



## *Miss Chautauqua Pageant*

PO Box 911, Wytheville, VA 24382

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Dear Prospective Contestant,

We have some exciting changes coming to our Miss Chautauqua Pageant this year! The Wythe Arts Council is partnering with the Miss America Organization. We will be making the Miss Chautauqua Pageant a preliminary pageant for the Miss Virginia Pageant in Teen and Miss categories! The Miss America system is a wonderful scholarship program that has helped many young women pay towards their education. Because of deadlines for Miss Virginia, our Teen and Miss winners from this year's pageant will be attending the 2018 Miss Virginia Pageant. We will also be splitting the pageant up by age in order to prepare for this change and to meet the eligibility requirements for Miss Virginia. The Baby Miss, Wee Miss, Little Miss and Junior Miss categories will be competing on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at George Wythe High School as they have done in the past. The Teen (formerly Young Miss) and Miss categories will be competing at a later date TBD. Be prepared that some of the guidelines will change for the Teen and Miss categories in order to comply with the Miss America Organization's standards. Some changes we know for sure will be the addition of Interview, Talent, Lifestyle and Fitness (swimsuit for Miss and shorts and t-shirt for Teen)) and Onstage Question categories. These are all categories that contestants at Miss Virginia are required to compete in so we must be sure they will be able to be competitive in all areas. The age group requirements are as follows:

- Teen – must be a young lady between the ages of 13 and 17, prior to her senior year of high school
- Miss – must be between the ages of 17-24 and a high school graduate

The contestants should base their eligibility for each category by what their age will be on December 31, 2017.

Another exciting change to this year's pageant for the younger girls is the addition of an *optional* Photogenic category. Contestants may enter as many headshots as they would like. The first entry would be \$10 and any additional entries will be \$5. There will be a winner in each age group for this category but it will not go towards the final score. You do not have to participate in Photogenic in order to win the pageant. You may enter and pay for the Photogenic category when you arrive at the pageant on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you have aged out of the younger categories and are interested in competing in the Teen/ Miss Pageant, please let us know by either indicating your interest below and mailing it back to us, emailing us at [misschautauqua@wythevillefestival.org](mailto:misschautauqua@wythevillefestival.org) or calling Karen Melton at 615-477-1598. We will be sure to send you more information and an application for that pageant as soon as we have everything ready to go!

We know change can be confusing or scary at times but we are very excited about these changes and believe it will provide a great opportunity for our girls.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes I am interested in more information/ an application for the Teen/ Miss Pageant. (Only for girls age13-24)