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Competition Week Handbook

1. What Happens First
   * What to Bring
   * Official check-in
   * Official Meeting
   * Visionary Arrival Brunch
2. Wardrobe Specifics for Competition Week
3. Events
   * Arrival and Visionary Brunch
   * Preliminary Competitions
   * Candidate Visitations
   * Bingo Bash & Meet the Judges Lunch
   * Y’all Ball
   * Final Competition and Crowning
   * Sunday Brunch and Contract Signing for new Miss Texas/MTXOTeen
4. Competition Items
   * Garment Bag
   * Tub
   * Tote Bag
   * Backstage Info
   * Dressing Room
   * Eisemann Move-in
   * Competition Clothing Details
5. Things to Know About for Competition Week
   * Badges
   * Competition Location – Eisemann Center
   * Crown Central Information Desk
   * DV Orders – JC Productions
   * Electronic Device Policy
   * Gift & Flower Room
   * Grab & Go Quick Food Items
   * Hair, Makeup and Tanning Details
   * Logo Merchandise Store
   * Lone Star Princess Program
   * Medical and Security Information
   * Parking
   * Judges Luncheon for Parent’s/Directors
   * Photography
   * Program Books
   * Resident Hostesses
   * Silent Auction
   * Ticket Information
   * Transportation
   * Vendors
6. When Candidates Can See Their Delegation
   * Interview Meeting
   * Talent Rehearsal
   * Visitation after each Preliminary Show
7. Hotel Information
8. What If I Win?
9. Sunday Brunch for the Winner
10. It All Starts…

# 1. What Happens First?

##### What to Bring:

1. Water bottle
2. Any snacks/food items you think you need. Each room has a small refrigerator. You will share with your roommate, but you might consider bringing your own small fridge/ice chest.
3. Consider bringing possible duplicate items that you plan to use in both the dressing room and your hotel room. This will avoid you having to carry back and forth.
4. Jacket/wrap/blanket for the theatre (it’s cold!)
5. Favorite pillow if you think you’ll need it
6. Robe to wear in the dressing room between phases of competition
7. Feminine hygiene products, throat lozenges, teabags for hot tea for singers, etc. (even if you don’t think you’ll need these items there are surprises every year).

##### Saturday, June 18th – Official check-in: 9:00 – 11:30am - MISS: Attire: Rehearsal wear

9:00 – 11:30 Official check – You will do this in the following order:

1. When you arrive go directly to the 3rd floor to drop off your things. You won’t have time to set up your room, but you will drop things off.
2. Your Competition wardrobe bag and bin will be taken directly to the Eisemann. You may have a director, parent, or helper go with you. Enter the East door and go downstairs to the dressing room. The hostesses will be there to direct you.
3. Return to the Convention area at the hotel and officially check in.
4. After check-in you are ready to return to the 3rd floor to pick up your room key. You have officially started competition week!
5. Directly at noon you must be in the ballroom seated and ready for the general meeting that starts promptly at noon. Allow for extra time “just in case”. Make sure you’ve eaten because your first meal will be at 5:30pm.

Noon – Official meeting for candidates and director, mentor, parents, support team, etc.

1:00 – Meeting with hostesses

2:00 - Your first rehearsal! You will already be wearing your rehearsal clothes when you check in.

##### Sunday, June 19th – Visionary Arrival & Awards Brunch and Official Opening Day event – 11:00am MISS & TEEN:

This is for ALL candidates, directors, parents, princesses, friends, family, and supporters. Candidates will receive recognition, awards, and will sign the sign their name on the big Candidate Board. We also have a donor who will be awarding a Style Award for a Miss and Teen! This event is the official Opening Day for Miss Texas week!

##### Sunday, June 19th – TEEN Official check-in: 1:30 – 2:45pm

Teens will be at the Visionary Brunch and then immediately check in afterwards.

General Meeting - At this time there will be a meeting for candidates, director, parents, support team.

# 2. Wardrobe Specifics for Pageant Week

##### Visionary Brunch – Miss and Teens

Nice summer dress/outfit.

