2008 Miss Cinderella Pageant  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Talent Guidelines

The talent presentations on Thursday night are an entertaining and important feature of the Miss Cinderella Pageant. Each contestant in the Miss Cinderella Pageant must also enter the talent contest. A special prize of scholarship to Northwestern Oklahoma State University-Alva is awarded to the talent winner.

What is a talent act? Primary emphasis should be on entertaining the audience. It may be a vocal solo, dance solo, instrumental solo, a reading, a pantomime, a painting or drawing demonstration, baton twirling, etc. The key word is "solo". No other entertainer (excluding piano accompanist) may be on stage with the contestant. Pre-recorded CDs are permitted if they utilize musical accompaniment only or a very minimal amount of vocal accompaniment. The judges want to hear the contestant perform, not professional entertainers in the background. It must be clear to the judges that the performance is the contestant's ability. Microphones and special lighting effects will be furnished when possible. Contestants should bring their own props. Those contestants using pre-recorded accompaniment should be sure the CD is of high quality. Remember that when CDs are used on a large sound system, high quality is VERY important.

A contestant's talent is important. Try to select a talent presentation that will show her own abilities to the best advantage, and will also be entertaining from the standpoint of the judges and audience. Contestants are advised to select material that would be appropriate for an all-age audience. Subjects such as death/dying, abortion, drugs/alcohol and other controversial issues are not suited for this type of pageant. Also, the contestant’s talent outfit must be age-appropriate; pageant personnel will determine if the outfit does not meet this criterion.

Each contestant is required to present her talent on Thursday, October 30. The talent contest is held in Herod Hall Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Talent rehearsals will be held on Thursday, October 30, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The first half of contestants will rehearse in the morning. The second half will rehearse that afternoon. On Friday, October 31, at approximately 3:15 p.m., we will announce the Top 5 Talent Finalists which will perform again during the Friday night pageant. Contestants who perform on Friday night will have their talent judged again that night to determine the Talent Winner.

Being eliminated in the talent acts selected for Friday night’s performance does not eliminate the contestant from being selected for the Miss Cinderella title. Miss Cinderella is selected on the basis of many factors; only one of the factors is her talent.

TIME LIMIT: Three minutes is the maximum time allowed for each talent presentation. Please time the talent presentation with a stop-watch prior to arriving for the talent rehearsal. If the act exceeds the time limit, the contestant will have to make revisions. We do not have the facilities or equipment to re-record music CDs--that responsibility lies with the contestant.
PROPS: Props should be kept to a minimum. Too many "things" detract from the contestant’s talent. All props must be removed from the backstage area after the pageant (except for selected talent acts that will perform again on Friday night). We are not responsible for lost or damaged props.

SOUND EQUIPMENT: Contestants are not allowed to bring their own sound equipment. We have a hand-held microphone, a cordless neck mike, stands, compact disc player, cords, and the like. If the contestant requires specialized equipment, she must contact a member of the Miss Cinderella Committee prior to the arrival for talent rehearsals. We will not provide special equipment, but we may be able to accommodate certain requests.

STAGE WORKERS: We provide trained stage workers. Please be courteous to all pageant personnel. They are here to assist and will do so to the best of their ability. No one is allowed back stage on Thursday and Friday nights except the contestant.

CDs: If the contestant uses pre-recorded accompaniment or background music, she must use NWOSU equipment. Two original copies, on the best quality of CD affordable, should be brought with the contestant to Orientation. These CDs should be clearly marked with School Name (Miss XXXX), and Contestant Name (in that order), and ready to play. No other music should be on the CDs. Much frustration can be avoided if contestants check the condition of their CDs prior to arrival at Orientation.

PIANO: NWOSU has a Baldwin concert grand piano (ebony finish) available for a talent presentation if needed. The piano can be moved anywhere on stage.

REHEARSAL: The on-stage rehearsal time is an opportunity for the contestant to get accustomed to the layout of the stage, lighting, sound, etc. Similarly, it is the first opportunity pageant personnel have to rehearse the talent show--it is a rehearsal for them as much as for the contestant. Please do not use the rehearsal time as "learning time". Talent routines should be learned long before the pageant rehearsal.

PIANISTS: The contestant’s "entrance" and "exit" to and from the piano is part of the performance. She may choose to walk to/from the instrument, bow before and/or after the performance, remain seated following the performance, or end with a blackout or gradual dimming of lights. These are the contestants’ choices and should be given to the technical crew.

If you have any talent questions, please direct them to Tammy Brown or Lisa Holder, Pageant Co-Directors.