

# MAO Teen Cheat Sheet

## ABOUT MAO TEEN

Miss America's Outstanding Teen, Inc. has been organized to encourage positive achievement by helping to nurture and build the scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living, and community involvement of our nation's youth. Among its initiatives, Miss America's Outstanding Teen, Inc. hosts a national competition intended to encourage and reward the talent, communication skills, community service, and academic achievement of girls between 13 and 17 years of age.

The Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization has also established community-based initiatives and mentoring programs aimed at helping our nation's youth build character and gain the skills necessary for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, community and business leaders, as well as participants from the national competition, the Organization continues to implement programs aimed at helping young people develop strong values, leadership skills, social conscience, self-worth and conviction about their own potential. The Organization's mentoring and community-based initiatives are available to all young people (male and female) between the ages of 13 and 17.

Funds raised by the Organization are used to fund scholarships for deserving young people according to guidelines established by the Organization's Board of Directors in accordance with Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations. Funds are also used to establish and develop the Organization's mentoring program and community-based initiatives.

The Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization has been awarding scholarships to individuals on the basis of academic merit and civic and social achievement. Scholarships are awarded without condition or obligation to provide future services.

Founded in 2005, Miss America's Outstanding Teen, Inc. has become one of the top scholarship providers for teen girls in the United States! All of our participants, on the local, state, and national levels, have been the recipients of valuable scholarship assistance upon graduation from high school. In just a few short years, we have made available almost \$5,000,000 in cash and in-kind scholarships.

As of September 2012, we have written scholarship checks for over \$611,000 to more than 150 different colleges and universities across the country. All of our scholarships are paid directly to the institution attended by our participants and cover tuition, books, and room and board. (Some restrictions apply.) We make No individual cash payments, so we know all our scholarships are being used for educational purposes.

We believe that education is key to a person's success and we are proud to be able to assist so many outstanding teens with their college expenses.

*Total Cash Scholarships Paid To Date: \$751,491.52*

## MAO TEEN AND CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

For the past two decades, the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has teamed up with Miss America to raise awareness and funds for children around the country suffering from life threatening diseases. We are incredibly excited to also be working closely with the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the **official national platform of Miss America's Outstanding Teen**. Miss America's Outstanding Teen is also the National Teen Ambassador for Children's Miracle Network.

We are asking each contestant to set a minimum goal that will raise \$100 for a Local Pageant, \$250 for a State Pageant and \$500 for the National Pageant to benefit the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Scholarship Fund and the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. This is a voluntary program offered to the teens competing. For more information visit [www.maoteen4kids.org](http://www.maoteen4kids.org).

## WHO IS MISS STATE'S OUTSTANDING TEEN? *(Excerpt from Judges Orientation outline, MAOT)*

It is our belief that we are looking for a teen to fulfill certain responsibilities. Miss State's Outstanding Teen:

- Is a teen.
- She typically lives at home.
- She is still a full time high school (or middle school) student.
- Being Miss Local's Outstanding Teen, Miss State's Outstanding Teen, or Miss America's Outstanding Teen is a privilege and an opportunity... it is **not** really a "job".
- Travel and appearances will typically not interfere with her studies and school activities.

We want to emphasize that we are not looking for a particular “**kind**” of young woman at the state level or at the national level of the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Organization, although she needs to meet the criteria for each competition category. Since being Miss Local’s Outstanding Teen, Miss State’s Outstanding Teen, or Miss America’s Outstanding Teen is not her “job”, she can be any “kind” of accomplished young woman. This means she can be or have a desire to be an athlete, scientist, cheerleader, band member, artist, debater, interested in politics, cooking, acting, or interested in marrying and having children in the future. We ask that you keep an open mind and an open heart and that special young woman will make herself known to you. Our determination of the best teen to fulfill the responsibilities is based upon the tradition of a “pageant”. You use those phases of competition to assess each contestant’s ability to serve as the Teen Representative for our State.