##### Rehearsals

The weather in Richardson in June is hot, but the rehearsal hall and event center temperatures can be chilly. It is important that you bring comfortable, informal, appropriate rehearsal clothes because it may be cold in rehearsals, bring a sweatshirt or sweater. Wear comfortable shoes and socks. Please do not plan to “break in” new shoes during rehearsal time. Shoe inserts and cushions are highly recommended. There will be a lot of walking and standing. Plan your wardrobe accordingly. Please remember you are not being judged during rehearsals! Plan to bring a rehearsal outfit for each day of the week.

***Preliminary Visitation Wardrobe***

See description below under Events. For wardrobe you will wear an outfit of your choice (cocktail dress, summer dress, or trendy outfit, etc.) and walk together as a group to Visitation that is in the hotel ballroom.

***Friday night “Y’all Ball”***

***MISS AND TEENS:***

Show us your Texas style! From denim and diamonds to sparkle cowboy theme to big city flair to country flair … YOU will be the Texas STAR of the show. Also, you are our honored guests so make sure your delegation is there to support you! Princesses are invited! A ticket link is on the EVENTS page on the website.

***Teen Final***

Miss Candidates will wear a cocktail, dressy outfit to the Teen Finals as they cheer on the Teen candidates to see who will win Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen!

***Miss Final***

Teens may attend the Miss Final and will receive a ticket, but they must sit with the Teen

hostesses. If you choose to sit somewhere else, you must purchase your own ticket. After the

Teen Final you will be walked across to the hotel ballroom to attend the Press Conference and

hear from the new Miss and Outstanding Teen Texas’.

***Sunday brunch for the Winner***

Your interview dress will be perfect to wear. There will be lots of pictures taken.

# 3. Events

##### Preliminary Competitions MISS & TEEN:

Preliminary competitions will be held Tuesday night, Wednesday night, and Thursday night. You will compete on all three nights in different categories. By the last night your judges will have seen you in all competition areas.

##### Visitations after each preliminary MISS AND TEENS:

After each preliminary you will change backstage and as a group you will walk across to the hotel ballroom to greet your delegation. Their security credential (badge) is necessary for their admission, so make sure everyone has one. You will be formally introduced on stage and will be escorted to your group. This is a time for pictures and well wishes and one of the few times that Miss candidates will be able to visit and spend time with your family and friends. You will appreciate lots of hugs and support. If you are one of the Prelim Winners (Teen and Miss), you will first be escorted to a Reception where pictures will be taken, and you will greet VIP’s, Sponsors and VIP 1937 members. It’s only a few minutes and you will then be escorted to the Visitation and introduced on stage as a prelim winner for that night.

##### Bingo Bash & Meet the Judges Lunch Event (Thursday, June 24th at Noon)

This is for everyone! Miss and Teen candidates will be there, and everyone is invited to attend. You will also get to hear from our Judges!

##### “Ya’ll Ball” Gala

This is for EVERYONE! It’s Texas-style! Parents, directors, friends, family,

princesses, etc. Ticketed event and candidates are honored guests.

##### Final Competition and Crowning of Miss Texas or Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen

Saturday (TEENS at 1pm) and MISS at 7pm) will be the Final Competitions.

Everyone will be introduced, and the Top 12 Finalists will compete for the crown. Make sure you encourage everyone to vote for you in the People’s Choice Contest! Don’t take anything for granted! By winning one of the two semi-finalist spots you will be assured a place on stage! Whether you make the Top 12 or not, your family and friends will get to watch you in production numbers. Miss Texas and Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen 2022 will be crowned at the culmination of each competition.

##### Winners’ speeches and remaining awards event immediately following the crowning of the new Miss Texas

Saturday night immediately after the Miss crowning, candidates will be introduced, and remaining scholarships and awards will be presented, and the new Miss and Teen winners will give their speech. This will be a short event and welcome to everyone and at that time Miss candidates will be officially released. This is a free event.

##### Sunday brunch for the new Miss Texas 2022 and Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen 2022

If you are the new winners, you will attend a Brunch and Contract Signing the morning after you win. Your parents, director, Miss Texas Executive Director, Business Manager and Leadership Team will be in attendance.

