

# A Personal Word from your State Director!

On behalf of everyone at National American Miss, we can't wait to see you & your family at the State Pageant. It is our sincere goal that each young lady walks away with a new-found sense of confidence & excitement about who she is & what she can accomplish. Your State Pageant will be fun & filled with many special memories for your family & the new friends you will make. However, there are some things I would like to briefly address. **The below is an important read:**

**PERSPECTIVE:** This experience IS about having a time to allow her to truly feel special, gain confidence, learn life-long skills, & enjoy with your family. It IS NOT about who wins this or that. The gauge of how well you do is not measured by what you achieve in terms of awards, but what you achieve in growth & confidence!

**ATTITUDE:** I once participated in pageants & my family & I were once in your shoes. My parents often found themselves getting caught up in the results. They often found themselves with the attitude of "our goal is for her to make it into the top semi-finalists." What they did not realize is that by not just vocalizing this, but by having this mind-set, they were pressuring me to PLEASE MY PARENTS! This affected my confidence...and it showed on stage. If you find yourself thinking this, STOP! Do not voice these types of comments. Do not take away from her confidence, put un-necessary pressure on her, or ruin the magic & excitement that NAM brings to girls.

**RUMORS AND/OR GOSSIP:** During the pageant, there will be times that you might socialize with other parents, etc. To a few people, this time must be filled with the spreading of gossip. DO NOT BE A PART OF IT! It is not good for your family. If there is anything that appears to be contrary to the rules, what you have received in the material, or that you feel has anything to do with issues of fairness, find me or one of our Official Staff Members immediately & lets talk about it! GOSSIP HAS NO PLACE AT NAM!

**JUDGES:** We provide the most even & fair level playing field at NAM. Our judges come from a variety of backgrounds. Each judge takes place in a mandatory judges meeting prior to the pageant & are briefed on the scoring, as well as the rules & guidelines of each competition. These are the exact same rules that are given to you in your Magazines. Judges are qualified & consistent. Judges are not related to any of the contestants & if a judge happens to know a girl personally (and the odds of this do occasionally happen - it's a small world), then that judge refrains from scoring that girl & the average of the other judges scores take the place of that particular judges scores. This does not help, nor hurt, that particular girl!

**SCORING PROCEDURE:** Judges ONLY score contestants DURING the competitions. If they happen to see a contest, for example, in the lobby, they are not scoring her then. They are not told to look for a specific look or specific girl. They are not even allowed to discuss contestants amongst themselves. The scores are tallied on a computer and triple-verified. For Optional Contests, those tabulated scores are the final results & are announced during the Final Show. However, for the Required Competitions, the sum of those scores determines the top finalists. During the Final Show, judges will utilize the presentation of the contestants in their formal wear to individually re-rank the top finalists. They are not scoring them at this time. Judges will use ballots that they will receive just prior to the beginning of the Final Show to rank. As with any pageant or similar competition, the judges are taking this final opportunity to more closely evaluate each of these top scoring girls to determine if they embody NAM & being "Today's Girl." Her preliminary scores are taken into consideration during this re-ranking process, as well. These top scoring finalists are not announced until the end of the show. Until then, ONLY the judges and our judges coordinator know who they are. These rankings are tabulated at the conclusion of the presentation of contestants in their formal wear, and from that final tabulation alone, the new State Queen is determined.

**STRESS:** As a prior pageant competitor, I can honestly say that at times it was a bit stressful for my family. But, when it comes to family activities, stress comes with anything - from family vacations to school activities. The best way to avoid stress at NAM is to be prepared! Read the magazine & info provided.

**HOTEL:** If you are planning on staying at the host pageant hotel, hopefully you have made your reservations by now. If not, do so immediately. All hotel information can be found at [www.namisso.com](http://www.namisso.com). You want to let them know you are with NAM to receive the Discounted Rate. If the hotel is sold out of rooms, then ask them for a nearby hotel.

**TICKETS:** All pageant competitions are FREE for family & friends to attend, except the FINAL SHOW. Everyone (this includes parents, grandparents, siblings, etc.) needs a ticket if they are wanting to watch the Final Show. Escorts are not utilized during the Final Show. If your escort is attending the Final Show, they need a ticket. Each ticket is \$25 & you will purchase & pick them up at Pageant Check-In. We do not take checks for tickets, either.

**PAGEANT BOUTIQUE:** There will be a Pageant Boutique at your state pageant that will offer all kinds of sassy souvenirs for you to take home. You may want to bring extra spending money as these items are quite popular. Most families bring an additional \$25-\$50 for souvenirs.

**PHOTO/VIDEO:** There is no video recording allowed of any type during any NAM competition. You are welcome to take photos, but please stay in your seat & be respectful of those around you. We will provide a professional photographer and videographer at the Pageant who will be capturing all on stage events. You are welcome to visit their table at the Pageant to talk about photo and/or video packages.

**AWARDS:** We are very proud to award all prizes AT our event.

**CRASH COURSE:** Be sure to attend the Optional Crash Course. The date & time is on your Schedule. This event is \$25 for the family to attend. Additional info can be found in Magazine #2 & inside virtual training.

**STATE PAGEANT YEARBOOK:** We try to publish EVERY contestants photo & list of sponsors in the State Pageant Yearbook. You will receive 1 FREE COPY of the Yearbook at Pageant Check-In. If you do not see yourself in the Yearbook, it is because we DID NOT receive your photo and/or sponsor list by the deadline. However, do not worry it does not affect your score in any way.

For more than 25 years, my family has produced hundreds of pageants across the Country. NAM meets the integrity & dependability that your family expects! If you have any questions, please contact us....and get ready for the experience of a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Breanne & Ryan Ewing

