

**MISS MIAMI GARDENS**

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INC.**

**P.O. Box 552213**

**Miami Gardens, FL 33056**

[**www.MissMiamiGardens.org**](http://www.MissMiamiGardens.org)

**About the Miss Miami Gardens**

**Scholarship Program**

* The Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Pageant was initially established in 2007 by the Miami Gardens City Council, under the leadership of former Councilman Melvin L. Bratton. The pageant continued from 2007-2011, awarding five young women with financial scholarships, who would then go on to represent the City of Miami Gardens at the Miss Florida Pageant.
* In October 2022, the program was relaunched as the Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Program, Inc., a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and the sole fundraising entity for the Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Pageant. With the return of the Miss Miami Gardens Pageant in February 2024, the program will award two Titles and two scholarships including Miss Miami Gardens & Miss Miami Gardens Outstanding Teen, both of which are official local preliminaries to [Miss Florida](https://www.missflorida.org/), [Miss America](http://missamerica.org/) and [Miss America's Outstanding Teen](https://www.missamerica.org/maoteen/) Competitions.
* The [Miss America Organization](http://www.missamerica.org/), one of the nation’s leading achievement programs and one of the world’s largest providers of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available millions in cash and scholarship assistance.

* Participating in the Miss America program helps young women pay for college and prepare for a career through hands-on leadership; all while gaining life experience, working on issues of importance to society, enhancing personal and professional skills and developing artistic expression.

**Our Mission Statement**

The Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Program is dedicated to providing scholarships for young women to continue their education.

Our goal is to uphold the unique tradition of the Miss America Organization, by empowering women with the experiences and scholarships that will allow them to achieve their educational goals, while developing their presentation skills, talents, and confidence.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

* **TAVARES JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Tavares Jones serves as the Executive Director of the Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Program.

His experience spans over 15 years within the Miss America Organization, serving as a Certified Judge, Board Member and Co-Executive Director for several local preliminary pageants in Florida, Georgia, Ohio and Arkansas.

Beyond his work with the Miss America Org., Tavares works as a television News Anchor & Journalist at WSVN-TV Channel 7 News, South Florida’s Fox News Affiliate. A graduate of the University of Florida, he holds dual degrees in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. Tavares also devotes much of his time serving various organizations including the United Way, Children’s Miracle Network, Catholic Charities, and the Ryan White Foundation. Tavares is proud to be a part of and committed to preserving one of our nation’s leading achievement programs and the world’s largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women, the Miss America Organization.

* **LATOTA PORTER, BOARD MEMBER & DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

* **LORRAINE WRIGHT, BOARD MEMBER & SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR**
* **KATIVA JERRY, BOARD MEMBER & JUDGE’S CHAIR**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

* **KRISTYN LETTE, BOARD MEMBER & DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

* **JANEY TATE, BOARD MEMBER & MARKETING / PUBLIC AFFIARS CHAIR**
* **….., BOARD MEMBER & FINANCE CHAIR**

**ABOUT THE MISS MIAMI GARDENS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

* Candidates in the **Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Pageant** gain experience through participation in interviews, talent performances, public speaking, promoting social impact initiatives, and social media interaction. Cash and in-kind educational scholarships are available to all young women who advance to the Miss Florida state competition.
* **PHASES OF COMPETITION:**

1. Personal Interview with Judges
2. On stage interview & Social Impact Pitch
3. Talent Competition
4. Evening Wear

* **Miss Miami Gardens Pageant Scoring Guidelines:**
* 35%    Private Interview with Judges
* 15%    Onstage Question/Social Impact Pitch
* 35%    Onstage Talent Performance
* 15%    Red Carpet (Evening Wear)
* Each candidate will be required to have a social impact initiative that they will advocate during their year of service as Miss Miami Gardens. Each candidate should select a Social Impact Statement in relation to a cause or issue that she has a strong personal commitment, involvement, or conviction.

## **Miss America Scoring System**

There are four areas of competition in the Miss America Organization. This is a review of each phase of competition and the judging criteria.