# 4. Competition Items

##### Garment Bag

All hanging clothes must be placed inside ONE sturdy, zipped dress bag, clearly marked with name, title, group name and number. ALL articles must be marked with name, title and group letter and number. You can sew two garment bags back-to-back to make one large garment bag. For

clarification, the two bags become one bag (because you’ve sewn the backs together) so on both sides

of the bag you have room to hang everything. You have two openings instead of just one.

### Mark your contestant number on your garment bag where it can easily be seen.

##### Tub

What to purchase: The tub should be no larger than 66 quarts. The best one is the Sterilite 66-Quart Clear Storage tub. You can find it at Big Lot, Wal-Mart, Target, Lowe’s, Home Depot, etc. Be sure to mark your NAME, TITLE, GROUP and NUMBER.



Candidates love to decorate their tubs with their name and candidate group number. This is completely up to you, but many do this.

What to pack for the tub:

* Shoes, jewelry, hair, and make-up items, etc. for competition
* Extension cords and power strip – to be safe
* Make-up mirror
* Any other necessary items you will need in the dressing room

These items will stay in the dressing room ALL week and will not be moved back and forth. Mark every single item with your info – every shoe, make-up brush, lip pencil, etc. You will be glad you did! Things can get scattered and messy, and you want your items easily identifiable.

### Also, please mark candidate number on the lid and on all four sides where the hostesses can easily read it. It should also be written on your garment bag.

##### Tote Bag

When you check in you will receive a tote bag to be used for small items that you will be transporting between the hotel and the event center. Some girls duplicate items that they want to stay in the tub but also want to have in the hotel room (rather than having to remember what to transfer back and forth).

##### Backstage Info

No one except candidates and MTO Staff will be allowed backstage and only hostesses will be allowed to enter the dressing rooms. They will be available to assist with your clothing, etc. backstage. You will need to handle your own hair and makeup.

##### Dressing Room

The dressing rooms are equipped with lighted make up mirrors and garment racks that will be shared. You might want to bring an extension cord and power strip. A portable makeup mirror would be beneficial as well. Backstage dressing rooms will be locked to ensure protection for all belongings. ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE READY FOR THE WEEK. DO NOT ASK PERMISSION FOR DESIGNERS OR DIRECTORS TO COME TO FIT CLOTHING. ANY FITTINGS MUST BE DONE PRIOR TO COMPETITION WEEK.

## Competition Clothing Details

* Once clothing has been checked in, no substitutions or exchanging of gowns is allowed.
* All tubs and competition garment bags need to be turned in when you check in.
* Candidates will **NOT** be allowed to remove anything from backstage of the Eisemann Center for the duration of the competition. If there is a problem, please see one of the hostesses
* The backstage of the Eisemann Center is always under 24-hour security.

The competition clothing and props that are moved to the Eisemann Center will remain there until after the final competition. There will be **NO** exceptions.

# 5. Things to Know About for Miss Texas Week

##### Security Badges (credentials)

Everyone should have a security badge. Purchase early. You can purchase a badge on-site during Miss Texas week; however, they will cost more.

* + ***Candidate Badge*** – You will receive a badge at check-in and must always wear it during competition week.
  + ***Family/Friend Badges*** - During the week there will be times when it is mandatory that those in your delegation have a badge. This is a nice keepsake and will have their identification on it. Security is essential and there are specific times available to visit with your delegation and a badge is necessary. These are mandatory for them to attend your Talent rehearsal, after- interview meeting, and Visitations after each prelim.

## Competition Location – Eisemann Center

This is our Competition venue located in Richardson, Texas, which is a suburb of Dallas. It is a beautiful performance center that is adjacent to our Miss Texas Headquarters Hotel.

Eisemann Center of Performing Arts 2351 Performance Dr.

Richardson, Texas 75082

## Crown Central Information Desk

Crown Central is in the lobby of the Renaissance Hotel Conference Center. Helpful information will be available at Crown Central. The booth will be staffed with volunteers to help answer any questions and/or guide people to the correct location.

