



## *Cinderella Pageant- New York State*

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### **(Infant, Baby, Tiny Tot, Tot, Miniature Miss, Miss, Teen, Cinderella Woman) PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**

Congratulations!

You have decided to enter the world of the Cinderella Scholarship Pageant, where wishes do come true. First, let me tell you a little history about the beginning of the International Cinderella Scholarship Pageant.

It was founded in 1976 and has grown into the largest and most prestigious pageant system of its kind in the world. It has set new standards of excellence in the youth pageant field. The pageant is divided into five basic age categories and is more than a beauty pageant. It is a youth development scholarship program that offers many opportunities for achievement and recognition to deserving children, teens and young adults. The pageant's high standards of excellence and principles have won the support of civic and service organizations, educators and the clergy from around the world.

What is unique to the pageant is the official Cinderella Runway/Modeling Music with electronic tones and signals designed to aid participants in their onstage modeling presentations. (The Cinderella music can be ordered from the New York State pageant office or the International Office.) This has set Cinderella Pageant apart from ordinary pageant competitions.

The International pageant sets include a quaint Cinderella Village for casual wear competition and an elegant Cinderella Ballroom set for party wear. One of the major highlights of the International Competition is the life-size Pumpkin Coach where the International Royalty enters the stage to make their final appearance of their reign. In July of 2010, the International Cinderella Finals will be in Dallas, Texas.

The Cinderella Scholarship Pageant program has become the most revered youth development program of its kind. With emphasis on the positive development of the individual and its commitment to excellence, Cinderella looks forward to the years ahead.

Under the current leadership of Fred Vollman, Jr., the International Cinderella Office is based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

#### **Areas of Competition – Mandatory Events** -

In all areas, girls are judged on confidence, personal appearance, grooming, poise, and personality and stage presence.

**Party Wear** – Contestants in the Tot, Mini-Miss and Miss divisions model a knee or tea-length party dress (preferably kneelength.) Teen and Women contestants model a full-length gown.

**Casual wear** – All Contestants model a casual outfit. Usually slacks, shorts, jackets, matching set, sundresses. NO SWIMSUITS or SPORTSWEAR.

**Tot Personality** – is an onstage interview, which takes the place of talent. During the onstage interview, the participant will be required to make a personal statement about her, giving her name, age and hometown. The emcee will then ask her some questions relating to the information on her biographical sketch. The onstage interview was designed to encourage the 3 – 6 year old participants to develop their personal skills in communication and personality projection.

**Talent** – (Required for Mini-Miss, Miss, Teen and Woman divisions.) Talent presentations are not to exceed 2 minutes 30 seconds. Talent presentations that are found to be longer than this limit will be disqualified. Talent presentations are judged on technical ability, personality, appropriateness and entertainment value. Recorded Music – Compact Disks – CD's (compact disks are required.) However, be aware that some home CD recordings will not play on every CD player. Make sure that your CD can play on a variety of CD players. Clearly mark the disk with your name, division and participant number. The CD should contain only your performance track. Three (3) copies of your CD should be made: One for the performance; one for backup to be held in reserve in case something happens to the original and one for rehearsal. The judges will consider the quality of recordings in talent judging. Our sound

technician cannot “stop” the CD for dialogue, etc. Dialogue may be timed to a continuously playing CD that has a “blank” space in the recording to allow for a void in the musical accompaniment if the talent requires such. Music should be edited to stop at the end of the talent presentation. The talent section of your entry form must be clearly marked with instructions if there is a pause in the music or the song has a “false ending.” Talent presentations or costumes of a suggestive nature will mean automatic disqualification from competition. Discretion should be used in selecting talent material that is too mature or “adult” for the participant’s age division.

**Interview** – All age divisions will have an interview with the judges. Tot, Mini-Miss, Miss contestants will be interviewed in groups by a panel of judges. Teen and Women contestants will have individual interviews with a panel of judges and will last for about 5 minutes. Proper interview attire is warranted, suits etc. Ankle length dresses will not be accepted as “street length” and dressy shorts (or mini skirts) are not acceptable.

**Photogenic** – Contestants are to submit one photograph along with their entry form. The photo should be recent and may not include trophies, crowns or banners and that it closely resembles the participant as she will look during the competition. Photos must be a 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 head and shoulders shot, and are either color or black and white. (Name and age division to be written lightly on the back.) Contestants are judged on photographic qualities and personality.

**Infants, Babies and Tiny Tots** – These age divisions are judged with their chaperone escorting them on stage presenting them in casual wear and party wear. Appropriate dress by the chaperone is encouraged. Casual wear is just that, but jeans are discouraged. Party wear is a dress that they would wear to a party, for Easter, a birthday or Christmas. The personality portion for Babies and Tiny Tots is “Play Time.” You are to bring at least one or two toys your child likes and would be willing to share or interact with another child. The judges may observe or may actively participate in attempting to play with the children.

#### **Selecting your Wardrobe:**

Put in a “nutshell,” Cinderella stresses “real clothes on real people.” In other words, your party dress, for example, should be something that a person your age would ACTUALLY WEAR to a formal event...NOT a dress that could only be worn to a pageant (the same thing applies for interview and casual wear outfits.) Naturally, garments chosen should be in good taste and appropriate for the participant’s age.