* The same panel of five judges will score each phase of competition. Each candidate is scored individually, not comparatively and is scored immediately after she completes each phase of competition.
* The Olympic Scoring System is used. Scores are 1-10, whole numbers only. The high and low scores are dropped. The remaining scores are combined, and percentages figured. The total score for each candidate determines the result of the competition.
* **PRIVATE INTERVIEW**  
  The interview will be conducted on the day of the pageant. It is 35% of the total score. Your wardrobe selection should be age appropriate and could be pants, skirt, or dress. Choose something that you would wear for a job interview.
* You will be introduced as you enter the room and will speak from a podium. The nine- and one-half minute interview will begin immediately. When the time has elapsed, you will be offered a chance to clarify anything or make a closing statement of up to 30 seconds. Questions are on general topics, current events, items from your resume, and from your social impact essay.
* This is your opportunity to let the judges get to know you. The judging will emphasize your poise in handling the questions and how well you articulate your beliefs on the issue, not the position you take.
* The judges are looking for: overall first impression, qualities and attributes of Miss America, positive role model, knowledge and understanding of your Social Impact Initiative, ability to fulfill job responsibilities, confidence and commanding presence, personality, appearance and attractiveness, validated opinions and responses, ability to express feelings and defend beliefs, energy, intelligence, and communication skills (speech, vocabulary, and grammar).
* **TALENT**  
  Talent is 35% of the total score. The time limit for your talent is ninety seconds. The candidate must begin and finish onstage. No live animals or dangerous props are allowed (fire baton or swords). All props must be functional and an integral part of the talent. No enhanced lighting is allowed.
* When choosing your talent music and content keep in mind the values and image of the Miss America Organization. The Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Program has the right to ban music, movement, costume, or content deemed inappropriate.
* The judges are looking for: overall first impression, interpretive ability, technical skill, stage presence, totality of all elements including costume, music, and choreography, quality of the performance, and entertainment value.

**ON-STAGE INTERVIEW and SOCIAL IMPACT PITCH**

* This phase of the competition is an extension of the private interview and is worth 15% of the total score. The question is written by the judges after each interview and before the next interview begins.
* The question will not be about your Social Impact Initiate. The time limit to answer the question is 20 seconds and a timer will be used. Immediately following the Onstage Question, the candidate will deliver a 10 to 20 second Social Impact Pitch (SIP), which at her discretion can include a statement on the initiative’s importance, her work, and plans with the initiative, or other information.
* Attire is the candidate's choice and can be what you wore to the private interview or something a little "showier" since it is part of the production. This is a chance for you to show your personality through your choice of attire.
* The judges are evaluating your extemporaneous responses to the onstage question, sense of empowerment, and passion for your SII. Other judging criteria includes poise, confidence, and comfort level in speaking before a large audience.  
    
  **RED CARPET (EVENING WEAR)**
* This phase is 15% of the total score. The contestant’s entire look and stage presence is taken into consideration The judges are looking for: overall first impression, sense of confidence, walk, posture, carriage and grace, personality, stage presence, beauty and sense of attractiveness, appropriateness of the evening wear.
* A note on wardrobe selection in all phases of competition: always choose something that compliments your personality. You are judged on the total look and overall first impression; not the outfit itself or price of the outfit. Choose a style, color, and fit, that is becoming to you.

**ABOUT THE MISS MIAMI GARDENS OUTSTANDING TEEN**

**SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

* Candidates in the **Miss Miami Gardens Outstanding Teen Pageant** gain experience through participation in interviews, talent performances, public speaking, promoting social impact initiatives, and social media interaction. Cash and in-kind educational scholarships are available to all young women who advance to the Miss Florida state competition.
* **PHASES OF COMPETITION:**

1. Private Interview
2. On Stage Question
3. Talent
4. Evening Wear & Social Impact

* **Miss Miami Gardens Outstanding Teen Pageant Scoring:**
* 25%    Private Interview with Judges
* 15%    Onstage Question
* 40%    Onstage Talent Performance
* 20%    Evening Wear & Social Impact Pitch
* Each candidate will be required to have a social impact initiative that they will advocate during their year of service as Miss Miami Gardens Outstanding Teen. Each candidate should select a Social Impact Statement in relation to a cause or issue that she has a strong personal commitment, involvement, or conviction.