*Hours of Operation:*

Sunday, June 19th – will open after the Visionary Brunch till 5pm

Monday thru Friday, June 24th – 9:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday, June 25th - 9:00am – 11:00am

## DVD Orders – JC Productions

JC Productions offers a set of DVDs’ that include all preliminaries and each final night, as well as the Top Interviews and additional extras. They offer great packages, and we highly encourage you to get your order in! They will be on-site all week to accept orders. Not only will you love having great memories, but this will be your *only way* to have your competition videos to enjoy later, as **we don’t allow any cameras in the theatre**. **Remember that the candidates who purchase a special package will be featured in the highlight video that will be on the Miss Texas website and used for promotional and marketing purposes, as well as our own events.** They offer great packages, and the BEST news is that you **take your order with you** when the week is over.

## Electronic Devices/Phones

* + Cell phones are permitted when you are on the candidate floor. There will also be allotted times when cell phones are permitted, specifically for acknowledging sponsors and promoting the organization via social media.
  + Your phone and any electronic devices should be marked with your name and title.
  + Cell phones are NOT allowed backstage for any reason.
  + Any electronic device used in backstage/dressing room areas **cannot** have Internet access or photo-taking abilities. They would be allowed for music only.
  + Candidates are *never* allowed to take photos backstage or in the dressing room area.

VERY IMPORTANT: THERE IS TO BE NO TEXTING, CHATTING, POSTING, LIKING or otherwise, during

rehearsal and the shows. Failure to comply with this guideline will result in a difficult conversation with our panel of judges, led by you.

## Gift and Flower Room

During Miss Texas week your supporters will have a place where they can wish you “Good Luck” throughout the week. This is a large room where every candidate will have a specified area for gifts, flowers, and cards to be delivered on your behalf. Every day you will swing by to pick up cards and gifts that have been left for you. There will also be a Princess/Star section!

Gift & Flower Room Details:

* + Gifts, flowers, and cards are brought to the Gift Room and will need to be checked in at the front table of the gift room. A record tag must accompany the gift. We will have tags available.
  + Your delegation may drop off the gifts throughout the week prior to Friday, June 24th. After this date, we cannot guarantee their delivery.
  + Due to pageant scheduling and activities, it may take up to 24 hours for delivery or pick up of gifts, flowers, and cards to get to the contestants; however, normally they are put out every day.
  + Gifts, flowers, and cards will **NOT** be accepted at the Eisemann Center or any other location, including the Visitation.
  + The gift room is in the Wildflower ballroom in the Hotel Conference Center.
  + The hours of operation will be posted on the doors each day. The room will be closed during on stage competitions.

## Grab & Go Quick Food Items

The hotel will have a nice selection of quick food items that are under $10 so your delegation won’t

have to leave the headquarters to eat. Swing by the Starbucks station to check it out.

## Hair, Make-up, and Tanning

MISS: Hair or makeup artists will not be allowed on the candidate floor or backstage at the Eisemann Center. Please plan prior to competition to learn how to do your own hair and makeup for every day, stage, and interview.

##### If you are planning to self-tan, please bring some of your own washcloths and towels. Please bring some extra sheets that you can lay over the hotel sheets since tanning lotions will stain.

## Logo/Merchandise Store

There will be a Pageant Logo and Merchandise shop located in the Gift & Flower Room. We have a large selection of logo merchandise available, gifts, flowers and goodies for all candidates, princesses, and fans. There will also be buttons (of you!) and note cards with your picture available.

## Lone Star Princess Program

You are encouraged to have a Princess (ages 5-9) or Star (10-13), to participate in our mentoring program. You may have more than one. Each princess will be presented on stage during preliminary competition and participate in a production number.

## Medical and Security Information

#### MISS:

You will be under 24-hour security while you are in the care of the Miss Texas Organization. You will be with a pageant official, hostess, or security member always. Please report any illness, injury or

other difficulties to the Miss Hostess Chair, Susan Shuler. Each candidate is responsible for any medical charges for hospital or emergency room expense. If you are on medication, you need to notify the Hostess Chair.

The week of Miss Texas is one that is SUPER BUSY 12-14 hours a day! These days are full of rehearsals, photo shoots, competition interviews, early mornings, and late nights. You will need to be in good health in the weeks leading up to competition week.

## Parking

***If you are staying at the hotel, you will receive FREE parking all week*!** We highly encourage everyone to stay at the hotel (or our overflow hotel) because they have the benefits of being in the center of the action, shopping with our vendors, being on hand for events during the day, and having the convenience of dropping off gifts at the Gift/Flower Room each day. A huge benefit is that the hotel picks up your parking fees in the Eisemann Center garage.

