documents and required eligibility paperwork 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 – 30%, Lifestyle & Fitness in Swimsuit – 10%,
Evening Wear – 15% and On-Stage Interview Question – 20%.

****Please note that these scoring values MAY change ... if they do we will let you know right away. The outcome of the pageant will be based on points along – there is NO final ballot.**

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 to rehearsal, just in case the copy you sent me doesn’t work at rehearsal (we have had that happen before!). Please 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.

Teen-in-Training and Princess Requirement: The new Miss Apple Blossom Festival will be required to select a Teen-in-Training and a Princess that will accompany her for several days during Miss Virginia week in Roanoke. Please note – you are not responsible for any of the costs or paperwork associated with the Princess Program, and neither is the Miss Apple Blossom Pageant – all costs and paperwork is the strictly the responsibility of the Teen-in-Training and Princess’ parent(s)/ guardian/family, etc. All paperwork will be due at the Miss Virginia Workshop, which is typically the first or second weekend in April, so please be sure your Teen-in-Training and Princess are selected in plenty of time. Please be aware that the Miss Apple Blossom Pageant committee will not be responsible for selecting your Teen-in-Training and Princess.

Chaperones: If you are not from the Winchester area, 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 to where you need to be at the given times. Please return their calls if they have left you a message.

DEADLINES AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

PAPERWORK NEEDED – All contestants must turn in the following:

1. Typed and signed initial application;
2. Contestant eligibility form and copies of ALL eligibility documentation;
3. All portions of the contract, signed AND notarized;
4. Headshot emailed no later than October 15th ;
5. Platform essay & resume;
6. Talent accompaniment CD;
7. Copy of your drivers license & birth certificate;
8. Copy of CMNH Qualification report (due no later than rehearsal night)

Please email all this information to Bridget & Crystal at missappleblossom@yahoo.com, or mail to Bridget at – 711 Apple Pie Ridge Road in Winchester, Virginia 22603.

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018 – 5:00 pm UNTIL 10 pm - at Daniel Morgan Middle School Auditorium (located at 48 S. Purcell Avenue in Winchester). ***This is a full dress rehearsal, so please bring your opening number outfit, evening gown, talent outfit and swimsuit.***

*****OPENING NUMBER ATTIRE***** – Black cocktail dress with a pink accessory (can be jewelry, shoes, scarf, etc).

PAGEANT DAY:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018 – PRIVATE INTERVIEWS (times TBD) will be held at the Aikens Group/H&W Construction Co. office building located at 1025 Martinsburg Pike in Winchester. Interview times will be given to you at rehearsal, but our interview sessions will begin around 10:00 am. If you have a chaperone, they will transport you here.

MISS APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL PAGEANT - 4:00 p.m. at Daniel Morgan Middle School Auditorium, in Winchester. ***All contestants MUST be at the school no later than 2:30 p.m.***

HOTELS – Suggested for family and friends:

Hampton Inn	Fairfield Inn Marriott	Hilton Garden Inn
1204 Berryville Avenue	250 Front Royal Pile	120 Wingate Drive
Winchester, VA 22601	Winchester, VA 22602	Winchester, VA 22601
540-678-4000	540-665-8881	540-722-8881

See you in October! Please let us know if you have any questions at all!

Bridget Aikens
Contestant Chair, Miss Apple Blossom Festival