## **Miss America’s Outstanding Teen**

## **Scoring System**

**INTERVIEW**

* The Private Interview competition is the first opportunity to meet the panel of five judges.  The duration of the interview will be ten minutes.  During this time each contestant will be able to converse with the judges about their goals and aspirations as well as express their personal opinions. The judges will be looking for a sharp and tasteful woman that is sure of herself, current events and platform. This portion of the competition counts for 25% of the final score.

**ON STAGE QUESTION**

* Each contestant is asked one question, which is a continuation of the private interview.  The judges will be looking for personality, intelligence, speech, vocabulary and style. This phase of the competition counts for 15% of the final score.

**TALENT**

* The Talent phase of competition allows each contestant to demonstrate artistic craft.  The presentation will not be more than 90 seconds in duration.  Some examples of talents performed within the Miss America Pageant System include singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, comic or dramatic reading, baton, acrobatic movements, etc.  Contestants are responsible for providing their own music or arrangements.  Judges will be looking for interpretive ability, technical skill level, stage presence and integration of elements (costume, choreography, music and props) used in the presentation.  Talent represents 40% of the final score.

**EVENING WEAR & SOCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

* The evening wear competition consists of presentation in formal evening attire. Judges will look for sense of confidence, personality, stage presence, walk, poise and elegance. This phase of competition, as well as the Social Impact Statement, counts for 20% of the final score.

**SOCIAL IMPACT**

* Your Social Impact Initiative allows you to explain to the judges your subject matter choice, how you choose to advocate for it during your year and the metrics for you see for success at the close of your Year of Service. In addition, it should explain how your advocacy will further the Miss Florida Organization mission. Each contestant is required to have a Social Impact Statement about which she feels strongly.  It is best to choose a cause or issue for which the contestant has a strong personal commitment, involvement or conviction.

**CANDIDATE AGE & RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

**AGE**

* Miss Miami Gardens candidates must be between 19-26 years of age.
* Miss Miami Gardens’ Outstanding Teen candidates must be between 13- 18 years of age.

**RESIDENCY**

Must fulfill ONE of the following:

* Candidates must reside, work, or be successfully enrolled in and physically attending classes on a full-time basis at an accredited college or technical school in the City of Miami Gardens, reside, work, or attend school in one of the following approved address zip codes: 33014, 33054, 33055, 33150, 33056, 33169, 33175, 33179, 33269.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

* Candidates must be in reasonably good health to meet the job requirements.
* Participate in fundraising for the Miss America Foundation, which includes registering on www.MissAmerica4kids.com and raise $100 on behalf of the Children’s Miracle Network to compete in the Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Pageant.
* Meet character criteria set forth by the Miss America Organization.
* Candidates must be able to meet the time commitment and job responsibilities as set forth by the Miss Miami Gardens Scholarship Program, Inc. should she win the title.

(The titleholder will enter a contract with the organization)

* Candidates must not now, nor have ever been married, nor has had a marriage annulled, nor will get married during the Year of Service.

\*Both the phases of the competition and age/residency requirements are subject to change

# **Application**

* First, you will need to register through the [Miss America website](https://www.missamerica.org/sign-up/). You will need to select the correct state (FLORIDA) and enter “Miss Miami Gardens” as the competition you would like to enter.
* Second, enter your information below to receive the application packet.

### APPLICATION PART ONE

**Which Pageant would you like to compete? (Please circle one)**

* **Miss Miami Gardens 2024**
* **Miss Miami Gardens Outstanding Teen 2024**

**Top of Form**

**Full Legal Name:**

**Date of Birth:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**Zip:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Education & Highest Grade Level Completed:**

**Talent you will be presenting:**