#### 1. Responsibilities/Duties of Miss State’s Outstanding Teen

- (Review the Complete Responsibilities/Duties of Miss State’s Outstanding Teen. These duties should be supplied by the State Executive Director or the applicable representative. While this appears in writing as just a few sentences, it can be quite lengthy to describe.) The State Teen Director has (hopefully) provided each of the judges with a copy of the expectations of Miss State’s Outstanding Teen and that you would like to review these duties with them. Read the duties aloud.
- Also Miss State’s Outstanding Teen **MUST** be:
  - An Ambassador of the State Teen Pageant Organization
  - Well Spoken
  - Attractive, with a Confident, Comfortable, and Commanding Presence
  - Talented
  - Intelligent and an Eloquent Communicator
  - A Proven Achiever
  - A Leader by Virtue of Her Accomplishments
  - A Role Model Who Inspires and Relates to Young People
  - A Role Model Who Cares About Her Community
  - Committed to a Platform Issue of Broad Public Interest
  - Able to Relate to Young People
  - Outgoing and Approachable
  - Reflective of Teens Her Age (we do not want someone who appears to be a “Miss”)
  - Contemporary in her style and fashion - a relatable and individual young woman who can connect with today’s modern teen
  - Energetic, Charismatic, Outgoing
  - Genuine, trustworthy, compassionate, patient, appreciative, dedicated
  - Physically fit and emotionally ready to handle the duties and responsibilities
  - Manageable and Flexible
  - Enthusiastic About Working with Her Pageant Family
  - Able to Understand that Her Year is What She Makes it
  - Punctual
  - A Teen with a Sense of Gratitude and Humility
  - Able to completely understand her position and how important her actions are to the overall success of the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Program at the Local, State, and National levels
- (*The responsibilities/duties should be placed on the inside cover of the judge’s binders/books as a constant reminder.*) Miss State’s Outstanding Teen does not have to be the best-spoken, the MOST attractive, the MOST talented, etc., but she must possess ALL of those qualities. Remember, her title is Miss State’s **Outstanding** Teen, not Miss State’s **“Average”** Teen.
  - (If the current State teen titleholder is available, perhaps she can speak to the judges and address what she has done during the year. This is actually great for the judges to better understand the responsibilities of Miss State’s Outstanding Teen.)

Just because the contestant is cute or talented or funny does not mean she can successfully accomplish the responsibilities. She must still possess ALL of the qualities required to fulfill the responsibilities.

## 2014 NATIONAL TITLEHOLDER & TOP FIVE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Orlando, FL - August 17, 2013 - Miss Florida's Outstanding Teen, Leah Sykes was crowned Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2014 tonight in the Linda Chapin Theater at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. This historic crowning moment marked her first steps on a journey that will take her across the country promoting scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, community involvement and healthy living for our nation's youth.

She will travel the country speaking to audiences about her platform "Seeing Beyond Disabilities" and acting as the teen ambassador for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals, is the national platform of the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organization.

Leah is a homeschooled student from Jacksonville, FL. Along with the title of Miss America's Outstanding Teen 2014, Leah won a \$25,000 scholarship subsidized by the Rosen Centre Hotel to continue her education. For the talent portion of the competition, Leah performed a Vocal to "Someone Like You" by Adele.

The first runner-up was Miss Oklahoma's Outstanding Teen, Ashten Vincent who earned a \$12,000 scholarship subsidized by Ronald Brouillette. Her talent performance was a Vocal and her personal platform is "S.E.R.V.E. - Students Encouraging and Recognizing Volunteer Efforts".

Second runner-up honors and an \$8,000 scholarship subsidized by Princess Camp were awarded to Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen, Jessica Procter. Her talent was a Vocal performance, and her personal platform is "Each One, Reach One".

Third runner-up and winner of a \$5,000 scholarship provided by Lynn Weidner, Mary Bocchicchio, US Dream Academy and Donna Bozarth was Miss Missouri's Outstanding Teen, Tess Mandoli. Her talent was Piano and her personal platform is "National Diversity Alliance".

The fourth runner-up was Miss Virginia's Outstanding Teen, Cassie Donegan who earned \$2,000 scholarship subsidized by the Miss AOT Sorority. Her talent was a Vocal performance and her platform is "Promoting Arts Education".

Miss America's Outstanding Teen (MAOTeen) is the "little sister" organization of the Miss America Scholarship Organization. This not-for-profit program has made available more than \$4 million in college scholarships nationally to young women from 13 to 17 years of age.