



## Questions and Answers for Miss Deaf Texas Hopefuls

- 1. How old must I be to enter the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant?** The contestant must be a deaf or hard of hearing female whose age shall not be less than seventeen nor more than twenty-seven years by the date of the state pageant.
- 2. What presentations am I expected to do as a contestant during the pageant?** You will do an Opening Act with the other contestants and that will be planned by our choreographer. You will also do a Platform Presentation on a topic that you feel strongly about. Also included is a talent presentation, evening gown presentation, private interview and if you are selected as one of the top finalists, then you will also do an onstage interview.
- 3. What expenses am I responsible for?** You will be responsible for your wardrobe, travel for you and your chaperone as well as hotel accommodations. You will be expected to pay an application fee that will also include the hotel rate. You will pay for a few meals, but the MDTP Committee will cover most.
- 4. How much hearing loss is required for me to be qualified as a contestant?** 50 db or greater in the better ear. The contestant must submit a formal audiogram signed by a certified audiologist, showing evidence of bilateral and unaided hearing loss within two years prior to Miss Deaf Texas pageant.
- 5. I am having problems with the financial part of participating in this pageant. What can I do?**

There are several things you can do. They have been successful with former contestants. Ask your local Deaf organization to sponsor you or ask organizations such as the Lions club or Kiwanis club to sponsor if there is one in your area. Your parents workplace may even do it. You can have fundraisers such as a garage sale, car wash, etc to raise money. You may even check out a college ASL class to see if students there can help you.
- 6. Why must I have a chaperone and what should I look for in selecting one?** Chaperones are required for all state pageants as well as the Miss Deaf America Pageant. They assist you so that you don't have to worry about small details when you are participating as well as helping you follow the pageant rules. You should choose someone you feel very comfortable with, can communicate with

effectively, and who is energetic and is a shoulder to lean on when the going gets tough. She should also someone that can help you with your fundraising if needed. We don't recommend chaperones who are very young, or closely related to you such as your mother, or has a history of being in trouble with the law or irresponsible.

**6. Is there a swimsuit competition during the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant?**

No. We believe in selecting winners according to what we find inside her, not how she looks on the outside. Our judges are instructed to look for these qualities.

**7. If I win, how long is my reign?**

Your reign will be two years and during that time, you will not be able to marry or bear a child. You also will be expected to represent Texas to the best of your ability and be a role model for all.

**8. Suppose I am the next Miss Deaf Texas winner, am I responsible for paying for my expenses to the Miss Deaf America Pageant?**

No, but you will be expected to help out in fundraising activities. The Miss Deaf Texas Committee will be helping you raise money through donations and fundraisers.

**9. I am wondering what is covered in my application fee?**

Your hotel room for you and your chaperone, some of your meals, and it helps us to also pay for the trophies, flowers, decorations, crown, stage rental, judges and MC expenses, and many other costs in pulling off a successful Miss Deaf Texas Pageant.