#### **JUDGING:**

The adjudication at an official Cinderella Scholarship State Pageant is always of the highest, unexcelled quality with an experienced panel of judges using a point and consultation system. The judge’s decision is always final and no posting of the ballots or rating is permitted. DO NOT ASK THE JUDGES FOR COMMENTS after the pageant as they are NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE PERSONAL CRITIQUES. Personal critiques will be available at the director’s discretion following the pageant. All participants will appear in Interview, Party Dress (Formal wear for Teens and Cinderella Women), Casual wear and Talent (onstage interview for the 3-6 age division)...making all participants eligible for the Cinderella Overall Title, Beauty Awards and Talent Awards (Tot Personality Award for the 3-6 age division.) All participants will introduce themselves at the microphone during their Casual wear presentation. The judges will NOT be searching for “miniature adult” in the children’s divisions. Likewise, the judges will NOT be looking for a “college age” prototype in the teen division. The Cinderella Pageant is looking for natural representatives to carry the official Cinderella titles. Good grooming, manners and attire are important at all times.

#### **WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A WINNER:**

Winners of an official Cinderella title are to conduct themselves with the dignity of the important title they hold. Failure to proceed to the next level of competition (exception: Illness or an act of God) will cause automatic forfeiture of the title and all rights thereof. The title will not have to be relinquished if reasonable notice is given and the circumstances for not attending the International pageant are deemed unavoidable by the International director; however, the first alternate will be eligible to fill the position at the next level of competition. The overall state winners who do not attend the International finals forfeit all awards. International winners may not compete in any other pageant until they have crowned their successors and must agree to abide by all rules and regulations as stipulated in the International Pageant Handbook.

State Winners are expected to participate at the preliminary pageants, and the State Finals when passing on their crown to the new Royalty. Their duties at the States and preliminaries will range from demonstrating to the contestants the Cinderella format of “modeling,” to assisting the Director with preparations for the pageant.

#### **CONDUCT:**

At all official Cinderella Pageants, the emphasis is placed on the participants and adults displaying good manners and grooming, listening to and acknowledging instructions, adjusting to conditions, maintaining discipline and dependability, and above all, displaying excellent sportsmanship at all times. Any parent, teacher, guest, director or participant who conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike/unladylike manner (before, during, or after an official

Cinderella Pageant) will be subject to immediate dismissal from the pageant system. Such conduct on the part of the participant will mean automatic forfeiture of all awards and no refunds will be given.

**PAGEANT STANDARDS:**

FALSE HAIR AND EYELASHES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE Cinderella Pageant's age divisions, unless it is the result of a medical necessity (i.e. illness, chemotherapy, etc.) This does not apply to talent presentations. Please note that the judges have been instructed to use discretion in determining whether a participant has violated this rule and if such artifices are immediately discernible to the judges' panel, the contestant may be disqualified. Cosmetic dentistry is permissible. The use of cosmetics is allowed in all age brackets: however, makeup **MUST** be appropriate for the participant's age category. PLEASE NOTE: Tots and Mini Miss **MAY NOT** wear makeup for Interview! Heavier makeup may be worn under strong stage lights. A "standard of modesty" must be maintained throughout the pageant (includes casualwear, talent and party dress/formal wear competition and casual wear around the events.) **Garment removal is not allowed on stage in modeling.** Props, such as tennis rackets, hats, purses, etc. are not allowed in modeling presentations, but are acceptable in talent presentations if the item is necessary for the talent being presented.

**PAYMENT:**

Payment must be submitted 10 days prior to the scheduled event by check, money order or certified check. They are to be made out to **CINDERELLA PAGEANT – NEW YORK STATE.** There will be a \$25.00 charge for returned checks.

**SPONSORSHIP PROCEDURES:**

A maximum of TEN (10) SPONSORS will be listed for each participant. These sponsors may aid in helping provide your State fees and expenses. These sponsors may aid in also helping with your International Fees, such as housing fee, travel, chaperone fees, etc.

**LIMITATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

The pageant will NOT assume any responsibility for lost articles or personal property and is NOT responsible for accidents, mishaps, or the personal care of participants. This is the sole responsibility of the chaperone. Although the pageant's official insurance coverage does cover medical expense for accidents (NOT ILLNESS) during the pageant, the pageant does not assume any liability or responsibility beyond the limitations of the Cinderella Registration & Insurance Program. Each participant's parents or official guardian **MUST** sign the official liability release for which is included in this packet.

**PRIZES:**

Naturally the greatest prize of all at the state finals are the titles and the honor and recognition that goes with them and the right to represent the State of New York at the fabulous International Finals to be held in July in Dallas, Texas. Awards will be distributed upon completion of their reign as "Cinderella" winners in good standing and upon crowning their successor at the following year Cinderella's State Finals.

**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER:**

There will be an official photographer on hand to capture all contestants in various stages of their competition. **No outside videography or photography will be allowed. This is to ensure that chaperones or family members do not distract the contestants.** It also gives audience members an uninterrupted view of the competition.