

# **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 participate in the talent contest. A special prize of a scholarship to Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva is awarded to the talent winner.

What is a talent act? Primary emphasis should be on entertaining the audience. Some examples may be a vocal, dance, instrumental solo, reading, pantomime, painting or drawing demonstration, science experiment, baton twirling, etc. The key word is "solo". No other "entertainer" may be on stage with the contestant (excluding an accompanist). 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 with a talent requiring music using pre-recorded accompaniment should be sure the Flash Drive or CD format is the highest audio quality. Remember that when pre-recorded music is 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.

**Talent acts/routines cannot be changed after Orientation unless two talent acts are identical. Pageant officials will communicate with the two contestants regarding this situation at Orientation. If the two contestants choose to change their talent acts due to this situation, the pageant director must be notified by the following Wednesday after Orientation. Talent time limit is 1½ minutes or 90 seconds.**

Each contestant is required to present her talent during the talent portion of the pageant. Top 5 Talent Finalists will perform during the final evening of the pageant and have their talent judged again to determine the Talent Winner. Not being selected as a Top 5 Talent Finalist, 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: Ninety (90) seconds** 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--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 talent show (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 hand-held microphones, cordless head microphones, and floor microphones (for dance). If the contestant requires specialized equipment, she must contact Lisa Franz 719-469-8993 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.**

**MUSIC:** If the contestant uses pre-recorded accompaniment or background music, she must use NWOSU equipment. The Flash Drive or CD's 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 Flash Drive or CD's. **If applicable, contestants will be required to provide a Flash Drive with two (2) high definition audio copies or two (2) CD's with high quality audio of your accompaniment or background music. Please do not get music from Spotify as that format often is not compatible.**

**PIANO:** NWOSU has a Baldwin concert grand piano (ebony finish) available for a talent presentation if needed. Piano placement is determined by pageant committee.

**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.

If you have any talent questions, please direct them to Lisa Cline at 719-469-8993 or lifranz@nwosu.edu.