

# JUDGING CRITERIA & CLOTHING FACTS

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXPLANATION OF CLOTHING NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PAGEANT WEEKEND. ALSO INCLUDED IS AN EXPLANATION OF EACH JUDGED EVENT. THE JUDGES WILL NOT BE AT ANY OF OUR FUNCTIONS, EXCEPT FOR THE JUDGE'S PREVIEW, PRELIMINARY SWIMSUIT AND EVENING GOWN COMPETITION, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS AND THE FINAL COMPETITION.

## REGISTRATION

Plan to arrive at registration dressed fashionably but comfortably, as you will have little time to change before orientation.

## REHEARSALS

Clothing for rehearsals should be casual. You will see everything from sweats, jeans, running suits and tennis shoes to fashionable outfits. Wear comfortable shoes but bring the shoes you will be wearing during the actual competitions so that you can get used to walking in them on stage. One important thing to remember is that because of the great amount of heat the stage lights produce when on, **the Ballroom will be kept cool**. Have a jacket or sweater for those times during rehearsals when the lights are off.

## PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

You will appear before the judges "panel style ." The procedure will have you standing at a podium in front of 2 panels of judges for 2 minutes each. The judges will use this opportunity to consider your personality and overall presence. This is your chance to impress each judge with your opinions, ability to communicate, and overall sense of self. They *will not* be looking for rehearsed answers. They will have your Final Biography Form to use as a reference, but questions may be asked on any topic.

The most important thing to remember about the Personality Interview Competition is that it is ALL about your PERSONALITY! So when it comes to deciding what you will wear for this competition, allow your personality to influence your decision. Teen USA contestants are urged to wear whatever you feel is appropriate for an interview, with this thought; have fun with it while presenting yourself in a self confident manner (no jeans). USA contestants are urged to be more sophisticated with your wardrobe choices.

## SWIMSUIT COMPETITION

The judges will be basing their decisions on over all physical fitness and the poise with which you carry yourself during this competition. Physical measurements are not considered in the judging.

Choose a one or two-piece suit in any color. The style must be in good taste; therefore, NO thongs. Wearing pantyhose is not allowed, but you may wear leg makeup. No baby oil. As for the shoes for this competition, the trends include a strappy sandal that matches your swimsuit, a clear shoe, or flesh-toned shoes. Whatever you choose, it should have at least a 2" heel. Open or closed toe is fine. We do recommend you choose a quality-made swimsuit that will be appropriate for onstage competition. You will want to pay special attention to the swimsuit lining, due to the bright stage lighting considerations.

## EVENING GOWN COMPETITION

Judges will focus on your poise, overall appearance, your sense of fashion and style, and the appropriateness of your gown selection. No single detail of the gown, hair or makeup should garner attention. The overall effect should be a reflection of your personal style.

You will need one full-length gown. The gown should be a style that makes you feel gorgeous! When choosing the gown, it should reflect your personality and personal style. Because the judges will be judging you - not the gown. A "Teen" gown should reflect your personality as well, with a youthful flare!

## CASUAL "JEAN" WEAR

We will give you an official Pageant t-shirt to be worn with your own (blue) jean shorts, skirt or pants. (Choose something from your existing wardrobe!) Complete the outfit with a pair of white tennis shoes and you'll look great! Just so you know, you will appear briefly on stage at the end of the Swimsuit Competition in this outfit.

## FINAL SHOW OPENING OUTFIT

You will need one cocktail length dress specifically for the opening of the Final Show on Sunday. It is to be a completely **black** or a completely **red** cocktail length dress. It can have sequins, rhinestones, or beading, but cannot have any other color than black or red. Select appropriate shoes that you will be able to move well in. The shoes should have at least a 2" heel. (No platforms or clunky shoes). Jewelry should be appropriate and minimal.