Important: For those that are NOT a hotel guest - while the hotel will validate your parking ticket when you come for the day for pageant events, ***you will be responsible for parking in the Eisemann Center garage for each prelim and final show.***

## Bingo Bash and Meet the Judges Event/Lunch (Thursday) – ticketed event

Make sure your everyone attends. There will be a fun Bingo Bash with prizes, and everyone will get to hear from the judges.

## Photography – bludoor studios

bludoor studios provide a photo package for each contestant. This is a digital photo package and will include photos from on stage competition, backstage, and candid shots throughout the week. These will be treasured memories. Additional order forms will be available at Crown Central. **Remember, ONLY our official photographer will be allowed to take competition and official photos so** these will be your **ONLY** photography memento’s. Please remind your parents and delegation to not sneak in cameras. This applies to phones as well. You don’t want them embarrassed when an usher approaches them if they are trying to take pictures.

## Program Books (also known as Competition Magazine)

The 2022 program books will be available for sale with Transcript Press in the Gift and Flower room and in the theatre lobby during competitions.

## Resident Hostesses

The Hostess Committee of the Miss Texas Organization is a unique group of women dedicated to serving our Miss Texas contestants. This committee spends countless volunteer hours working for our organization.

The members of this Hostess Committee serve without pay. Their reward is the personal involvement, the opportunity to be leaders in the MTO family and pride in the collective accomplishments of the contestants and committee. Every hostess takes a personal interest in her contestants. Backstage our hostesses are a huge help. They listen with understanding and guide with knowledge.

The hostesses will always supervise all candidates*.* The Hostess Chair has the authority to establish and maintain standards of conduct for candidates to set rules and govern relationships between candidates and all those who come in contact with them.

## Silent Auction Basket/Item

Every candidate is asked to submit a Silent Auction Basket or Item for the Silent Auction event held all week long.

## Ticket Information

All individual and season tickets can be purchased through the Eisemann Center website at [www.eisemanncenter.com.](http://www.eisemanncenter.com/) You can also click the link on the front page of the website. We recommend that your delegation purchase Season Tickets because Single tickets are more expensive. They might purchase a couple of extra sets, so when unexpected friends/family come in they can sell tickets from the extra batch, at the lesser price – and most importantly they can sit together.

## Transportation

For family and friends who do not rent a car while in Richardson, the Renaissance Hotel is conveniently next door to the competition venue (Eisemann Center for Performing Arts). There are also many

restaurants in proximity. Additionally, it is on the **DART rail line** if your delegation chooses to visit shopping areas, museums, movies, etc. close by.

## Vendors

There will be several vendors set up with their merchandise for everyone to shop and enjoy. Don’t miss the Dillard’s store!

# 6. When Candidates Can See Their Delegation

## Interview:

Before Interview you will have pictures taken and then your group will go to the Interview area and to a holding room to wait for each college interview and personal interview.

Your first interview is with a college/business panel, and it will be extremely helpful as it will help you “get your jitters out” to a large degree and it is also a time when some colleges choose to offer a specific scholarship to a candidate. It is also beneficial to our organization for our college sponsors to have the opportunity to meet the impressive young women of the Miss Texas Organization. As you finish your college interview you will go directly to your Competition Interview. You might have a few minutes to stand or sit outside the room before you enter for your official Interview.

Specifics: There is a curtain draped at the end of the hallway for your privacy and behind it is the conference area where your director, family and friends can stand hoping to catch a glimpse of you. You may choose to peek out and give a wave or thumbs up during this short waiting time. Everyone has a different way to make themselves comfortable before their interview, so this is set up for your comfort level and preference. You may choose to sit quietly or even listen to music w/earphones. This is completely up to you to do whatever will make you comfortable.

Immediately following your interview, you have about 10 minutes before you rush back to rehearsal. The time frame is specifically the length of the interview following yours. You will be led to a private area, and you may visit with specific people of your choice. Most often this is a director and parent(s) but usually consists of no more than 2-4 people. You will submit a form with the names of those attending this private meeting.

Coming directly from your interview your emotions will be high so it’s nice to have these few minutes to utilize however you prefer. Word of advice: if you choose to meet with your delegation, we recommend that you don’t use this time to discuss your interview. This is intended to be a time for encouragement, support, and high-fives. Remember, you have the choice to use this time to be alone if you wish.

## Talent Rehearsal:

Your family and supporters may attend your Talent rehearsal. This is the morning that you will be competing in Talent that night. Everyone must have a credential/badge. It is very encouraging to have supporters in the audience clapping and supporting you. Immediately after you perform your talent the first time you will be led to a secured area where you will visit with a designated person. You will submit a form designating who this person is. The hostess will identify this person by their badge. Someone familiar and/or skilled with your talent is the best choice for this position (dance teacher, vocal coach, director). Discuss this with your director. The amount of time you have is the amount of time of the talent immediately following you. This time is utilized to discuss your talent before your second run-through.

## Visitation after each Preliminary Show: Badge (credential) required

After each preliminary there is a time for your delegation to encourage you and visit with you (mentioned earlier in this guide). This is a time for pictures and well wishes. This is a very important time for you. You will appreciate their hugs and support. Badges are mandatory and there are no exceptions, so plan who will need one.

# 7. Hotel Information:

##### Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel

Reservations can be made on-line with the special MISS TEXAS rate. Go to [www.misstexas.org](http://www.misstexas.org/) to

the Miss Texas Competition tab. Encourage your delegation to HURRY because it fills up fast!

900 E. Lookout Drive Richardson, Texas 75082

Phone: 1-972-367-2000

The Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel is our pageant headquarters during competition week. Resident hostesses are staffed for the week. Miss candidates will be on the 3rd floor that is the Miss Candidate floor. Something to think about: While you may find a hotel close by, keep in mind the financial benefits of staying at our host hotel regarding the parking fees. The Eisemann has a parking fee but if you’re a guest at the hotel your parking is free.

# 8. What If I Win?

## If you’re the new Miss Texas or Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen

You will remain on stage after being crowned. First you will take photos with judges and sponsors, then with your local pageant group, family, and friends.

#### TEEN:

You will be able to have a very quick visit with your delegation, and then will be with Miss Texas leadership until after the Miss finals. You will also do a quick rehearsal since you will be performing your talent as you are introduced as the new Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen that night! After the

crowning of Miss Texas, you will attend the awards event where you will give your winner’s speech. At

that time, you will be released to your family.

#### MISS:

After you are crowned you will have a few minutes to breathe before going to the ballroom where you will give your first speech. After this you will change into something comfortable and will meet with the judges in their suite. After this you will finally get to see your friends, family, and supporters. It will be a very late night so remember the next day is very busy.

#### 

## Winner Parent(s)

##### MISS and Teen:

As soon as the winner is announced, you will make your way to the Stage where security will meet you.

After photos with the judges and sponsors you will be escorted on-stage for photos. Each candidate

will submit a list of 10 names that will be permitted on-stage for pictures. ONLY the people on the list will be allowed on stage. Those on this list must have a badge.

# 9. Sunday brunch for the winner

As the newly crowned Miss Texas and Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen you will enjoy a brunch on Sunday, June 27th with your parents (it is important for both parents to attend if possible), two representatives from your local pageant organization, and Miss Texas Officials. Wear a nice outfit for pictures. This might be another opportunity to wear your interview attire.

# 10. It all starts …

As the newly crowned Miss Texas you will have a busy week of photo shoots, TV shows, radio interviews and sitting down to work on your Miss America paperwork. Make sure you pack a few outfits so you can be ready for your first week.

As the newly crowned Miss Texas’ Outstanding Teen you will have an opportunity to go home and visit with family and friends, and then will need to make a trip back to Dallas to discuss a plan and schedule to prepare for the national competition. It’s on speed dial, so to speak, because you only have a few weeks!

Final words: As you prepare for Miss Texas week remember that the experience is what you make of it. The girls you get to know during this week will be girls you will always share this memory with. One of them might be a bridesmaid at your wedding and some might become life-long friends. Have fun!

Soak in every minute. This will be something that you’ll remember forever.